



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018

No. 94

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 7, 2018.

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

PAUL D. RYAN,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### WHAT FAMILY VALUES?

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to hear another Republican Member of Congress come to this microphone to speak about family values ever again. I don't want to hear about protecting families or honoring families or putting families first, because each and every time a Republican invokes family values on this floor, it will be a lie, and a cruel lie at that.

If you want to run on the President's record to keep your job so you can feed your family, part of the price is that you have zero credibility when it comes to family values from now until forever.

Along the southern border, hundreds of children have been taken from their parents and hundreds have been held in border stations without sleeping rooms or adequate bedding for several days in violation of Federal laws that safeguard children.

We are told that the number of children in the care of the agency we put in charge is now above 11,000 children, but we don't know for sure, because the government, our government, your government, is not telling us what is really going on, and an oversight hearing with the Secretary of Homeland Security scheduled for today was canceled at the Judiciary Committee.

Hundreds of children in the care of Border Patrol, most of them under the age of 12, and 11,000 total in the system.

The White House thinks Latinos are not really human beings, so we can treat them however we want and it doesn't matter; after all, it is not like they are coming from Norway.

The President and the Attorney General say they are "illegals," which is also a lie, and they know it. People fleeing violence and systematic rape and murder can come to the U.S., can ask for political asylum, and it is 100 percent legal under the laws of the United States.

Every one of us knows that taking a child from a mother is morally wrong except in the most extreme cases.

In this country's history, we sold millions of Black children because they were considered property during slavery, and we stole Native American children from their families to strip them of their culture and heritage because we labeled them as savages.

Most people think these are among the most shameful chapters in Amer-

ican history—most people. But we all know how the President feels about Latino children. He says they are "not so innocent," so I guess he thinks they are programmed to turn into the people he calls animals and rapists because of where they were born.

According to the White House Chief of Staff, the children at the border will be "put in foster care or whatever." And the Attorney General says he believes the children will be well taken care of "for the most part."

Forgive me if I don't put much stock in national leaders whose concern for children includes the terms "or whatever," or "for the most part."

So, Republicans, do not ever come to this floor and claim that your party supports families and defends children. You have lost all your family values privileges.

This afternoon, I will meet with families that were broken up because the meat packing plant where their parents work was raided in April by ICE and the Tennessee State Troopers.

Please tell them about your family values.

We don't provide legal ways for their parents to come here because Republicans oppose legal immigration, but employers need the workers, and those parents are under constant threat of arrest, deportation, and never seeing their children again.

The owners of the plant that employed the workers, as far as we know, nothing has happened to them, and they are probably going to enjoy dinner with their families again tonight.

Last week in Chicago and this morning in Ohio, a few hundred more working people were rounded up and their children, most of whom are U.S. citizens, are left without their parents. In Pennsylvania, it was restaurant workers; in Iowa, it was concrete plant workers.

Tearing apart Latino families is an election year strategy for this White

□ 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.

H4851

House designed to energize Republican voters for primaries and midterms this year to reelect Republican Members of the House and the Senate.

And let's not forget that, while almost 5,000 Puerto Ricans were dying—yes, dying, and are still dying today—your President was giving himself an A-plus and saying there had been no real catastrophe, all while families were telling us of the loved ones they were losing because they didn't have electricity or medicine or a hospital.

So to my Republican colleagues, some of whom I love dearly, please don't you ever come to the well of this House and tell the country that you support family values. Don't you dare. Your time talking about family values is over.

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

#### U.S. MUST TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I met with Victor Cuadras and Zayda Hernandez, two young Nicaraguan student leaders who bravely protest the abuses and violence of the Ortega regime.

Knowing that they could face trumped-up charges upon their return to Nicaragua, Victor and Zayda feel a unique sense of responsibility to come here to Washington to advocate for justice and liberty for their homeland.

They represent the voice of the Nicaraguan people, old and new generations, who desire nothing more than a free and democratic country where one can be prosperous and live without fear of repression. What a concept.

And we must listen to their pleas, Mr. Speaker.

Countless Nicaraguans are on the front lines, as you can see on this poster, confronting the brutality of the Ortega regime day after day.

Over 120 Nicaraguans and one U.S. citizen have been killed at the hands of this murderous regime in just the past weeks. Over 1,000 Nicaraguans have been injured, hundreds continue to disappear.

Mr. Speaker, I was on the floor yesterday, and here I am again for the fourth time since the regime's crack-down on the Nicaraguan people began on April 18, because I believe that it is vital—now, more than ever—for the United States to support the people of Nicaragua in its fight to reestablish democratic order. We must let the people know that they are not alone.

Earlier this week, I was joined by Republicans and Democrats, Representatives and Senators, in urging the administration to sanction two of Ortega's many thugs: Francisco Lopez,

head of ALBANISA, for money laundering and corruption; and Francisco Diaz, who leads the National Police, for orchestrating the repression and the killings of Nicaraguans.

But there are so many others who must be sanctioned, including Gustavo Porras, head of the National Assembly; Sonia Castro, Minister of Health; Roberto Lopez, president of the Social Security Institute; and Tirso Celedon, a real estate developer profiting from the Social Security Institute.

Each of these individuals is part of Ortega's inner circle and is responsible for those acts of corruption and human rights violations, all of which have been widely reported.

I urge the administration to not delay any longer and to take swift action to freeze assets, to cancel visas and to sanction to the full extent of our laws those who are responsible for so much corruption and so many murders in Nicaragua.

We have a moral responsibility to lead the way and help bring to justice those responsible for the atrocities that they see happening in that country. We need to send a clear message that the United States is paying attention and that those terrible acts will not go unpunished.

Mr. Speaker, this Chamber has known for a while about how troublesome the Ortega regime is, to say the least, and we have been able to lead on this issue, and I thank my colleagues for that.

In October 2017, this House passed my NICA Act, which seeks to leverage America's influence by conditioning our vote at any of the international financial institutions until Nicaragua takes significant steps to uphold the rule of law and strengthen democratic institutions.

Unfortunately, our colleagues in the Senate have been silent—silent. I urge them to quit stalling and to take meaningful action by finally passing the NICA Act so that we can keep the pressure on that awful regime until democracy, freedom, and prosperity return to beautiful Nicaragua and these young people will be free once again.

#### THANKING SUE SMITH

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago, Massachusetts was bracing for a brutal blizzard bringing extreme life-threatening cold. Families were bundling up; schools canceled class; first responders prepared for a long, long night of calls. And one woman, Sue Smith, was opening the doors to Faith Alliance Church in Attleboro to welcome the city's homeless population into her warm embrace.

It was an extraordinary act of compassion and community service. But for Sue, it wasn't. It was just one more day of fiercely protecting her neigh-

bors, one more night of caring for the most vulnerable among us, one more family given a roof over their heads, one more life saved from hypothermia.

A few months after that snowy, freezing night, I was humbled to invite Sue to be my guest to the State of the Union Address.

Sue has never asked for recognition or praise, but few are more deserving than she is. She has never asked for a helping hand when facing her own personal battles.

But this week, I learned that Sue has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. And although I know she would never ask her neighbors to return her immense gratitude, we do have a message for her.

Sue, we are by your side in your fight. We know this cancer won't stop you or even slow you, but we are here with you for whatever you need.

Thank you for being our better angel.

#### PROMOTING COMPUTER SCIENCE AT DUBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Monday marked the last day of school for students at the DuBois Area Middle School. It was a last day like probably none other.

In addition to celebrating the long-awaited start of summer vacation, the sixth grade students finished off their school year with a special visit from Silicon Valley.

Representatives from Google traveled to Clearfield County, Pennsylvania, to deliver a CS First Roadshow, a computer science education presentation. Google specifically developed this event for fourth through eighth graders.

□ 1015

Two Google employees delivered the hour-long presentation which focused on teaching students both problem-solving and technical coding skills through a series of interactive activities.

They encouraged kids to develop an interest in computer science education by giving real-life examples of how coding and STEM education can lead to educational opportunities and exciting careers.

Mr. Speaker, the presentation was incredible, and it was clear that the students truly enjoyed it. These are the kinds of skills that students everywhere need to be exposed to at a young age to get them interested in the STEM fields.

I was excited to kick off this event at DuBois Area Middle School. I told the students that technology is constantly changing, and America needs the next generation of computer scientists ready for any opportunities that might come our way.

We need more people in this world who can help build the future or invent

the next big thing. That is why it is extremely important for our students to learn about computer science at an early age. The CS Roadshow helped kids build their own fun stories using Scratch, which is an introductory coding tool.

Our students today are exposed to technology at such an early age, but don't necessarily get to learn about why computer science should be an important part of their lives, both now and in the future. The CS First Roadshow teaches students about the importance of STEM education and uses interactive activities to teach them coding basics.

Hopefully, this experience instilled a newfound passion for computer science in these students, and I think it did just that. I could tell from the joy on their faces and the fun that they were having with their partners that they truly were beginning a journey with computer science.

Mr. Speaker, currently there are more than 500,000 open computing jobs in the United States. In Pennsylvania alone there are more than 17,800 open computing jobs—that is 3.4 times the State average demand rate—and only 2,969 computer science graduates.

By the year 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts there will be 1 million more computer science jobs than graduating students who qualify for the jobs. And only 10 percent of K-12 schools in the United States offer computer science classes, which is a statistic that we must improve.

I look forward to checking back in with the DuBois Area Middle School at the start of the next school year to see how it can expand upon and grow more of an interest in computer science programs for our young learners. After all, they are our future.

#### THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S APPROACH TO TRADE

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the administration's approach to trade and the pain that we are already feeling due to the short-sighted and poorly-considered decisions that have been made.

Since the administration announced its plans in March to use wide-ranging tariffs to address trade imbalances, I have been warning the President and the Nation that this is a wrongheaded approach. So many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, I believe, agree.

We all want to see American jobs secure and increase opportunities for our economy; that is without doubt. But raising broadly-defined tariffs will do, I believe, just the opposite. We all know, or at least most of us know, that the most likely effect of raising tariffs will be other countries adjusting their trade measures to protect their economies and their industries and their workers.

Let's realize that, in the global economy that we live in today, most countries have leverage. I hope the President realizes this. And what happens as a result? We have a trade war. That is where we are going, and I have been saying since March, no one, Mr. Speaker, no one wins in a trade war; which is why both Republicans and Democrats have publicly expressed grave concerns with the administration's tariff-based approach to trade.

But beyond the warnings and concerns, Mr. Speaker, we are now feeling the negative impacts of the administration's approach. Without a doubt, our country is beginning to engage in these stages of a trade war.

Tariffs, for example, on California agriculture products are already in place. Forty-four percent of California's agriculture economy, which is the number 1 agricultural State in the Nation, 44 percent of it is based upon international trade. Almonds, wine, pistachios, citrus, all face increased tariffs on exports to China, and that is just the start. It is also taking place in Mexico and Canada.

I met with a California almond processor yesterday who told me that, as a result of these tariffs, the Chinese buyers are staying away from the table. He told me that this time of the year he usually has sold a significant portion of his harvest to Chinese buyers, but because of the uncertainty of these tariffs he hasn't sold a single pound.

Mr. Speaker, the retaliatory tariffs imposed in reaction to this administration's steel and aluminum tariffs are already impacting the California agriculture economy, which, again, 44 percent of it is based upon international trade, and it is hurting our relationships with many of our allies in Europe, as well as our neighbors to the north and to the south.

Yes, there are trade imbalances in the global market we live in, and we should address them. There is bipartisan agreement we should address them. But the way to address these trade imbalances is through successful re-negotiation of NAFTA, negotiating trade agreements with our European and Pacific Rim allies. That is the way to deal with the trade imbalances.

We cannot address trade imbalances or arrive at mutually beneficial agreements through trade wars, plain and simple. What's more, the President and the Congress must work together on trade agreements.

Based upon where we are today, it looks like it will require us in Congress to re-assert our constitutional authority and responsibility to regulate international trade agreements. That is part of our job. This will take hard work, bipartisan negotiations, and serious policy deliberations which, in turn, requires that we overcome our partisan division and come together as America's Congress.

I call on my colleagues today to join me in real negotiations, in real bipartisan work, and in the type of policy

deliberations that our Nation needs and that America deserves. We can do this and we must do this.

Our country currently is being led by this administration into a very real trade war, but it is not too late to stop it, and it is Congress' responsibility, frankly, to say, time out. Let's sit down and work together with our allies in Europe, our neighbors to the north and to the south of us, and in the Pacific Rim, to do what is right, and that is to ensure that we protect American workers, American industries, American agriculture, and, yes, that we don't engage in a trade war that will lead to no good end.

We can fix this trade imbalance, and we should, and we must assert ourselves.

#### RECOGNIZING THE INCREDIBLE CAREER OF GLEN POST

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible career of CenturyLink CEO, Glen Post. Glen is retiring after 42 years with the company. He spent 26 of these years as the CEO, a feat recognized recently by Fortune Magazine, as Glen is one of the longest-serving CEOs in the Nation.

CenturyLink has been an incredible growth company under Glen's leadership, expanding from 3,000 employees to more than 65,000. It is now the third largest communications service provider in the United States, a cornerstone of his legacy.

It is quite a story for a small, rural, family-owned telephone company that started up in the 1930s by Clarke Williams. The company's original principles, fairness, honesty, integrity, commitment to excellence, faith, positive attitude, respect, and perseverance, have remained the guiding goals under Glen's leadership.

Like his company, Glen got his start in north Louisiana. He earned his bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana.

He received the Louisiana Tech College of Business Distinguished Alumni Award in 1991, the Louisiana Tech University Tower Medallion Award in 1997, and the DeGree Enterprises Lifetime Achievement Award in Business in 2003.

In addition to his career achievements, he has provided invaluable advice to the United States Government as a member of the President's National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee. He has also chaired the Communications, Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council in 2012 and 2013.

As a native of Farmerville, Louisiana, Glen is a north Louisiana duck hunting, country boy at heart.

CenturyLink now operates in 60 countries and sees revenues in the billions of dollars, yet, it remains

headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, not far from where Glen grew up as a boy. Maintaining the headquarters in north Louisiana is a testament to Glen's commitment to his home and his State that he loves.

By growing CenturyLink locally, Glen has provided incredible opportunities for Monroe and Louisiana. Having such a large company in our backyard recruits talent to our region, yields higher wages, and attracts other companies that provide complementary services within the communications industry which, in turn, produces even more jobs.

We can build on the success of CenturyLink. Coupled with the innovative cyber initiatives at Louisiana Tech and Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, Louisiana's Interstate 20 corridor can help lead our Nation into the future as we continue to develop cutting-edge technologies.

I want to thank Glen for his dedication to our region and his role in helping us grow. His career shows how far you can go with hard work, integrity, and commitment, and it is proof that you can achieve great things no matter where you come from.

Today, I am proud to acknowledge the change that Glen Post and CenturyLink have brought to north Louisiana, and I wish Glen a very happy and relaxing retirement. It is well-deserved.

#### THE TRUMP BUSINESS MODEL

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

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, as you know, Members of this House disagree on a whole range of topics, but one rare point of bipartisan agreement concerns the ZTE Corporation.

We have all heard complaints about the theft of trade secrets by ZTE and other major Chinese companies. We all know that when American companies are forced into licensing and disclosure agreements with Chinese State-owned enterprises, American technology is as good as stolen. We have all sat through hearings and briefings on the significant threat that ZTE and its brother, Huawei, pose to our national security. That is why it is concerning that President Trump decided to let ZTE off the hook for secretly doing business with Iran and North Korea.

Of course, this decision wasn't the only one affecting international trade that the Trump administration has made in recent weeks. He is imposing tariffs on our allies in Europe, Canada, and Mexico. His Ambassador to Germany has disgraced himself in the capital of our biggest European partner. He continues to insult our best trading partners by labeling them as security threats.

That is right, Mr. Speaker. Donald Trump is giving aid and comfort to ZTE, a known corporate enemy of America, while at the same time going

out of his way to alienate our closest friends and allies around the world. But why?

I am sure it is just a fluke that Trump is allowing ZTE to resume its purchases of U.S. technology immediately following China's decision to award Ivanka Trump seven new Chinese trademarks.

I am positive it is just a coincidence that Trump cut a deal with ZTE right away after various Chinese entities offered \$1 billion in financing to a resort with ties to the Trump organization. Just a coincidence.

There is nothing to see here, says the Trump administration. Don't ask any questions. Don't demand any information. Just look the other way.

How did we get here, Mr. Speaker? Where is the Grand Old Party as Donald Trump erodes our alliances, makes nice with our enemies, and ignites a global trade war?

We need to get to the bottom of whether there was a quid pro quo with China over ZTE, and we need to get to work on tough legislation to prevent China from illicitly acquiring American technology, especially technology with important defense applications and capabilities.

Bipartisan bills for this purpose with broad support from both parties have already been introduced. The Republican leadership should immediately bring those bipartisan bills to the floor for debate and consideration. That is what the American people expect. They want this body to stand up to America's adversaries and to stand up for America's laws and values.

□ 1030

They want us to reassert our power as a coequal branch of government.

Trump is tearing down America's alliances. We must preserve them.

Trump is sucking up to dictators and repressive regimes all around the world. We must condemn them.

More importantly, Trump and his cronies are using the Presidency to enrich themselves, and we must stop them.

Let's put an end to the Trump of business model: quid pro quo, pay to play, this for that.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the day when my Republican friends are courageous enough to say out loud what many of them whisper here in these hallways: that coddling Chinese companies like ZTE is reckless, that attacking our allies is dangerous, that using high office for personal gain is flat-out wrong.

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

#### HONORING MARY PELLEGRINO

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize today a teacher in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who was recently honored for her service in the nonprofit sector in addition to the classroom.

Mary Pellegrino, a special education teacher at Tohickon Middle School and a resident of Warrington, recently received the Pennsylvania State Education Association's Human and Civil Rights Award for her service to our community.

With her husband, Greg, she is the cofounder of the BennettStrong Foundation, which was named after her son, Bennett, who was born weighing a mere 1 pound 2 ounces in 2013. He was later diagnosed with hepatoblastoma, a form of liver cancer.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the work of the BennettStrong Foundation, whose mission is to provide support to families of children born prematurely and facing complex medical issues.

I would like to congratulate Mary Pellegrino on this well-deserved award, and I am proud to report Bennett's cancer is in remission. Our entire team wish him all the best on the road to recovery.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dolores McCracken, the president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association for all of her work in recognizing our community's heroes.

#### HONORING SERGEANT THELMA WILLIAMS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Doylestown resident and Army veteran, Sergeant Thelma Williams. This past Memorial Day, Thelma made her 25th and final appearance in the Doylestown Memorial Day Parade.

Thelma answered the call to serve during World War II when she was 24 years old. Initially, she wanted to enlist in the Navy. Later, Thelma joined the Women's Army Corps and finished her tenure in Japan, where she served under General Douglas MacArthur.

It should come as no surprise that Thelma's spirit remains as lively as ever, even as she approaches her 100th birthday this year. She hopes that children observing the parade will be inspired to serve our community as well.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Thelma Williams has made immense contributions not just to Bucks County, but to our entire Nation. I commend Thelma for her heroism, and I encourage our constituents to aspire to her standards of excellence.

#### FOOD INSECURITY

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the issue of food insecurity in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

As public officials, it is incumbent upon all of us to increase access to food resources for all of our constituents. In our community, I applaud the United Way of Bucks County for their work in combating hunger.

Later this month, nearly 600 volunteers will gather at Delaware Valley University for the sixth annual Bucks

Knocks Out Hunger event. This year, volunteers plan on packing over 100,000 nonperishable meals for seniors and food pantries throughout Bucks County.

I would also like to recognize other worthy organizations that are vital partners of Bucks Knocks Out Hunger, including Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, the Bucks County Opportunity Council, and the newest addition, Fresh Connect Bucks County, which will play a vital role in providing fresh fruits and vegetables to local families.

Mr. Speaker, by working together, we can make sure that all of our children and our families in our communities can have access to the resources they need to succeed.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FAMILY SEPARATION POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to denounce and condemn the Trump administration's heartless and inhumane policy of separating immigrant children from their mothers and their parents at our borders. Americans across the Nation are horrified by the actions undertaken to separate and punish children seeking safety and refuge here in the United States.

This isn't about politics. This is about basic humanity. This is not who we are as a people.

Or I ask the President: Is it? Is this whom we have become?

And let's be honest about what is really happening. This administration is terrorizing children and persecuting families who are fleeing for their lives, families that are not sneaking into the United States but surrendering willingly, surrendering and seeking out border agents and asking for asylum, not committing a crime or an offense against the American people, simply asking for asylum, fearing for their lives and for the safety of their children.

Is asking for asylum a criminal act? Since when has asking for asylum become a criminal act?

It is not just against American values. It is against any principles of common decency.

And the White House knows that what it is doing is wrong. White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said, in early May, that taking children away from their families "... would be a tough deterrent."

Let me respond to that. Hurting children isn't tough. It is an abomination, and it will create lifelong consequences for those children. It will also leave an indelible mark against us as a people. They fled violence and terror in hopes that America would protect them and give them a fair shot, and I can understand why they would think that.

After World War II, when tens of millions of people fled their homes, the United States began helping to draft

the Refugee Convention that created laws and policies to protect those fleeing from persecution. The foundation of that convention is not turning people away at the borders but, instead, giving them a full chance for an asylum claim. This started under then-President Roosevelt and came into full force under then-President Harry Truman.

Now, Donald Trump, Jeff Sessions, and Kirstjen Nielsen are running their policy into the ground. Who do they think they are to do this? Who are they to make children suffer? Who are they to punish children when their parents are simply trying to save their lives?

For centuries, America has been a beacon for those fleeing violence and oppression and poverty. The symbol of our Nation that welcomed millions, the Statue of Liberty, has engraved on it Emma Lazarus' famous poem:

Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.

No one is more deserving of a chance to breathe free than a child and a family fleeing from violence.

Agents of the U.S. Government should not be ripping 18-month-old babies from the arms of their mothers. Instead, we should help to address the situation that led them to flee from their home in the first place. We should keep families together while their cases are considered for asylum, and we should immediately end this zero-tolerance policy.

So I strongly urge the Trump administration to immediately end this disgusting stain on America's human rights record. I condemn this policy. Put an end to this heinous family separation policy. Stop taking babies from their mothers.

This isn't America. We are better than this.

#### AMERICA IS WINNING AGAIN

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

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, America is winning again. Earlier this week marked the 500th day of the Trump-Pence administration.

Last Friday's new jobs report by the Department of Labor was a reminder of just how positive these first 500 days of the Trump administration have been for America. This is not just good news; this is great news for all Americans.

A New York Times headline proclaimed: "We Ran Out of Words to Describe How Good the Jobs Numbers Are."

According to CNBC, the headline was: "There are more jobs than people out of work, something the American economy has never experienced before."

The front page of the New York Post was more succinct. It said: "We're in the Money."

Here are just a few snapshots:

The national unemployment rate, down to just 3.8 percent, is now matching its lowest rate since 1969;

More than 1 million new jobs have been created since President Trump signed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in December;

More than 3.4 million new jobs have been created since the President took office, including 322,000 new jobs in manufacturing;

More than 6.6 million job openings now exist throughout the United States. This is an all-time high.

In that same New York Post edition, let me read to you some stats that I think are just outstanding. Let's look at unemployment in 2010 versus 2018, look at it by gender and by race.

In 2010, 9.6 percent of men were on unemployment; in 2018, 3.5 percent.

In 2010, 8.6 percent of women were unemployed; today, 3.3 percent.

For Blacks, in 2010, 16.6 percent were unemployed; today, 5.9 percent are unemployed.

Hispanics, in 2010, 12.9 percent were unemployed; today, 4.9 percent.

For Asian Americans, in 2010, 8.6 percent were unemployed; today, 2.1 percent.

By age, in the 16 to 19 category, in 2010, 26.2 percent were unemployed; today, in 2018, 12.8 percent.

In the 20 to 24 range, in 2010, 17.2 percent were unemployed; today, 7.1 percent.

In the 25 to 54 range, 8.9 percent in 2010 were unemployed; today, 3.1 percent.

And if it is 55 and older that you are looking at, in 2010, 7.4 percent were unemployed; today, 2.8 percent.

Wages for American workers have also steadily grown almost 3 percent over the past year, and they continue to climb.

Furthermore, according to the IMD World Competitiveness Center's 2018 ranking, the United States has already overtaken Hong Kong as the number one most competitive economy in the world, "... thanks to faster economic growth and a supportive atmosphere for scientific and technological innovation."

According to the International Energy Agency, the United States will be the world's largest oil producer by 2023.

None of this good news was inevitable. None of our country's economic momentum is accidental. Nothing about this historically strong economy and its benefits for every single American are guaranteed to be permanent. All of this great news was made possible by the conservative pro-growth policies of this administration and this Congress: from lowering taxes to cutting red tape, to expanding energy production.

As we embark on the next 500 days of this Presidency, the facts cannot be denied both at home and abroad: America is winning again.

Mr. Speaker, I think that sometimes when you sit and listen to the talk on

this floor, you would think that we are not all from a different universe; we are from different galaxies.

□ 1045

One side paints America as all gloom and doom and how horrible it is. The other side talks about opportunity, talks about job growth, talks about economic growth, and talks about how America is winning again.

I would ask my fellow Americans to remember this is the people's floor. It does not belong to Republicans, and it does not belong to Democrats. It belongs to the American people. We are winning again as a country, as both Republicans, Democrats, and independents. We are winning, and we will continue to win.

As I said earlier, nothing about this has been accidental, nothing about this has been casual, and none of this has happened by chance. It is pro-growth policy that continues to make sure that America wins again for every single American.

#### PEACEFUL PROTEST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am proud to rise and stand in the well of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the flag, I sing the national anthem, and I believe in what the flag stands for: liberty and justice for all. But, Mr. Speaker, I find now that the flag is being used as a tool to suppress what it stands for: liberty and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, peaceful protest is how I arrived in the Congress of the United States of America. If not but for peaceful protest, I probably, most likely, and believe in the sincerest corners of my heart that I would not be in the Congress of the United States of America.

Peaceful protest has brought about positive change in this country, but peaceful protest is now under assault from the highest office in the land: the Office of the President.

Peaceful protest is under attack, and I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to defend peaceful protest. I rise especially to defend it as it relates to the flag because the flag stands for liberty and justice for all. Peaceful protest is about liberty and justice for all.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to share a very shocking piece of information, perhaps not shocking to some, but it should shock our consciences. This piece of information was compiled by The Guardian and reported by Vox.

The information is as follows: racial minorities make up 37.4 percent of the general population—some things bear repeating: 34.7 percent of the general population—and 62.7 percent of the unarmed people killed by police; 37.4 percent of the population, 62.7 percent of the people who are unarmed and killed by the police.

Why wouldn't we protest this? Why wouldn't somebody decide that this is unacceptable and I will peacefully protest it? Why wouldn't someone take a knee at a football game to protest this?

Why would the President of the United States find reason to link that peaceful protest to disrespect for the flag when the flag stands for liberty and justice for all? That has to include these people who have been killed by the police.

By the way, it doesn't matter how great the economy is; their lives will not be brought back. It doesn't matter how many jobs people have; those lives will never return. So being comfortable and being able to say "I have a great job" won't bring back people who have lost their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad commentary when the President of the United States brings peaceful protest into dispute as it relates to the flag.

I believe that we have a duty and an obligation to protest wrong when we see it. It is as old as the Pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock, it is as old as the Boston Tea Party, and it is as old as the farmers coming to Washington, D.C., in their tractors to protest.

Peaceful protest is at the foundation of this Nation. And for us to allow the President to assault and attack peaceful protest by and through the flag, which stands for liberty and justice for all, is an insult to the country.

So here is what I propose to do by way of standing against what the President seems to stand for. He has brought Mr. Kaepernick into disrepute; that is what the President would do. I plan to salute him. I will have a flag flown over the Capitol of the United States of America to salute him for his courage, for his willingness to suffer the slings and arrows that have been thrown at him by the highest office in the land to protect liberty and justice for all, which is what the flag stands for.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA FREE MEDICAL CLINICS

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell this body about a tremendous success story with healthcare in my district: the story of our free medical clinics and their membership in and longtime association with the South Carolina Free Clinic Association.

Founded in 2001 under the umbrella of the South Carolina Hospital Association, the South Carolina Free Clinic Association is an independent, nonprofit membership organization that provides training, research, resource development, and advocacy to member free clinics.

Additionally, the South Carolina Free Clinic Association was incorporated as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in January of 2008.

The South Carolina Free Clinic Association represents and supports our State's network of 40 free clinics in 25 counties across South Carolina. The member free clinics provide comprehensive care to economically disadvantaged individuals all across our great State, including those individuals who are both uninsured and/or underinsured.

The South Carolina Free Clinic Association is the only statewide organization that supports and advocates for South Carolina's free clinic network and for the various and truly diverse populations they serve.

South Carolina Free Clinic Association is improving the quality and access of healthcare to South Carolina's medically underserved individuals and communities. The South Carolina Free Clinic Association does this by assisting their members to be valued and engaged partners in their communities' systems of care.

Through financial support from foundations, fundraisers, and individual donations and through the efficient use of donated supplies and volunteer provider services, South Carolina's free clinics were responsible for the following activities and achievements in 2017: \$108,839,801 total value of services provided; 363,369 prescriptions which were filled; 40,062 patients were treated; 4,442 volunteers; and 40 member clinics in 65 sites across South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, free clinics are truly vital, safety net healthcare organizations that utilize a volunteer and staff model to provide a range of healthcare services, which may include medical, dental, pharmacy, vision, and/or behavioral health services to economically disadvantaged individuals.

Such clinics are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations or operate as a program component or affiliate of a 501(c)(3) organization. Entities that otherwise meet the above definition but charge a nominal or sliding fee to patients may still be considered free clinics provided essential services are delivered regardless of the patient's ability to pay.

Free clinics limit eligibility for their services to individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, and/or have limited access or no access to primary, specialty, or prescription healthcare.

Every free clinic is unique. Each clinic has its own qualification guidelines. But they all serve low-income and no-income patients without health insurance who do not qualify for government assistance.

In addition to general medical and prescription services, free clinics may offer such services as oral health, specialty services and referrals, lab testing, diagnostic procedures, and health education and prevention, as well as prescription medications.

Free clinics are independent, community-based, nonprofit organizations that rely on grants and donations from their communities for support. Clinics have a varied base of community support, which includes but is not limited

to individuals, businesses, churches, foundations, and government.

I would like to recognize and applaud the efforts of the South Carolina Free Clinic Association and its executive director, Virginia Ann Mullikin, for their support of more than 40,000 South Carolina families.

#### SENATOR MCCAIN IS OWED AN APOLOGY

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

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I am only able to raise my right arm to maybe 50 percent, sometimes not that much, but that is due to shoulder separations from playing football. JOHN MCCAIN cannot raise his arms because he was tortured in Vietnam.

I believe that it is just about sinful for Mr. MCCAIN, in his days of very serious illness, to have anyone in this country, particularly anyone in a position of significance, say things about him that cannot in any way bless him or encourage him but, in fact, denounce him through baseless attacks.

Mr. Speaker, when I was elected, I promised my four children that I would never come to the well of this House and attack a human being or call them names. Unfortunately, things have changed in this country to the point now where that is a part of our daily way of doing the business of the greatest Nation God has ever allowed to exist.

There is something wrong, Mr. Speaker, when the elected leaders of our country refuse to apologize. There is not a single parent watching the goings-on in this Chamber who would tell their children: No matter what you do, no matter how awful you hurt another human being, you had better not apologize.

We are setting examples for children and unborn children by what we do in this Chamber. How in the world can a person sleep at night who can hurt another individual and not apologize?

I guess there are some things I will never apologize for. I will never apologize for never coming to the floor to attack a colleague. I will never apologize for respecting a person with whom I may disagree. I will never apologize for displaying disrespect for a member of the other party though their policies are separate and distinct from mine.

I will never apologize for trying to get my point across without stabbing someone with it. I will never apologize for being sensitive to the pain and hurts of others. I will never apologize for being an apologist when I wrong someone.

Silence is consent. And when I see this going on around this Chamber and I see it going on in other places in our government, I know that there are millions of people who believe that that is okay, that if it is done by someone in my party, it is okay.

I have said to my family, I have said to our church, and I have said to my

colleagues here: If the leaders of the Democratic Party, NANCY PELOSI or STENY HOYER, stand up and attack someone, particularly someone who is ill, I would come to the floor and condemn them.

Right and wrong is not based on party; it is based on right and wrong.

□ 1100

We are becoming a mean-spirited nation. No one watching this will tell their children: I want you to watch what is going on in Washington and use what you see as an example of how to live.

Mr. Speaker, Washington is dark right now. The people around this country who believe in light should let it shine.

#### HONORING ATF AGENT SCOTT RAGSDALE

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

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and celebrate the life of ATF Senior Special Agent Scott Ragsdale from Fate, Texas, who tragically passed away on May 24, 2018, at just 41 years of age during an ATF training exercise.

Agent Ragsdale is survived by his wife, Erin, and his two children, Aidan and Riley; his mother and father, Patti and Roy Ragsdale; his sister, Kelly Novikoff, her husband, Lee, and their two children; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins who loved him dearly and will miss him.

Those who knew Agent Ragsdale best say that he will most be remembered for his incredible sense of humor and, of course, for his 17 years of dedicated service to his fellow man.

He will be greatly missed in our northeast Texas community for his brave and selfless service as a member of our law enforcement.

On behalf of the three-quarters of a million Texans whom I represent across the Fourth Congressional District of Texas, I offer my most sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

I wish you Godspeed, Special Agent Scott Ragsdale.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 2 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

Pastor Eddie Bevill, Parkridge Church, Coral Springs, Florida, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You now in humility, acknowledging Your omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence. Please hear our prayer for this great Nation. The men and women in this room have been given, by some estimates, an impossible task, but nothing is impossible with You. I pray for their health, their families, their staffs, and their wisdom. Please give them Your grace and direction in all areas, so that they may be able to lead for the good of all people. Your word in Micah 6:8 is a great reminder:

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

May this scripture be the marching orders for those who serve in this important position. May their decisions promote unity and harmony in the U.S. and the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray.  
Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PINGREE 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.

#### WELCOMING PASTOR EDDIE BEVILL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome my constituent, Pastor Eddie Bevill, to offer the opening prayer today.

Eddie is the founding pastor of Parkridge Church in Coral Springs, Florida, where he has served since 1992. Pastor Bevill's leadership and service has been recognized with tenures on the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions as well as the Gulf Stream Baptist Association Board in Broward County, Florida. He is a pillar of our community. I am honored to welcome him to Washington today.

After the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School, our community was gripped by unspeakable pain, confusion, frustration, and anger. In the moments, days, and months since, Pastor Bevill has offered a voice of peace, arms of comfort, and a guiding hand to surviving families, students, teachers, and others in our community.

At a time when it was so easy to be lost in despair, our community has been so fortunate to have Pastor Bevill lead us toward a place of hope and solace.

Pastor Bevill is joined here today by his wife Laura. They have been married since 1988 and have four children.

I know that my wife Jill joins me in welcoming Laura today in support of Eddie as he offers today's opening prayer.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### HONORING IRIS NIGG LUNDIN

(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 Iris Nigg Lundin, First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, who served in World War II.

Iris enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1943. She had earned her teaching degree and was only 2 years out of college working at a summer job when she heard the call to serve her country. She heard it through slogans like, "Uncle Sam Needs You," and "Free a Man to Fight." With the U.S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve newly authorized, Iris walked into a recruiting station and signed up to serve.

She completed boot camp at Marine Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, and was selected to go through Officer Candidate School. After graduating, she was commissioned to 2nd Lieutenant, and she and three other women were sent to Florida to attend navigation school.

While there, Iris was one of the first four women to earn aerial navigator wings. She was trained to teach aerial navigation, meteorology, and radio technique to the men who flew combat missions.

Iris served in the Marines until she was discharged in 1945. This weekend,

she will celebrate her 100th birthday. I am beyond proud to honor her today. She is a trailblazer for women in the Armed Forces, and I am honored to commend her for her service.

Iris, thank you, and happy birthday.

#### WE NEED TO STAND WITH OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the administration's reckless use of tariffs are inflicting harm in all of our communities, including mine in western New York, and the harm is real and immediate.

Welded Tube, a Canadian company with a factory in Lackawanna, New York, in my district, reports the cost of moving goods between the United States and southern Ontario has increased from \$0 last week to \$214,000 this week.

The company is reporting they may be forced to close without tariff relief.

From small firms like Niagara Transformer to auto manufacturers like Ford and GM, the harm is real and widespread.

The United States and Canada are the world's largest trading partners. Canada has been a reliable ally in fighting terror and has been a good friend to the United States.

We need to stand with our allies and friends, not abandon them.

China's trade actions threaten our national security. Canada does not.

#### PROMOTING PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY FOR THE 2018 HURRICANE SEASON

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

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the official start of the 2018 hurricane season and to promote American resiliency.

The 2017 hurricane season brought with it 17 named storms, of which six were major hurricanes. These storms caused widespread destruction and devastation, and no individual or family should have to ever endure that again.

As a resident of Staten Island, where the impact of Superstorm Sandy can still be felt, my district in New York City has also seen this kind of widespread destruction.

Importantly, the Army Corps of Engineers is constructing a major seawall to protect my constituents from future storms.

With the 2018 hurricane season now underway, we must ensure that we are as prepared as possible to protect ourselves, our loved ones, our homes, and our communities.

This means double-checking insurance policies; signing up for local alerts and warnings, as well as apps, like Notify NYC; and putting together emergency kits.

For the 2018 season, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is forecasting a 70 percent likelihood of 10 to 16 named storms, of which one to four could become major hurricanes.

While we cannot control where these hurricanes will make landfall, we can control our resiliency.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I hope that all Members will join me in promoting the importance of preparedness.

#### MEDICARE SOLVENCY

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

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of America's 50 million seniors who rely on Medicare.

Medicare ensures Americans aged 65 and older have guaranteed health coverage, protecting countless families from bankruptcy, ensuring our seniors can enjoy retirement and pass on life's lessons to their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Medicare Board of Trustees announced on Tuesday the program's trust fund will be exhausted by 2026, 3 years earlier than last year's announcement.

Eight years ago, Congress and the Obama administration worked together to extend Medicare solvency by 12 years when we passed the Affordable Care Act.

Medicare's solvency is now threatened by policy passed by the current Republican majority and enacted by President Trump.

2026 is 8 years away. We should be extending the life of Medicare, not threatening it.

Mr. Speaker, this is not acceptable. America's seniors deserve better. Congress should take action and protect the Medicare guarantee for today's and tomorrow's seniors.

#### TAX CUTS CREATE JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last month, I visited Dempsey Wood Products in Orangeburg, South Carolina, to get a firsthand look at the positive impacts of the tax cuts creating jobs.

Owner Parker Dempsey explained that they were able to expand their business due to the tax cuts. Dempsey Wood Products will be able to launch a \$15 million project, creating jobs.

Mr. Dempsey explained that: "... we will have new equipment and the best technology. The plan is to get it up and going and start a second shift, and probably add another 40 jobs."

Since President Donald Trump took office, the economy has created nearly

3 million jobs. The numbers of employed persons are the highest ever in the United States. The unemployment rate has fallen to 3.8 percent, matching the lowest level in 50 years. African American and Hispanic unemployment rates have reached record lows, and the unemployment rate for women has fallen to the lowest level since 1953.

The National Federation of Independent Business, NFIB, small business optimism index is at one of the highest levels in 45 years. I appreciate the leadership of NFIB Director Ben Homeyer.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

#### WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND WRDA

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

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a crisis facing rural America: the deterioration of water and wastewater infrastructure in our rural communities.

As the House considers passage of the Water Resources Development Act, WRDA, millions of Americans in my district and across the country are facing a health and infrastructure emergency due to failing wastewater systems.

In Alabama's rural Black Belt, I have toured communities where a home's only sewage system is a straight pipe that carries untreated waste directly into their yards and property. Alabama is not alone in this issue. Reports by the EPA document that the same lack of wastewater infrastructure is all across rural America where rural and remote areas are not connected to a city or county water and sewer line.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the bipartisan Rural Septic Tank Access Act with my Alabama Republican colleague, Congressman MIKE ROGERS, which takes a first step towards providing rural Americans with the resources they need to maintain stable, safe, and efficient water systems.

As the House continues to debate infrastructure investment, I urge this body to address the wastewater crisis facing our rural communities.

#### NATIONAL DEBT IS A SECURITY THREAT

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, last September, America's national debt topped \$20 trillion for the first time in history.

Almost 3 months ago, the debt exceeded \$21 trillion, and we have an annual structural deficit in the hundreds of billions of dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the United States faces no greater menace than our inability to eliminate our debt and balance our budget. Our grandchildren will pay the

price for our dereliction of duty and our seniors will soon see Social Security and Medicare funds depleted.

This internal, bipartisan recklessness endangers all Americans.

It is past time for us to become serious about balancing our budget and making significant cuts to Federal spending. If we do not change our course, we will one day see the crash of the American economy and the demise of a super power.

Mr. Speaker, let's change our course before our debt reaches \$22 trillion. The time for conversation is over. The time to act is now.

#### H.R. 8 WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND MAINE

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed H.R. 8, the Water Resources Development Act, which I proudly voted for.

I want to lend my voice in support of this bill and its importance to the State of Maine, which has critical ports and harbors up and down our coastline.

In particular, I want to call attention to a previously authorized WRDA program in Saco, Maine, known as Camp Ellis.

This project is considered remediation from a jetty that was built in the late 1800s by the Army Corps of Engineers.

The jetty has caused erosion and receding coastline that year by year and storm by storm has already washed out the ground from nearly 40 homes in the past 50 years.

The Army Corps and local community have been working for years on getting this project off the ground, and we are finally seeing some progress.

In the past year, there has been new energy around this, and I want to commend all the parties for their persistence and determination in getting this done.

A new WRDA can provide critical support for the storm-ravaged residents of Camp Ellis and help them rebuild.

As H.R. 8 and the other legislation moves from the House to the other body, I will continue to work with our chair, ranking member, and colleagues from Maine and the other body to get this accomplished.

□ 1215

#### PASS FOREST MANAGEMENT REFORMS

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today urging the Senate to take up the forest reforms that this Chamber passed more than 7 months ago.

Last year, wildfires burned more than 1.2 million acres in Montana, an area the size of the State of Delaware. I met with the firefighters on the ground and saw the devastation. I heard from families anxious about the dangerous air quality impacting their kids. I listened to the hardworking Montanans worried that their livelihoods would go up in flames.

Montana survived last year's devastating fire season. Our communities pulled together, helping neighbor to neighbor, just as Montanans do.

The bad news is that forecasters project another severe fire season this year. We need to start managing our forests again. While there has been some progress, more work remains to improve the health of our forests and reduce the severity of wildfires.

I call on the Senate to end the obstruction and pass forest management reforms. Montanans need them to act.

#### THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY OF CRUELTY

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the Trump administration has enacted a policy of stunning cruelty: cruel in its impact on innocent young children, cruel in its impact on terrified mothers seeking safety from violence and rape.

The cruel policy: the aggressive and forceful practice of separating a child from her mother when that mother presents herself at our southern border for the sole purpose of seeking safety.

The cruel policy, Mr. Speaker, is the Trump administration's decision—willful, voluntary, calculated decision—to make it a crime for a mother to do what mothers do everywhere and always: protect their children.

Whatever challenges we face at the southern border, none will be solved by ripping families apart, sending a child to one place—strange, unknown, unfamiliar—and the parents to another, neither knowing when, if ever, they will be reunited.

This policy is not only cruel, it is unnecessary and ineffective. Mr. Speaker, the President must end this un-American cruelty now and forever.

#### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR JAYCO RV

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local RV manufacturer, Jayco, and to join them in celebrating 50 years of success.

In 1968, Lloyd and Bertha Bontrager developed their first RV prototype on their family farm in northern Indiana and launched a family business that would last for generations. Half a century later, Jayco has grown to include

over 500 acres of manufacturing plants, more than 300 dealers around the world, and countless good jobs for hardworking Hoosiers in our community.

Northern Indiana leads the RV industry in the United States and, as a community, we are grateful to have this company to inspire future generations of manufacturers and to carry on that legacy.

It is an honor to represent Jayco, the Bontrager family, and the hardworking employees who have played such a vital role in northern Indiana's growing economy for decades.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Second District Hoosiers, I want to thank everyone at Jayco for an incredible 50 years, and I look forward to more amazing things to come.

#### RECOGNIZING PAUL HAMRICK, MONTEREY COUNTY'S 2018 SPELLING BEE CHAMPION

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Hamrick, Monterey County's 2018 Spelling Bee champion and two-time Scripps National Spelling Bee contestant.

Last year, Paul finished in 35th place, but this year, and just last week, out of over 500 spellers from all 50 States, Paul finished the Bee tied for seventh, the best finish ever for a Monterey County student.

Now, in a lot of ways, Paul is a normal 14-year-old from the central coast of California. He loves *Weird Al Yankovic*, the movie *"Black Panther,"* and he even likes to bowl. But Paul is the only Monterey County student to ever make the evening finals at the National Spelling Bee.

Paul's proud father, Tom, said that Paul studied over 50,000 words this year. That number is incredibly impressive because, according to a 2016 study, the typical English-speaking 20-year-old American only knows 42,000 words.

During last Thursday's Scripps National Spelling Bee, Paul confidently spelled words that most people couldn't even pronounce, like *"soubresaut"* and *"binnacle"* and *"rubricate,"* an impressive run and finish for a very intelligent young man.

Congratulations, Paul. You should be proud of your hard work because, from the central coast of California to right here in the U.S. Congress, we are proud of you.

#### CONGRATULATING THE 2018 NAIA NATIONAL CHAMPION SOUTH- EASTERN UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, Southeastern University is a Christian liberal arts college located in my hometown of Lakeland, Florida. The university is known for its commitment to providing students with a Spirit-empowered, Christ-centered education through integration of faith, learning, and service.

Today, I rise to recognize a recent proud accomplishment for Southeastern University. Last Thursday, May 31, 2018, the Southeastern University Fire men's baseball team defeated Freed-Hardeman University to win the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series.

On their road to victory, the team also defeated four former national champions and had three of their players selected to join the 2018 All-American team: Johnathan Bermudez, Dan Valerio, and Jordan Scott.

The national championship is the first NAIA title by a Fire team since joining the association in the fall of 2009. I am both proud and inspired by this young team and their head coach, Adrian Dinkel, for the determination, commitment, and teamwork they have demonstrated on their road to victory.

Southeastern University is a tremendous educational institution, led by Dr. Kent Ingle, and this win is a terrific achievement not only for the school, but also for our local community.

Go Fire.

#### RECOGNIZING DENNIS WILLIAMS FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize Dennis Williams as he retires from United Auto Workers after more than 40 years of service to the union and to our country.

I have known Dennis for many, many years. Throughout his career, he has led the fight to protect the right to collective bargaining and to ensure that all workers, not just those in the union, have fair pay and safe working conditions.

Like the UAW itself, Dennis has always been committed to securing economic and social justice for workers. His experience has carried him through the diverse sectors of the UAW, giving him expertise across the spectrum.

He started at UAW Local 806 as a salvage welder, served in many positions—bargaining chairman, international representative, region 4 director—before becoming international president in 2016.

Dennis Williams' service and success at the bargaining table led to a better quality of life for the UAW's more than 400,000 workers and 580,000 retirees, many of whom I am proud to represent in my home district.

I am grateful to work with leaders like Dennis who have changed our communities for the better, and we will miss Dennis Williams' voice and his

leadership in the union, but we know it won't be lost to the country as he begins this next chapter in his life.

Congratulations, Dennis, on work well done.

#### RECOGNIZING PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2018 INTEL INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

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

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I am excited to have this opportunity to recognize and congratulate three exceptional students in my district who placed in the top five for their project categories at the 2018 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. This competition is the largest precollegiate science fair in the world and is comprised of students from more than 75 countries who come together to compete and share their research with others in their STEM community.

Himanshi Verma, from Eastside High School, received the fourth place award in the biomedical and health sciences category; Gianfranco Cortes-Arroyo, from West Port High School, received the third place award in the mathematics category; and Evan Collins, one of my former district interns and a student at Ridgeview High, received the third place award in earth and environmental sciences category.

STEM education is vital to the advancement of American society, and I am proud to represent students who will lead their generation in innovation and expertise.

Congratulations again to Himanshi, Gianfranco, and Evan, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RAPHAEL ALLEN

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Raphael Allen. I join his family and friends to celebrate his life and his service to the Richmond, California, community.

Raphael Allen was born and raised in the Bay Area, where he attended Stanford University. He went on to serve as an editor for Duke University Press and covered a variety of topics relating to the World War II Home Front National Historical Park and Rosie the Riveter Park in Richmond, California.

In 2007, he began volunteering with the National Park Service at Rosie the Riveter, editing exhibits, conducting research, and developing interactive youth programs. He was also a ranger at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, where he assisted with outreach programs at local schools and gave tours of the site, including for myself and our staff.

Later in his career, Raphael was hired permanently at Rosie the Riveter as a park guide, where he was instrumental in opening the new visitor center. He also supported the development of exhibit content and Rosie the Riveter informational films. He went on to develop a wide variety of programs, which he often presented in the visitor center, highlighting many untold average American stories that existed about the park and the service.

Raphael will be remembered for his service and the mark he left on our community and our country for ensuring its history was passed on to others. He will be sincerely missed.

#### CELEBRATING PASSAGE OF THE VA MISSION ACT

(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, yesterday the President signed into law the VA MISSION Act, which takes a number of steps toward giving our veterans the care they deserve. My bill, the VETS Act, was included in this larger package. It will allow VA-employed doctors to practice telemedicine across State lines.

The VA already has an extremely successful telemedicine program, boasting an 88 percent satisfaction rating, but outdated regulations restricted this program from growing to achieve its full potential.

The VETS Act will now allow VA doctors to utilize telemedicine to see patients in any State and any location, including in the comfort of their own home. This is especially helpful for veterans who are battling post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury who have had a hard time traveling to a VA facility or live in rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans deserve the best care available to them, and the VETS Act is one of the provisions of the VA MISSION Act that will advance this care.

I commend the President for signing this bill into law. Telemedicine is better access, better care, and true healthcare reform.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PAULINE GASCA VALENCIANO

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and legacy of Pauline Valenciano.

Pauline was raised in Fort Worth and was able to observe the diversity and vast culture and traditions that are embraced in our community.

I knew Pauline when I first got started in politics in the late 1990s, working at Town Center Mall, which is now La Gran Plaza. But Pauline was one of the very first people that I met, and I am

just very saddened to hear about her loss.

From an early age, Pauline looked up to leaders in the community who gave voice to injustices and fought for equal representation. From observing local Tarrant County School Board races to statewide campaigns, Pauline knew her calling was activism, and she became a fierce leader for the Latino community and for women.

When Pauline got told to dial it down, that meant, for Pauline, that she needed to dial it up. She won the respect of minority groups across Texas as she fought for civil rights and gender equality. As a precinct chair and election judge, she became an icon in the Latino community for giving voice to those who felt silenced.

She also canvassed for John Kennedy and marched alongside Cesar Chavez. Inspired by leaders who were great orators, she spoke about raising the level of discourse in the country. And naturally, in 2016, when the first female candidate for President was on the ballot, she teamed up with local groups to get out the vote. The city of Fort Worth grieves her loss.

The last time I saw her was at a Cinco de Mayo event, and she came up and gave me a big hug. That is the type of person she was in the community, just so inspiring, so encouraging, and a good person. We are going to miss her very much. Her work and legacy will live in Fort Worth for decades and years and years to come.

Everyone is thinking about you, my friend, Pauline. I know that you are looking down, and a lot of people are sad about your loss, but know that you helped make Fort Worth a better place to live for all of us.

□ 1230

#### RECOGNIZING MAGGIE SCARLETT

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

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Maggie Scarlett of Wilson, Wyoming, who has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Wyoming.

This is the highest award the university confers. Maggie's tireless work on behalf of our great State warrants this well-deserved honor.

Maggie was awarded this honorary doctorate of humane letters for her lifetime of work creating and expanding museum and library collections. Throughout her life, Maggie has given so much back to our great State and our citizens, and she has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to the importance of museums and libraries in preserving our heritage and our history.

She served as a public school teacher in communities across Wyoming and brought educational opportunities, including in the field of speech language pathology, to rural Wyoming.

Maggie was 1 of 10 founding trustees of the National Museum of Wildlife Art

in Jackson, Wyoming, and she was instrumental in securing its recognition as the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States.

She also serves on the board of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in her hometown of Cody, Wyoming, and she earned an appointment by President George W. Bush to serve on the board of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Mr. Speaker, Maggie Scarlett is a true inspiration and has set an example for her children, her seven grandchildren, her friends, and people all across our State and Nation. I am extremely grateful for her contributions, and I am blessed to call her my friend.

Maggie and her family deserve to be extremely proud of her work and of this honor.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the United States Merchant Marine Academy, located in Kings Point in my congressional district, for 75 years of dedicated service to our country.

"Acta non verba," the school's motto, means "deeds, not words," something we all need to strive for. The midshipmen and graduates of the Academy have exemplified the school's motto by faithfully serving the United States in times of war and peace, and for that we are all eternally grateful.

Since its founding in 1943, the United States Merchant Marine Academy has developed a rich history of military and maritime service. It is the only service academy whose students engage in combat during times of war. In fact, 142 of its students gave their lives on behalf of our country during World War II.

In 1974, the United States Merchant Marine Academy became the first service academy to admit women.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, staff and midshipmen evacuated civilians from lower Manhattan and transported first responders and supplies to Ground Zero.

Midshipmen are the backbone of our Nation's maritime industry, and they serve as members of the Armed Services as well.

As a member of the Board of Visitors, I am proud of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, their rich history, and the sacrifices its students and graduates have made for our great Nation.

#### RELEASE FUNDS TO THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, last year's natural disasters in the U.S. Virgin Islands have left thousands of properties damaged and destroyed. The vast majority of those homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure have yet to be repaired.

It is imperative that any funds authorized and intended to be allocated for the Virgin Islands be released to the territory immediately.

While the Federal funding does not include the full amount or all of the requests of the Virgin Islands, it will help substantially in the rebuilding efforts to create better housing opportunities, to help build a resilient utility system, burying lines, creating microgrids, and implementing renewables in our energy portfolio.

Due to the tenuous position of the U.S. territories, the U.S. Virgin Islands has been unable to pay contractors up front for critical repairs. We don't have the millions to pay up front and seek reimbursement from the government.

Treasury and its Secretary has been unwilling to lend us or loan us, under reasonable terms, the money that Congress allocated for us to be loaned.

I am requesting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency expedite the release of the funds to the Sheltering and Temporary Essential Power pilot program immediately so that project contractors and subcontractors may be paid as soon as possible and recovery efforts continue.

Mr. Speaker, when contractors lay off workers, our economy falters. And as hurricane season is beginning, this needs to be done now.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DONOVAN) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, June 7, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 7, 2018, at 9:04 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1692.

That the Senate passed S. 2857.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 88.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1397.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1719.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 1900.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

#### PROVIDING FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5895, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3, SPENDING CUTS TO EXPIRED AND UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS ACT

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 923 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 923

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes. The further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules and available pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 918. Each further amendment printed in part B of the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 918, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3) to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 3. The provisions of section 1017 of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 shall not

apply to a bill or joint resolution introduced with respect to the special message transmitted under section 1012 of that Act on May 8, 2018.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 923 provides for the consideration of two important bills related to Federal spending of taxpayer dollars.

The first, H.R. 5895, the combined appropriations bill, containing three individual fiscal year 2019 Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bills, provides the annual funding for these Federal departments.

The second bill, H.R. 3, the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act, is a critical bill to honor the House Republicans' commitment to eliminating wasteful Federal spending.

The resolution before us this afternoon provides for a structured rule for H.R. 5895. Yesterday, the House passed the first rule pertaining to this bill, providing for 1 hour of general debate on the measure. Today's rule makes in order 40 amendments offered by both Democrats and Republicans.

House Resolution 923 also provides a closed rule for H.R. 3, the rescissions package, but does execute Leader MCCARTHY's amendment which incorporates President Trump's revised and updated spending proposal.

One hour of debate time for H.R. 3 is provided, divided and controlled equally by the majority leader and the minority leader or their respective designees.

Finally, the rule provides the minority the customary motion to recommit on both pieces of legislation under consideration.

H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2019, funds a net total of \$144 billion in base discretionary spending, \$33 billion for defense, and \$112 billion for nondefense purposes. The totals reflect the amount specified in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018.

Division A of the appropriations package funds the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act at nearly \$45 billion,

providing for national security and energy and water infrastructure investments.

The bill would increase Federal investments in nuclear security by \$600 million above fiscal year 2018, then totaling more than \$15 billion.

As President Trump has repeatedly stated, our Nation must modernize its aging nuclear forces. They are the centerpiece of our deterrent strategy, and we cannot allow them to degrade to a point where they become functionally useless.

To prevent this outcome, nuclear weapons activities, especially Navy nuclear reactors, all continue to receive funding. Congress must not leave the United States unprepared while our adversaries continue to advance their own nuclear weapons programs.

Division A also improves the security of our energy infrastructure. Most Americans take for granted the ability to easily access electricity, but that convenience is tenuous. The electric grid is massive, it is complex, and it is vulnerable to cyber and physical attacks. These threats have become increasingly likely as more operations go online or are connected to a network which is not secure.

This bill appropriates \$117 million to ensure that our energy infrastructure operators have the resources they need to develop these defenses.

□ 1245

Additionally, the bill supports the completion of the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository, helping to ease the risk and burden of storing nuclear waste in temporary storage sites across the country.

In 2007, the Energy Independence and Security Act gave the Department of Energy authority to regulate incandescent light bulbs through the law's excessive energy efficiency standards, effectively killing free market competition.

Therefore, I submitted an amendment that would prohibit the use of Federal funds to carry out these onerous enforcement standards. This amendment has been included in the Energy and Water Development appropriations bill every fiscal year since 2011, and I look forward to continued consumer choice in this market.

Division A includes the United States Army Corps of Engineers. In Texas' 26th Congressional District that I represent, the Army Corps has been instrumental in ensuring the thorough maintenance, repair, and safety of Lake Lewisville Dam, which sustained damage due to heavy rains in the north Texas area in 2015.

This is just one example of the important work the Army Corps performs throughout the United States, and the bill increases funding of the agency to more than \$7 billion for fiscal year 2019.

The bill also repeals the massive overreach of Federal authority known as the waters of the United States rule, promulgated by the Environmental

Protection Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. This rule changed the definition of navigable waters subject to Federal regulation under the Clean Water Act, placing significant costs on property owners.

Last, the bill prohibits the use of nuclear nonproliferation projects in Russia without certain notifications from the Secretary of Energy.

Division B appropriates \$3.8 billion for the legislative branch. This encompasses the House of Representatives and joint operations with the Senate.

The House of Representatives is funded at \$1.2 billion, which is \$25 million below the President's budget request. Funding also supports Capitol security and police forces, services for visitors, and Capitol operations and maintenance.

The Capitol Police are funded at \$456 million, an increase of \$30 million above fiscal year 2018. Last year, we learned just how vital the Capitol Police are when they responded to and stopped a shooter who opened fire at a congressional baseball game practice.

The bravery and skill demonstrated by those agents are what allows Members of Congress, our staff, our support personnel, and visitors to go to work or visit the Capitol complex every day without fear. They deserve our full support.

The Office of Compliance is appropriated over \$5 million for employee and Member workplace rights training. This funding will also support a dispute resolution process that is fair and accessible for all.

The bill also includes almost \$580 million for the Government Accountability Office so that it may continue its vital work of oversight and reporting on how Federal programs are using taxpayer dollars.

Two important things that the bill does not fund are a cost-of-living increase for Members of Congress and allowances for former Speakers of the House.

Division C of the appropriations package provides over \$96 billion in discretionary funding for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, an increase of more than \$4 billion over fiscal year 2018.

Nearly all of the increase in funding goes toward supporting the efforts and the services of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robust funding for Veterans Affairs will ensure that those who have served our country have access to quality services.

This bill includes a total of \$194 billion in discretionary and mandatory funding for Veterans Affairs, which is \$9 billion more than fiscal year 2018.

Importantly, this bill provides more than \$71 billion for Veterans Affairs medical care and more than \$1 billion in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to deploy a new electronic health records system that aligns with the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, this is something that we have been promised since 2006. This

will allow our veterans an easier transition into the Veterans Affairs system than they experience today.

The bill also includes funding for reducing the disability claims backlog so that veterans will receive more timely compensation.

Yesterday, the VA MISSION Act was signed into law. American veterans deserve the best possible care, and this bill gives the Department of Veterans Affairs the resources to work towards providing that care for the 7 million patients who are expected to receive Veterans Affairs treatment in fiscal year 2019.

Additionally, this bill funds construction, operation, and maintenance of housing for our troops and medical and education facilities at over \$10 billion.

This is the first step toward funding the government and its essential programs for fiscal year 2019. This year, Congress will do its job to ensure smart, efficient, and appropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

H.R. 3, the second bill contained in today's rule, is the rescissions package to cut stagnant and unused prior-year Federal funding.

President Trump submitted and recently revised a proposal to rescind approximately \$14.5 billion of budget authority, affecting 15 Federal departments and agencies. These include unobligated balances from the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program and the Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program; the Department of Housing and Urban Development's capital fund; the Department of Justice's Assets Forfeiture Fund; the Department of State's Complex Crisis Fund; and unnecessary funding for the Millennium Challenge Corporation, among other things.

President Trump recently revised his request to withdraw the proposed rescission of emergency Ebola funds as well as supplemental appropriations for Superstorm Sandy recovery and to decrease proposed rescissions to Housing and Urban Development's capital fund and Treasury's capital management fund.

Two provisions related to the Children's Health Insurance Program should be noted.

The first rescinds over \$5 billion that was included in the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 that supplements the fiscal year 2017 allotments to States. This was in addition to the annual Children's Health Insurance Program appropriation to reimburse States for Children's Health Insurance Program expenses. The remaining funds are no longer needed.

The second provision rescinds almost \$2 billion made available to the Children's Health Insurance Program contingency fund, which is used to provide payments to States that have funding shortfalls. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services currently does

not expect any State to need a payment from the contingency fund during the current fiscal year.

It is important that the American people understand that these Children's Health Insurance Program rescissions will have no impact on the current Children's Health Insurance Program.

Early this year, Republicans passed and signed into law the longest and most generous extension to the Children's Health Insurance Program in its 20-year history. When House Democrats were presented this opportunity, they voted against it not once but twice.

Mr. Speaker, when Federal funds are no longer needed in an agency or have not been obligated, Congress should do the right thing and use these taxpayer dollars to reduce the deficit.

I support passage of the rule to allow debate on these important priorities. I urge Members to support today's rule and both underlying bills.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, this rule makes 39 amendments in order to the appropriations bill we have been considering this week.

Unfortunately, this appropriations package is made up of three individual appropriations bills. Also, in what is a surprise to us in the minority, this rule also includes a surprising \$15 billion in rescissions—cuts—to programs our communities depend on.

Why aren't we given the opportunity to bring up these bills individually? Considering that nearly 200 amendments were offered to this package while many of us were working in our districts, it is obvious to me that these bills would have benefited from a longer debate.

This rule makes in order 39 amendments to the underlying package, which includes H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019; H.R. 5894, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2019; and H.R. 5786, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

However, 59 additional amendments will not be given an opportunity to be heard, including bipartisan amendments like the Cicilline-Poliquin amendment to prohibit oil drilling on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf or the Foster-Hultgren amendment to increase funding for the Department of Energy's Office of Science or the Issa-Roybal-Allard amendment to support programs that improve veteran access to care at qualified health centers. Don't these distinguished Members of this body deserve to have their amendments discussed, debated, and voted on?

This rule also makes in order H.R. 3, the GOP rescission package. Mr. Speaker, this bill has not received a single hearing—not one. This was a last-minute addition which gave no time for amendments to be considered.

The closed rule, which is how the rescissions package comes to the floor, pushes this Congress further into the record books as the most closed Congress in history.

Before I speak more on that, I do want to take a brief moment to highlight the bipartisan manner in which the appropriators acted in crafting the Military Construction and Legislative Branch bills. This is proof that, when this body wants to, we can work together and produce legislation that results in broad, bipartisan consensus.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill provides a \$4.17 billion increase to the servicemembers we represent—specifically, a \$3.9 billion increase to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Legislative Branch bill takes more steps we should have taken a long time ago and provides additional resources for training and to help with complaints on sexual harassment and violations of employee rights. None of us here are immune to harassers, but at least this bill moves us forward in addressing the bad behaviors of those who walk among us.

This rule makes in order amendments to the Energy and Water appropriations bill. However, this bill does not follow the same bipartisan path. Instead, this bill is full of poison pill riders that will ultimately make our time here a total waste, as those poison pill riders mean that the Senate will ignore this package as it is written.

Incredibly, when most Americans are asking Congress to make commonsense improvements to our Nation's gun laws, this bill goes in the opposite direction. That is right. This Congress is finally acting on guns—in a cowardly way, by expanding where guns can be brought onto Federal lands, ignoring the cries and the calls from our children—our children who are being murdered in their classrooms, our constituents who are being murdered in movie theaters, our constituents who are being murdered in concert halls in Las Vegas, Nevada, where people go to get married, where people go to have fun, and, yes, they make babies sometimes in Vegas too. But yet we are ignoring their calls for help.

□ 1300

It is amazing that we can go on months without meaningful reforms on gun violence and now we take up a giant spending package that forces Members to vote on yet another expansion of gun access. What are we trying to do?

Again, a cowardice act to expand the use of weapons in our Federal lands. For what? So we can go into the dens of bears and kill them—the momma

bears and the baby bears—while they are sleeping?

That is what we are doing in this Congress.

Perhaps that wouldn't be such a problem if we had a single open rule on the House floor that would allow the House to work its will on this or any other issue Members have with portions of this legislation.

Finally, this rule makes in order H.R. 3, President Trump's and the GOP's rescissions bill. As I mentioned before, this bill saw no hearings. Zero.

But perhaps just as troubling was Ranking Member LOWER's remarks in our Rules Committee hearing last night about how the minority wasn't even consulted prior to this bill coming to the floor, ignoring the thousands of constituents that we represent. So, not only has this bill skipped the normal appropriations process, Democrats have not been given an opportunity to add the voice of their constituents.

Make no mistake, this is a highly partisan bill which does not reflect the House's will. Instead, this is what our constituents hate the most: a Congress that is most dysfunctional.

This bill makes significant cuts to programs that create jobs, grow our economy, and provide healthcare to millions of children in a transparent attempt to appear fiscally conservative after passing a tax bill that added \$1.9 trillion to the deficit and gave most of its benefit to the wealthiest among us.

If we want to rescind something to balance the deficit, how about we start with the \$1 trillion budget-busting tax bill that was passed for the wealthy. That irresponsible law is now the cause of Medicare and Social Security going bankrupt decades earlier.

This bill is a political gimmick to hide the Republican majority's gross mismanagement of our Nation's long-term fiscal health. While the GOP tax giveaway benefited the wealthiest among us, almost half of the cuts in this rescissions package are to the Children's Health Insurance Program. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker: the Children's Health Insurance Program.

We have \$7 billion eliminated from CHIP. That is right. They didn't blink an eye at a \$2 trillion giveaway to the wealthy, but yet they are squeezing fractional savings from funds intended for children's health insurance.

But that isn't the end of it. So that corporations and millionaires can have a tax break, the House majority has decided to make a collection of cuts that will impact every community: Cuts to economic development; cuts to the Forest Service while the West of America is burning; cuts to Indian housing programs, cuts to foreign assistance; cuts to transportation while our infrastructure is crumbling; cuts to public housing while the growing number of Americans grow homeless; cuts to conservation; and cuts to advanced technology vehicle loans.

What is it that you want to do? Do you want to take us back to the time of Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble?

I know that my Republican colleagues will say that they aren't cuts because the funding can't be used, but no Federal agencies were asked if they needed a waiver to utilize this funding where they need it the most. I doubt that my colleagues will say they couldn't use this in their communities.

Well, let me put these cuts in the voice of the Great Gazoo: those cuts are dumb and dumber cuts.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I must strongly oppose this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, February 9 of this year, the House of Representatives passed the most generous extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program since its inception in 1996. The gentlewoman from California voted against that extension.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GIBBS), a valuable member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule for H.R. 5895 that provides essential protections for the current and future health of Lake Erie.

It prevents the Army Corps of Engineers from dumping dredged sediment from the Cuyahoga River in the lake without the approval of the State of Ohio. This dredge sediment can contain harmful contaminants, potentially increasing the risk of polluted fish and wildlife.

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most precious and important natural resources. It would be irresponsible to reverse the environmental gains we have recently made with the lake, which is why this provision is so important.

Additionally, this bill includes a provision to expand the ability of law-abiding citizens to possess a firearm on Army Corps of Engineers land, so long as they are legally permitted to carry a firearm and are in full compliance with State law and as they are allowed to do on other Federal parks and Federal lands. This provision merely brings the Army Corps recreational property in line with the rules of land owned by the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Finally, this bill includes a full congressional repeal of the harmful Obama-era WOTUS rule, waters of the United States, an executive overreach that expanded Federal jurisdiction beyond "navigable waters." These provisions are important in ensuring the Federal Government does not impose its will or expand its authority at the expense of States or individuals.

I encourage my colleagues to support this, and I want to commend the chairmen of these committees for the work they have done in the rescissions package in this bill and the Energy and Water bill to move this country forward.

I would also note, Mr. Speaker, historically, if you look back in the past

20 or 30 years in past administrations, both Republican and Democratic, rescissions used to be common practice to claw back money that was never spent or could no longer be spent and bring it back to the Treasury and let the Congress re-appropriate the money as they deem fit.

I encourage my colleagues to support this rule.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, does this Republican majority have amnesia? Did they forget how we got here?

Congressional Republicans blew a nearly \$2 trillion hole in the deficit by giving tax cuts to the wealthy and large corporations. That is trillion with a T. Now they are acting like they are great deficit hawks for bringing forward a bill that rescinds \$15 billion in Federal spending. That is billion with a B. It is a tiny fraction of the trillions of dollars they spent on tax cuts.

You don't have to be some great scholar to see this disparity. It is right here on this chart. This really big red bar, Mr. Speaker, that plunges down to nearly \$2 trillion represents the impact of the Republican tax bill on the deficit. It is actually \$1.9 trillion. It is not good. That really, really, really tiny small bar on the right represents the so-called "savings" that this bill will provide.

For those in the gallery, you are going to need binoculars to see that line. To my Republican colleagues, I am happy to lend you my bifocals so you can see how inconsequential this rescission package is in terms of dealing with our deficit.

Now, don't get me wrong, \$15 million is a lot of money, but in the context of what this Republican House has done to our deficit—blowing a hole in it to give tax cuts to the megarich—in that context, it isn't even a down payment on fixing the deficit.

This bill isn't the result of some great process. Mr. Speaker, there was no process. There was no hearing on the bill. The Appropriations Committee didn't go over these proposed cuts one by one, weighing whether they made sense or not.

This is the result of the whims of President Trump. He seems to change his mind about as often as he logs on to Twitter. How else can the majority explain slashing funds to fight Ebola the same day there is an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?

You cannot make this stuff up.

It took language in a manager's amendment to reverse this, just like the majority was forced to reverse cuts to funds designed to help New York and New Jersey recover from Superstorm Sandy. Perhaps if you had a hearing and you listened to Members of Con-

gress, you listened to the committees of jurisdiction, you might avoid these embarrassments.

This bill is also being considered under yet another record-breaking closed rule. That means no Member can offer an amendment on the floor to approve it.

Last month, Republicans officially turned this Congress into the most closed Congress in history. It was only May. We still have 6 months to go before the end of this Congress. Apparently, there is no end in sight for the majority's restrictive process. It would make Vladimir Putin jealous. This is not a process to be proud of. This is a process the Republicans should be ashamed of.

The cuts in this bill aren't harmless. They will hurt real people. Almost half the cuts in this package are to the Children's Health Insurance Program. This bill also hurts farmers by cutting funding they need to carry out important conservation programs.

This bill cuts funding for the Economic Development Administration, an agency focused on economic growth and private sector job creation, at a time when they have a project backlog nationwide. In my own congressional district, I have visited at least 10 high-quality projects seeking investments from EDA. These projects, and countless others all across the country, are now in jeopardy if this rescissions package becomes law.

These are not unnecessary programs, as the bill's title suggests. This funding was appropriated under the FY 2017 omnibus negotiated over just a year ago. Both parties agreed to it. The President signed it into law. Now, President Trump has suddenly changed his mind. Maybe it was something he saw on Fox News, since he takes most of his marching orders from them.

After spending nearly \$2 trillion on tax cuts for the superrich and blowing up the deficit, the majority's bill is like putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound.

Republicans are trying to trick the American people into thinking that somehow they care about fiscal responsibility. Well, they are not fooling anyone.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROUZER). The Chair would remind Members to refrain from references to occupants of the gallery.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that as of June 7 of this year, Republicans in the 115th Congress have provided consideration for over 1,200 amendments on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, during the entirety of the 111th Congress, when Speaker Pelosi was Speaker, the Democrats allowed less than 1,000 amendments to be considered on the floor. Their majority blocked nearly 3,000 amendments that year in Congress.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself an additional 30 seconds.

I would like to recognize that on February 9 of this year, the most generous extension of the Children's Health Insurance Program—for 10 years' time—was passed by the House and eventually signed into law. The gentleman from Massachusetts fought against that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KNIGHT).

□ 1315

Mr. KNIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule.

I want to thank the chairman and ranking member for the inclusion of language in the E&W report that would launch a new initiative at the Department of Energy to aggressively drive down costs and improve the performance of grid-scale energy storage technologies.

This report language is similar to the BEST Act, which I sponsored and of which the ranking member is a cosponsor. The BEST Act is a bipartisan authorization bill that directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a moonshot goal of three demonstrations of grid-scale battery storage that will meet aggressive commercialization targets for cost, performance, and durability.

This concept is modeled after the success of the DOE's SunShot Initiative, which brought down the cost of solar energy by 75 percent in less than 5 years.

One of the biggest challenges to greater incorporation of new energy sources into the power grid is the lack of cost-competitive grid-scale solutions. Intermittent energy sources cannot reach their potential without commercially viable storage facilities. We all know this.

Much of the energy we produce is lost, diminishing utility productivity. While the DOE has issued grants to pursue better battery storage, funding has been too dispersed to produce the breakthroughs needed to transform our electricity grid. This initiative will leverage work currently being done in the Office of Science to set a moonshot goal for energy storage technology.

In a further sign of the merit of these demonstrations, the Senate E&W bill also includes very similar report language.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, we cannot continue to allow the rewriting of history. The majority has blocked over 2,000 amendments, and it is only June.

Mr. Speaker, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act would shortchange our veterans by subjecting funding for their healthcare programs to onerous budget restraints. This would force funding for veterans healthcare to compete with other important veterans programs.

Therefore, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to include Representative

LAMB's legislation, H.R. 5805, to fix the VA Choice budget shortfall and Representative CARTER's amendment to MILCON-VA which includes more funds for vital veteran healthcare initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. LAMB) to discuss our proposal.

Mr. LAMB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today so that we can finish the work that we started with the VA MISSION Act.

Just yesterday, the President signed the VA MISSION Act into law, and it is a good bill. But the words on that piece of paper and his signature, Mr. Speaker, are not what takes care of our veterans. It is the doctors and nurses in our VA facilities who do that. The VA MISSION Act gives us a chance to make their jobs easier and let them do it better.

But we have to be honest about the fact that it also poses serious risks because of these strict budget caps. These budget caps were in place, Mr. Speaker, before we ever did the VA MISSION Act. I don't know if they were put in place because people had lost faith in the VA, but I recently visited two VA hospitals in the Pittsburgh area and came away with a renewed faith in what the VA can do.

I met a man who was a Vietnam veteran, wheelchair-bound, who has lived in the VA hospital for 3 years. If things were as bad as its critics say, you might expect a man like that to be downtrodden or upset with the VA. Instead, when I asked him how he was feeling, tears came to his eyes and his voice choked with emotion as he described for me the way that the director of that hospital comes to mass with him every morning and asks about his family.

We had that conversation in a kitchen built inside that hospital that looks like the kitchen in any nice home. The nurses bring in food of their own to cook for the patients of theirs. It operates like a real family.

This is what it looks like, Mr. Speaker, when we keep our promises to our veterans and, more accurately, when our doctors and nurses keep that promise on our behalf.

But all of this is at risk if we do not finish what we started with the VA MISSION Act. If we do nothing, the money that we have appropriated for the Veterans Choice Program will bust the strict budget caps that VA is under, and that will trigger automatic, indiscriminate cuts across the board.

Mr. Speaker, that man asked me for one thing. He said that next year on Memorial Day he was hoping that they could have a cookout and that I would come back and have a hot dog with him.

When that happens 1 year from now, Mr. Speaker, that same VA hospital may very well be under the strict budget cuts. Something like a cookout would be seen as an extravagance if you are getting 25 percent, 30 percent cuts across the board. And we will be responsible for that, Mr. Speaker. That is the only thing that man asked for.

He has been cared for. We have gotten him the care he deserves. We need to ensure that for the next generation. We can fix that today. We can exempt the new money in the VA MISSION Act from the strict budget caps by voting "no" on the previous question so that my bill, H.R. 5805, can be made in order.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the gentleman's service to our country. I would point out that I worked as a physician in a VA facility in the 1970s, and I am well aware of the good work that the doctors and nurses in VA facilities provide.

I would like to point out that, in the Statement of Administration Policy, the administration expected the MISSION Act to be in place by the beginning of fiscal year 2018. Do remember that this was one of the promises that then-candidate Trump promised to the Nation, that he would make the funding of the veterans programs a priority, and I believe he has done that.

Continuing to quote from the administration: "The delay in enacting the MISSION Act's new community care program increases the requirements to continue the VA's current traditional community care program by an additional \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2019."

Here is the important point: "The administration looks forward to working with Congress to secure this funding within the existing nondefense discretionary cap."

I think it is fair to say there is more to come.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD, along with extraneous material, immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE).

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule for H.R. 3 as well as the underlying bill. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, I do not believe we should be retroactively taking back already approved funding to pay for tax cuts to corporations.

There are countless ludicrous provisions in this bill to cut rural housing, conservation, and other programs that support communities, farmers, and those in need. I would like to focus on one provision in H.R. 3 that is particularly upsetting because it would rescind over \$14 million from USDA's Value Added Producer Grant program, one of the only USDA grants that go directly to farmers' pockets.

Let me be absolutely clear. Despite what the administration has said, these are funds that farmers have already applied for. Those applications were already under review by the USDA when the rescission package was introduced. Projects are ready to go and jobs are waiting to be created with this funding.

It makes me very angry to see that the administration's rescission proposal describes these grants as wasteful and specifically identifies a chocolate-covered peanut project as an example of alleged wasteful spending.

This is not about chocolate-covered peanuts. This is about helping farmers diversify their businesses and providing consumers with new products on which they are willing to spend a little extra.

Farmers are facing very challenging economic times, and I think we should be doing everything we can to support farmers in finding new markets, whether that is by processing milk to make yogurt, making jam from wild blueberries, or even coating peanuts in chocolate.

Ironically, on the same day that the administration released its rescission proposal, the USDA's Economic Research Service released a report on how successful VAPG has been. The report shows that businesses that receive VAPG funding provide more jobs for their communities and were less likely to fail than similar nonrecipient businesses. VAPG works. In Maine and across the country, a little support to farmers through VAPG can go a long way.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the rule for H.R. 3 as well as the underlying bill.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am opposing all of the bills under this rule, including the underlying bill, but in particular H.R. 3, which is a danger to childcare development, Pell grants, and election security, meaning, Mr. Speaker, they are cutting those dollars.

But the main element of my opposition is the crisis on the border. I want this House to recognize that you have individuals who have crossed for humanitarian reasons who are being treated and violated like in a third-world country that would be inhumane.

You have Guatemalans, some of whom now are facing the tragedy of the volcano, coming who speak an indigenous language, and they are lumped together 50, 100 at a time.

Their children are snatched away from them. This is a policy that is going to be further funded by the rescissions in this bill. It is imperative that anyone who has a humane bone in their body stand up against ripping children away from individuals.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee

on the Judiciary, that was not the policy. The policy was for children who came unaccompanied, not children with their parents.

In addition, you have children who have not seen their mothers—who are 4 years old, who are infants—for weeks at a time and cannot speak English.

Again, you have Guatemalans who are not speaking Spanish, English, or a language that is interpreted in the courts. It is an indigenous language. They do not know that you are ruling against them, as it relates to their plea for asylum.

This bill and the rescissions will give more funding for those kinds of inhumane deportation and more dollars to separate children from their parents.

For God's sake, this is not America. We must stop it now. Oppose the bill.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will point out that one of the things that the Military Construction and VA appropriation does fund is the improvements to the VA Electronic Health Record. This is something that has been sought by this Congress and previous administrations going back to 2006. I am happy to say that in this appropriations bill it is being taken care of.

Three administrations is too long for that to happen. I am grateful for the focus that the administration put on this problem, and I am grateful that they have finally gotten it solved.

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

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

I have no doubt of the importance of the legislation this rule makes in order. However, I struggle to believe that this is the most important work we could be doing today.

Instead, perhaps we can fix the broken immigration laws that President Trump has cited as his reason for separating families and children on our Nation's border. Fear and intimidation are no way to make policy. The Trump administration has picked the cruelest way to punish those who are fleeing violence.

The result is broken families and lost children. Since October, more than 700 children have been inhumanely separated from their parents. More than 100 of these children are less than 4 years old.

Using family separation as a scare tactic to prevent families from coming to this country will never work, and it is in the same cruel mindset as using rape as a weapon of war. These families come here looking for one thing: shelter. Punishing a mother by separating her from her child is not only immoral; it is inhumane. It goes against the fundamental human right of the family unit.

Separating them from their parents is simply anti-American. However, for some reason, President Trump has re-

peatedly said that he is bound by the law to rip these families apart.

□ 1330

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from California will state her parliamentary inquiry.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, what is the law requiring the separation of parents and children at the border?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not respond to inquiries regarding the status of the law. That is a matter for debate.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, perhaps the reason the Speaker can't answer is that the law simply doesn't exist. However, this is the United States Congress. We make the laws. But unfortunately, this isn't what we are doing here. No. Instead, we are taking up a bill to put more guns on public lands and cut funding for energy efficiency research. For this reason and many other concerns I have with the number of amendments which were not made in order, I must oppose this rule.

This Congress is now the most closed Congress in history. It is forcing its Members to vote on bills which haven't been given a real debate. It is clear the majority is attempting to rewrite history.

Mr. Speaker, Canada did not burn the White House. The American people know better. None of the work we do today will undo their deficit-busting bill, nor will it reunite the families the administration has destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as of June 7, 2018, Republicans in the 115th Congress have provided for consideration of over 1,200 amendments on the House floor. Over 570 of those amendments have been proposed by Democrats, 480 proposed by Republicans, and 190 were bipartisan. That is 46 percent Democratic amendments, 39 percent Republican amendments, and 16 percent were bipartisan.

By contrast, during the entire 111th Congress, that was the last Congress where Speaker PELOSI was the Speaker of the House, Democrats were in the majority. During the entire 111th Congress, Speaker PELOSI allowed less than 1,000 amendments to be considered on the House floor, and, in fact, the Democratic majority blocked 3,000 amendments, with roughly 2,400 during, actually, the first session, the first year of that Congress.

These numbers include measures where the summaries of amendments submitted are publicly available, but at that time, due to the lack of the majority's transparency, the number is likely much higher that were blocked.

Now, look, Chairman SESSIONS of the Rules Committee has made it a point

to ensure that every single Member has the opportunity to submit their amendments and come to the Committee on Rules and share their thoughts and concerns. And as the gentlewoman knows well, there is no clock in the Rules Committee. Any Member can come and spend as much time with us as they wish.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of two important pieces of legislation: H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of 2019, and H.R. 3, the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act. Both are responsible measures that take seriously our responsibility to be vigilant stewards of the Federal taxpayers' dollars.

I want to thank the President for his leadership in eliminating unused and unnecessary funding from past years, a responsible approach that until this President has been underutilized. I urge my colleagues today to support the rules and the two underlying pieces of legislation.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. TORRES is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 923 OFFERED BY  
MS. TORRES

In the first section, strike "printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution" and insert "specified in section 4 of this resolution, modified by adding at the end the text of H.R. 5805 as introduced."

Add at the end the following new section:  
"SEC. 4. The amendment referred to in the first section is as follows:

'Page 165, after line 14, insert the following:

SEC. 239. For an additional amount for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$1,138,000,000 for the programs and activities authorized in the VA MISSION Act of 2018 and the amendments made by such Act, which shall be in addition to amounts otherwise made available in this Act for such purpose, of which—  
(1) \$600,000,000 shall become available for the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by the VA MISSION Act of 2018, on the effective date specified in section 101(b) of such Act; and  
(2) \$253,000,000 shall be available for the Family Caregivers Program under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, as amended by such Act:

*Provided*, That amounts made available under this section shall remain available until September 30, 2020."

THE VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS QUESTION: WHAT  
IT REALLY MEANS

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

Mr. Clarence Cannon's *Precedents of the House of Representatives* (VI, 308-311), describes the vote on the previous question on the rule as "a motion to direct or control the consideration of the subject before the House being made by the Member in charge." To defeat the previous question is to give the opposition a chance to decide the subject be-

fore the House. Cannon cites the Speaker's ruling of January 13, 1920, to the effect that "the refusal of the House to sustain the demand for the previous question passes the control of the resolution to the opposition" in order to offer an amendment. On March 15, 1909, a member of the majority party offered a rule resolution. The House defeated the previous question and a member of the opposition rose to a parliamentary inquiry, asking who was entitled to recognition. Speaker Joseph G. Cannon (R-Illinois) said: "The previous question having been refused, the gentleman from New York, Mr. Fitzgerald, who had asked the gentleman to yield to him for an amendment, is entitled to the first recognition."

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

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

Clearly, the vote on the previous question on a rule does have substantive policy implications. It is one of the only available tools for those who oppose the Republican majority's agenda and allows those with alternative views the opportunity to offer an alternative plan.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adopting the resolution, if ordered; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 185, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 240]

YEAS—227

Abraham	Granger	Palmer
Aderholt	Graves (GA)	Paulsen
Allen	Graves (LA)	Pearce
Amash	Graves (MO)	Perry
Amodei	Griffith	Pittenger
Arrington	Grothman	Poe (TX)
Babin	Guthrie	Posey
Bacon	Handel	Ratcliffe
Banks (IN)	Harper	Reed
Barletta	Harris	Reichert
Barr	Hartzler	Renacci
Barton	Hensarling	Rice (SC)
Bergman	Herrera Beutler	Roby
Biggs	Hice, Jody B.	Roe (TN)
Bishop (MI)	Higgins (LA)	Rogers (AL)
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Rogers (KY)
Black	Holding	Rohrabacher
Blackburn	Hollingsworth	Rokita
Blum	Hudson	Rooney, Francis
Bost	Huizenga	Rooney, Thomas J.
Brady (TX)	Hultgren	Ros-Lehtinen
Brat	Hunter	Roskam
Brooks (AL)	Hurd	Ross
Brooks (IN)	Issa	Rothfus
Buchanan	Jenkins (KS)	Rouzer
Buck	Jenkins (WV)	Royce (CA)
Bucshon	Johnson (LA)	Russell
Budd	Johnson (OH)	Rutherford
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Sanford
Byrne	Jordan	Scalise
Calvert	Joyce (OH)	Schweikert
Carter (GA)	Katko	Scott, Austin
Carter (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Sensenbrenner
Chabot	Kelly (PA)	Sessions
Cheney	King (IA)	Shimkus
Coffman	King (NY)	Shuster
Cole	Kinzinger	Simpson
Collins (GA)	Knight	Smith (MO)
Collins (NY)	Kustoff (TN)	Smith (NE)
Comer	Labrador	Smith (NJ)
Comstock	LaHood	Smith (TX)
Conaway	LaMalfa	Snucker
Cook	Lamborn	Stefanik
Costello (PA)	Lance	Stewart
Cramer	Latta	Stivers
Crawford	Lesko	Taylor
Culberson	Lewis (MN)	Tenney
Curbelo (FL)	LoBiondo	Thompson (PA)
Curtis	Long	Thornberry
Davidson	Loudermilk	Tipton
Davis, Rodney	Love	Trott
Denham	Lucas	Turner
DeSantis	Luetkemeyer	Upton
DesJarlais	MacArthur	Valadao
Diaz-Balart	Marchant	Wagner
Donovan	Marino	Walberg
Duffy	Marshall	Walden
Duncan (SC)	Massie	Walker
Duncan (TN)	Mast	Walorski
Dunn	McCarthy	Walters, Mimi
Emmer	McCaull	Weber (TX)
Estes (KS)	McClintock	Webster (FL)
Faso	McHenry	Wenstrup
Ferguson	McKinley	Westerman
Fitzpatrick	McMorris	Williams
Fleischmann	Rodgers	Wilson (SC)
Foxx	McSally	Wittman
Frelinghuysen	Meadows	Womack
Gaetz	Messer	Woodall
Gallagher	Mitchell	Yoder
Garrett	Moolenaar	Yoho
Gianforte	Mooney (WV)	Young (AK)
Gibbs	Mullin	Young (IA)
Gohmert	Newhouse	Zeldin
Goodlatte	Norman	
Gosar	Nunes	
Gowdy	Olson	

NAYS—185

Adams	Bustos	Cleaver
Aguilar	Butterfield	Clyburn
Barragán	Capuano	Cohen
Bass	Cárdenas	Connolly
Bera	Carson (IN)	Cooper
Beyer	Cartwright	Correa
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Costa
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Courtney
Blunt Rochester	Chu, Judy	Crist
Bonamici	Cicilline	Crowley
Brady (PA)	Clark (MA)	Cuellar
Brown (MD)	Clarke (NY)	Cummings
Brownley (CA)	Clay	Davis (CA)

DeFazio	Kildee	Peterson	Bacon	Griffith	Pearce	Grijalva	Lujan Grisham,	Ruiz
DeGette	Kilmer	Pingree	Banks (IN)	Grothman	Perry	Gutiérrez	M.	Ruppersberger
Delaney	Kind	Pocan	Barletta	Guthrie	Pittenger	Hanabusa	Luján, Ben Ray	Rush
DeLauro	Krishnamoorthi	Price (NC)	Barr	Handel	Poe (TX)	Hastings	Maloney,	Ryan (OH)
DelBene	Kuster (NH)	Quigley	Barton	Harper	Poliquin	Heck	Carolyn B.	Sánchez
Demings	Lamb	Raskin	Bergman	Harris	Posey	Higgins (NY)	Maloney, Sean	Sarbanes
DeSaulnier	Langevin	Rice (NY)	Biggs	Hartzler	Ratcliffe	Himes	Massie	Schakowsky
Deutch	Larsen (WA)	Richmond	Bishop (MI)	Hensarling	Reed	Hoyer	Matsui	Schiff
Dingell	Larson (CT)	Rosen	Bishop (UT)	Herrera Beutler	Reichert	Huffman	McCollum	Schneider
Doggett	Lawrence	Roybal-Allard	Black	Hice, Jody B.	Renacci	Jackson Lee	McEachin	Schrader
Doyle, Michael	Lawson (FL)	Ruiz	Blackburn	Higgins (LA)	Rice (SC)	Jayapal	McGovern	Scott (VA)
F.	Lee	Ruppersberger	Blum	Hill	Roby	Jeffries	McNerney	Scott, David
Ellison	Levin	Rush	Bost	Holding	Roe (TN)	Johnson (GA)	Meeks	Serrano
Engel	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (OH)	Brady (TX)	Hollingsworth	Rogers (AL)	Johnson, E. B.	Meng	Sewell (AL)
Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Sánchez	Brat	Hudson	Rogers (KY)	Jones	Moore	Shea-Porter
Espallat	Lipinski	Sarbanes	Brooks (AL)	Huizenga	Rohrabacher	Kaptur	Moulton	Sherman
Esty (CT)	Loeb sack	Schakowsky	Brooks (IN)	Hultgren	Rooney, Francis	Keating	Murphy (FL)	Sinema
Evans	Lofgren	Schiff	Buchanan	Hunter	Rooney, Thomas	Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Sires
Foster	Lowenthal	Schneider	Buck	Hurd	J.	Kennedy	Napolitano	Smith (WA)
Frankel (FL)	Lowe y	Schrader	Bucshon	Issa	Ros-Lehtinen	Khanna	Neal	Soto
Fudge	Lujan Grisham,	Scott (VA)	Budd	Jenkins (KS)	Roskam	Kihuen	Nolan	Speier
Gabbard	M.	Scott, David	Burgess	Jenkins (WV)	Ross	Kildee	Norcross	Suo zzi
Galle go	Luján, Ben Ray	Serrano	Byrne	Johnson (LA)	Rothfus	Kilmer	O'Halleran	Swalwell (CA)
Garamendi	Maloney,	Sewell (AL)	Calvert	Johnson (OH)	Rouzer	Kind	O'Rourke	Takano
Gomez	Carolyn B.	Shea-Porter	Carter (GA)	Johnson, Sam	Royce (CA)	Krishnamoorthi	Pallone	Thompson (CA)
Gonzalez (TX)	Maloney, Sean	Sherman	Carter (TX)	Jordan	Russell	Kuster (NH)	Panetta	Thompson (MS)
Gotthelmer	Matsui	Sinema	Chabot	Joyce (OH)	Rutherford	Lamb	Pascrell	Titus
Green, Al	McCollum	Sires	Cheney	Katko	Sanford	Langevin	Payne	Tonko
Green, Gene	McEachin	Smith (WA)	Comfman	Kelly (MS)	Scalise	Larsen (WA)	Pelosi	Torres
Grijalva	McGovern	Soto	Cole	Kelly (PA)	Schweikert	Larson (CT)	Perlmutter	Tsongas
Gutiérrez	McNerney	Speier	Collins (GA)	King (IA)	Scott, Austin	Lawrence	Peters	Veasey
Hanabusa	Meeks	Suo zzi	Collins (NY)	King (NY)	Sensenbrenner	Lawson (FL)	Peterson	Vela
Hastings	Meng	Swalwell (CA)	Comer	Kin zinger	Sessions	Lee	Pingree	Velázquez
Heck	Moore	Takano	Comstock	Knight	Shimkus	Levin	Pocan	Visclosky
Higgins (NY)	Moulton	Thompson (CA)	Conaway	Kustoff (TN)	Shuster	Lewis (GA)	Price (NC)	Wasserman
Himes	Murphy (FL)	Titus	Cook	Labrador	Simpson	Lieu, Ted	Quigley	Schultz
Hoyer	Nadler	Tonko	Costello (PA)	LaHood	Smith (MO)	Lipinski	Raskin	Waters, Maxine
Huffman	Napolitano	Torres	Cramer	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)	Loeb sack	Rice (NY)	Watson Coleman
Jackson Lee	Neal	Tsongas	Crawford	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)	Lofgren	Richmond	Welch
Jayapal	Nolan	Veasey	Culberson	Lance	Smith (TX)	Lowenthal	Rosen	Yarmuth
Jeffries	Norcross	Vela	Curbelo (FL)	Latta	Smucker	Lowey	Roybal-Allard	
Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran	Velázquez	Curtis	Lesko	Stefanik			
Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke	Visclosky	Davidson	Lewis (MN)	Stewart			
Jones	Pallone	Wasserman	Davis, Rodney	LoBiondo	Stivers	Beatty	Flores	Rokita
Kaptur	Panetta	Schultz	Denham	Long	Taylor	Bilirakis	Fortenberry	Vargas
Keating	Pascrell	Waters, Maxine	DeSantis	Loudermilk	Tenney	Boyle, Brendan	Lynch	Walz
Kelly (IL)	Payne	Watson Coleman	DesJarlais	Love	Thompson (PA)	F.	Noem	Wilson (FL)
Kennedy	Pelosi	Welch	Diaz-Balart	Lucas	Thornberry	Carbajal	Palazzo	
Khanna	Perlmutter	Wilson (FL)	Donovan	Luetkemeyer	Tipton	Davis, Danny	Polis	
Kihuen	Peters	Yarmuth	Duffy	MacArthur	Trott			

## NOT VOTING—15

Beatty  
Bilirakis  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Carbajal  
Davis, Danny

□ 1357

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ABRAHAM and Mrs. WALORSKI changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on roll call No. 240.

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

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

## RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 225, noes 187, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 241]

AYES—225

Abraham	Allen	Arrington
Aderholt	Amodei	Babin

## NOES—187

Adams	Cicilline	DeSaulnier
Aguilar	Clark (MA)	Deuch
Amash	Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Barragán	Clay	Doggett
Bass	Cleaver	Doyle, Michael
Bera	Clyburn	F.
Beyer	Cohen	Ellison
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Engel
Blumenauer	Cooper	Eshoo
Blunt Rochester	Correa	Espallat
Bonamici	Costa	Esty (CT)
Brady (PA)	Courtney	Evans
Brown (MD)	Crist	Foster
Brownley (CA)	Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Bustos	Cuellar	Fudge
Butterfield	Cummings	Gabbard
Capuano	Davis (CA)	Galle go
Cárdenas	DeFazio	Garamendi
Carson (IN)	DeGette	Gomez
Cartwright	Delaney	Gonzalez (TX)
Castor (FL)	DeLauro	Gotthelmer
Castro (TX)	DelBene	Green, Al
Chu, Judy	Demings	Green, Gene

Cicilline	DeSaulnier
Clark (MA)	Deuch
Clarke (NY)	Dingell
Clay	Doggett
Cleaver	Doyle, Michael
Clyburn	F.
Cohen	Ellison
Connolly	Engel
Cooper	Eshoo
Correa	Espallat
Costa	Esty (CT)
Courtney	Evans
Crist	Foster
Crowley	Frankel (FL)
Cuellar	Fudge
Cummings	Gabbard
Davis (CA)	Galle go
DeFazio	Garamendi
DeGette	Gomez
Delaney	Gonzalez (TX)
DeLauro	Gotthelmer
DelBene	Green, Al
Demings	Green, Gene

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CON-AWAY) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1405

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 213, nays 197, answered “present” 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 242]

YEAS—213

Abraham	Bonamici	Carter (TX)
Aderholt	Brady (TX)	Cartwright
Allen	Brat	Castro (TX)
Amodei	Brooks (IN)	Chabot
Arrington	Brown (MD)	Cheney
Bacon	Buchanan	Chu, Judy
Banks (IN)	Bucshon	Cicilline
Barletta	Budd	Clay
Barton	Bustos	Cole
Bishop (UT)	Butterfield	Collins (GA)
Black	Byrne	Collins (NY)
Blumenauer	Calvert	Comer
Blunt Rochester	Carson (IN)	Comstock

Cook  
Cooper  
Courtney  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Curtis  
Davidson  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Rodney  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (TN)  
Dunn  
Ellison  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Estes (KS)  
Fleischmann  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gabbard  
Garamendi  
Garrett  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Goodlatte  
Granger  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guthrie  
Handel  
Harper  
Harris  
Heck  
Hensarling  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Hollingsworth  
Huffman  
Hultgren  
Issa  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson, Sam  
Joyce (OH)  
Kaptur  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)

Kennedy  
Kildee  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lesko  
Lewis (MN)  
Lipinski  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham,  
M.  
Luján, Ben Ray  
Marchant  
Marino  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McHenry  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
Meadows  
Meeks  
Meng  
Messer  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moulton  
Mullin  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
O'Rourke  
Olson  
Panetta  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters

Pingree  
Pocan  
Posey  
Reed  
Reichert  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney, Francis  
Rooney, Thomas  
J.  
Ross  
Rothfus  
Royce (CA)  
Ruppersberger  
Russell  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schneider  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Perry  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin

Lieu, Ted  
LoBiondo  
Loeb  
Loeb  
Loefgren  
MacArthur  
Maloney  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Marshall  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Perry  
Peterson  
Pittenger  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin

Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Ratcliffe  
Renacci  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Rogers (AL)  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rosen  
Roskam  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez  
Sanford  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schrader  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Shuster  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (MO)  
Soto

Suoizzi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tipton  
Torres  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walberg  
Walden  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Wittman  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (AK)  
Zeldin

#### NAYS—197

Adams  
Aguilar  
Amash  
Babin  
Barr  
Barragán  
Bass  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Biggs  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (MI)  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Brady (PA)  
Brooks (AL)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buck  
Burgess  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carter (GA)  
Castor (FL)  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Coffman  
Cohen  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Crist

Crowley  
Cummings  
Curbelo (FL)  
DeFazio  
Delaney  
Denham  
DeSantis  
Diaz-Balart  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duncan (SC)  
Emmer  
Español  
Esty (CT)  
Evans  
Faso  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fox  
Fudge  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Gohmert  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Gowdy  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hanabusa

Hartzler  
Hastings  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Hill  
Holding  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Jones  
Jordan  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Khanna  
Kihuen  
Kilmer  
Kind  
Kinzinger  
Knight  
LaHood  
Lance  
Langevin  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)

and related agencies; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

If were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "aye" for the following vote:

Roll 242, June 7, 2018: On Approval of the Journal.

#### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION COORDINATION ACT

Mr. BLUM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 1869) to reauthorize and rename the position of Whistleblower Ombudsman to be the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1869

*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 "Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act".

#### SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(d) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C)—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by striking "Ombudsman who shall educate agency employees—" and inserting the following: "Coordinator who shall—

"(i) educate agency employees—";

(C) in subclause (I), as so redesignated, by striking "on retaliation" and inserting "against retaliation";

(D) in subclause (II), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: ", including—

"(aa) the means by which employees may seek review of any allegation of reprisal, including the roles of the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of Special Counsel, the Merit Systems Protection Board, and any other relevant entities; and

"(bb) general information about the timeliness of such cases, the availability of any alternative dispute mechanisms, and avenues for potential relief."; and

(E) by adding at the end the following:

"(ii) assist the Inspector General in promoting the timely and appropriate handling and consideration of protected disclosures and allegations of reprisal, to the extent practicable, by the Inspector General; and

"(iii) assist the Inspector General in facilitating communication and coordination with the Special Counsel, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, the establishment, Congress, and any other relevant entity regarding the timely and appropriate handling and consideration of protected disclosures, allegations of reprisal, and general matters regarding the implementation and administration of whistleblower protection laws, rules, and regulations.";

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "Ombudsman" and inserting "Coordinator";

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

#### ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tonko

#### NOT VOTING—16

Beatty  
Bilirakis  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Carbajal  
Davis, Danny  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Labrador  
Lynch  
Noem  
Palazzo  
Polis  
Scott, Austin  
Smith (TX)  
Vargas  
Walz

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1412

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday and part of Thursday, June 6 and 7, 2018, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to make votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Yea" for rollcall 234, the Previous Question; "Yea" for rollcall 235, on adoption of the H.R. 918; "Yea" for rollcall 236, the approval of the Journal; "Yea" for rollcall 237, the motion to recommit; "Yea" for rollcall 238, the final passage of the Water Resource Development Act (H.R. 8); "Yea" for rollcall 239, the final passage of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act (H.R. 3249); "Yea" for rollcall 240, the Previous Question; "Yea" for rollcall 241, on the adoption of H. Res. 923; and "Yea" for rollcall 242, the approval of the journal.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on the following legislative measures. If I were present for rollcall votes, I would have voted "no" for the following votes:

Roll 241, June 7, 2018: On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 923, Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

Roll 240, June 7, 2018: On Ordering the Previous Question, Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) The Whistleblower Protection Coordinator shall have direct access to the Inspector General as needed to accomplish the requirements of this subsection.”.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CIGIE.—Section 11(c) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.—The Council shall—

“(A) facilitate the work of the Whistleblower Protection Coordinators designated under section 3(d)(C); and

“(B) in consultation with the Office of Special Counsel and Whistleblower Protection Coordinators from the member offices of the Inspector General, develop best practices for coordination and communication in promoting the timely and appropriate handling and consideration of protected disclosures, allegations of reprisal, and general matters regarding the implementation and administration of whistleblower protection laws, in accordance with Federal law.”.

(c) REPORTING.—Section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph (20) to read as follows:

“(20)(A) a detailed description of any instance of whistleblower retaliation, including information about the official found to have engaged in retaliation; and

“(B) what, if any, consequences the establishment actually imposed to hold the official described in subparagraph (A) accountable;”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3)(D), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

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

“(4) whether the establishment entered into a settlement agreement with the official described in subsection (a)(20)(A), which shall be reported regardless of any confidentiality agreement relating to the settlement agreement; and”.

(d) REPEAL OF SUNSET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 117 of the Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-199; 126 Stat. 1475) is repealed.

(2) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on November 26, 2017.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### VA SENIOR EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2772) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees, with the Senate amendment thereto, and concur in the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the Senate amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Accountability Act of 2018” or the “SEA Act of 2018”.*

#### SEC. 2. SEMIANNUAL REPORTS ON REASSIGNMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENIOR EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEES.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

##### “§ 727. Reassignment of senior executives

*“(a) APPROVAL OF REASSIGNMENTS.—No individual employed in a senior executive position at the Department may be reassigned to another such position at the Department unless such reassignment is approved in writing and signed by the Secretary.*

*“(b) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS REQUIRED.—(1) Not later than June 30 and December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the reassignment of individuals employed in senior executive positions at the Department during the period covered by the report.*

*“(2) Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall describe the purpose of each reassignment and the costs associated with such reassignment.*

*“(3) For purposes of paragraph (2), costs associated with a reassignment may only include the following:*

*“(A) A salary increase.*

*“(B) Temporary travel expenses for the individual or the family of the individual.*

*“(C) Moving expenses.*

*“(D) A paid incentive.*

*“(c) SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITION DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘senior executive position’ has the meaning given such term in section 713(d) of this title.”.*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 725 the following new item:*

*“727. Reassignment of senior executives.”.*

Mr. ROE of Tennessee (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

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

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1415

SERGEANT ERNEST I. “BOOTS”  
THOMAS VA CLINIC

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4687) to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. “Boots” Thomas VA Clinic, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the title of the bill.

Will the gentleman from Tennessee submit a copy of the bill to the desk.

Does the gentleman seek to withdraw his request?

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Yes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the unanimous consent request is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

#### SPENDING CUTS TO EXPIRED AND UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 923, I call up the bill (H.R. 3) to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the amendment printed in part C of House Report 115-712 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 3

*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 “Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. RESCISSION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to the special message transmitted by the President on May 8, 2018, to the House of Representatives and the Senate proposing the rescission of budget authority under section 1012 of part B of title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 682 et seq.), the rescissions described under subsection (b) shall take effect immediately upon the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) RESCISSIONS.—The rescissions described in this subsection are as follows:

(1) Of the unobligated balances identified by the Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 12X1600, \$148,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

(2) Of the unobligated balances identified by the Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 12X1004, the following amounts are permanently rescinded:

(A) \$143,854,263 of amounts made available in section 2601(a)(5) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

(B) \$146,650,991 of amounts made available in section 2701(d) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246).

(C) \$33,261,788 of amounts made available in section 2701(e) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246).

(D) \$12,960,988 of amounts made available in section 2701(g) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246).

(E) \$7,447,193 of amounts made available in section 2510 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246).

(F) \$155,332,698 of amounts made available from the Commodity Credit Corporation to carry out the wetlands reserve program.

(3) Of the unobligated balances identified by the Treasury Appropriation Fund Symbol 12X1072, \$50,000,000 of amounts made available under the heading “Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) are rescinded.

(4) From amounts made available under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) that remain available until September 30, 2018, \$40,000,000 are rescinded.

(5) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and prior Acts, \$2,000,000 are rescinded.

(6) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Cooperative Development Grants” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and prior Acts, \$14,705,229 are rescinded.

(7) Of the amounts made available by section 9003 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79), \$36,410,174 are rescinded.

(8) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Rural Utilities Service—High Energy Cost Grants” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and prior Acts, \$13,275,855 are rescinded.

(9) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and prior Acts, \$37,000,000 are rescinded. No amounts may be rescinded under this paragraph from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency or disaster relief requirement pursuant to the concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(10) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Land Acquisition” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and prior Acts that were derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, \$16,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

(11) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Commerce—Economic Development Administration—Economic Development Assistance Programs” from prior year appropriations, \$30,000,000 are rescinded.

(12) Any unobligated balances of amounts provided by section 129 of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009 (Public Law 110-329) for the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 136(d) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140) are rescinded.

(13) Of the unobligated balances made available by section 1425 of the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (Public Law 112-10) for the cost of loan guarantees for renewable energy or efficient end-use energy technologies under section 1703 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15513), \$160,682,760 are rescinded.

(14) Any unobligated balances of amounts made available under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Title 17—Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program” in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) for the cost of guaranteed loans authorized by section 1705 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 are rescinded.

(15) Of the unobligated balances available from section 301(b)(3) of Public Law 114-10 and pursuant to section 2104(m)(2)(B)(iv) of the Social Security Act, \$5,149,512,000 are rescinded.

(16) Of the amounts made available in section 1115A(f)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act, \$800,000,000 are rescinded.

(17) Of the amounts deposited in the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund for fiscal year 2018 under section 2104(n)(2) of the Social Security Act, \$1,865,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

(18) Of the unobligated balances available in the Nonrecurring Expenses Fund established in section 223 of division G of Public Law 110-161, \$220,000,000 are rescinded.

(19) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public Indian Housing Programs—Public Housing Capital Fund” in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), \$1,192,287 are rescinded.

(20) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public Indian Housing Programs—Public Housing Capital Fund” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law 114-113), \$5,243,222 are rescinded.

(21) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public Indian Housing Programs—Public Housing Capital Fund” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31), \$31,980,121 are rescinded.

(22) Of the unobligated balances available until expended under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public Indian Housing Programs—Public Housing Capital Fund”, including from prior year appropriations, \$518,885 are permanently rescinded.

(23) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Justice—Legal Activities—Asset Forfeiture Fund”, including from prior year appropriations, \$106,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

(24) Any unobligated balances of amounts made available in section 1899K(b) of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) are rescinded.

(25) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of State—Complex Crises Fund” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (114-113), \$30,000,000 are rescinded.

(26) From amounts made available under the heading “Millennium Challenge Corporation” in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) and prior Acts, \$52,000,000 are rescinded.

(29) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Transportation—Federal Highway Administration—Appalachian Development Highway System” in the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 (Public Law 105-66) or any other Act, \$45,240,246 are rescinded.

(31) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of Transportation—Federal Railroad Administration—Capital Assistance for High Speed Rail Corridors and Intercity Passenger Rail Service”

in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-117) \$53,404,128 are rescinded.

(32) Of the unobligated balances available for Transit Formula Grants from fiscal year 2005 and prior fiscal years, \$46,560,000 are permanently rescinded.

(33) Of the unobligated balances available in the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established by the Treasury Forfeiture Fund Act of 1992 (31 U.S.C. 9705), \$53,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

(34) Of the unobligated balances available under the heading “Department of the Treasury—Departmental Offices—Community Development Financial Institution Fund Program” for the Bank Enterprise Award Program from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) \$22,787,358 are rescinded.

(35) From amounts made available to the Capital Magnet Fund for fiscal year 2018 pursuant to sections 1337 and 1339 of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 4567 and 4569) \$141,716,839 are permanently rescinded.

(37) Of the unobligated balances available in the “National Service Trust” established in section 102 of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, \$150,000,000 are permanently rescinded.

(38) Of the amounts made available in section 9 of the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-92), \$132,612,397 are rescinded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their respective designees.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

I rise today to present H.R. 3, the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act. This package of rescissions withdraws nearly \$15 billion in funds previously appropriated to various Federal programs and agencies. These funds are rescinded from programs and agencies that no longer need or cannot spend the money or from programs that no longer exist. When such funding goes unused for years, those funds should be returned to the Federal Treasury, as taxpayers should expect.

Sweeping up these extra funds will not cause undue harm or hardship to the essential activities at these Federal agencies. In fact, year after year, rescissions are included in our regular appropriations bills, and dozens of such rescissions have previously received bipartisan support.

The bottom line is that it is not in the interest of the taxpayers to let outdated, unnecessary dollar balances sit idle, especially when the Nation is facing such high debt and deficits.

As I have said many times, Congress controls the power of the purse, and it is up to us to keep our fiscal house in order in order to reduce wasteful spending, unnecessary spending, whenever possible.

Such rescissions are not new. Over the past 20 years, there have been hundreds proposed and approved in both Democratic and Republican administrations.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong opposition to this Republican rescission package.

Mr. Speaker, President Trump and congressional Republicans are trying to take deconstructing government to a new level. They are proposing to take \$15 billion in Federal funds away from the citizenry and investment in our economy budgeted for the Children's Health Insurance Program, medical innovation, advanced manufacturing, infrastructure projects, and the list goes on.

Why?

They are doing so to pay for a tiny fraction of their \$1.5 trillion tax cut for the rich. This is just another example of their irresponsible governance.

What is on the chopping block?

With this rescission package, the majority would cut the balances in the Children's Health Insurance Program by \$7 billion, simply send them back to the Treasury. They would cut funding when we should be investing in critical services for children and families.

They would cut funding that helps workers who have lost their jobs due to trade access health insurance.

They would cut funding for AmeriCorps and prevent more people from serving vulnerable populations in their communities.

They would cut funding for critical healthcare infrastructure projects.

Just a few months ago, we used these funds to replace the Biosafety Level 4 laboratory at the Centers for Disease Control. This lab is necessary for handling the most highly pathogenic organisms, such as Ebola, other hemorrhagic fevers, and smallpox. This is a critical piece of public health infrastructure. Why do Republicans want to cut its source of funding?

They would cut funding for programs that rural America depends on, rural housing programs, rural water programs. For example, it would rescind \$15 million from the Value Added Producer Grant Program, a vital lifeline for small businesses in rural America.

Well, I want to remind Americans that the President and his House allies are betraying the promise they made to the American people, Mr. Speaker.

In March, we agreed to historic and urgently needed funding for our families. The omnibus funding bill for 2018 made important investments in health, education, and job programs. It made critical investments that boost the middle class.

It was not easy. We worked hard to come to an overwhelmingly bipartisan agreement that benefits the people of this country. And now, months later, the Trump administration and House

Republicans are violating the spirit of that agreement. It is not a serious way to govern.

This is money for our children, not for the President to claw back to placate fervent conservatives who maintain their drumbeat on Twitter and TV.

And what do Republicans get for breaking their word, going back on their promises and taking from children?

Well, according to the Congressional Budget Office, Mr. Speaker, the actual impact of this rescission package would amount to \$1 billion over 10 years. That is less than 1 percent of the Republicans' \$1.5 trillion tax scam for the rich. In fact, it is one one-hundredth of a percent.

If Republicans are so worried about spending, why not rescind the money from the tax giveaway to corporations that are using it to buy back stock? They are not raising wages.

Well, they appear to be beholden to the lobbyists and the insiders who have profited so exorbitantly from that gift. And according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 83 percent of the tax scam benefits will go to the top 1 percent.

And those big boosts to paychecks? They have not materialized.

You look at Walmart. They spent \$20 billion on stock buybacks for their shareholders; yet, according to the Roosevelt Institute, had Walmart instead dedicated that money to workers, they could have raised wages to more than \$16 an hour. They did not.

Mr. Speaker, budgets, spending, appropriations, and rescissions reflect our values, and it is clearer than ever that President Trump, Speaker RYAN, and the Republicans in the Congress value corporations and the wealthy, not people who work for a living or those who are the most vulnerable. They rig the rules for the rich and rob from the poor to pay for it.

Congress must reject President Trump's proposal and put forth policies that work for the middle class and families and for those who are most vulnerable, not balance the budget on their backs.

The American people would be far better served if Congressional Republicans joined with Democrats to fund critical investments in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and protecting our retirement programs.

When teachers are protesting across the country for fair pay, Republicans want to go backwards. When Americans are stuck in jobs that do not pay enough to live on, Republicans want to go backwards. When 40 percent of households cannot afford the basics of a modern, middle class lifestyle, Republicans want to go backwards.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable, and the American people deserve better.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the

gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the majority whip.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this rescissions package.

I want to commend President Trump for bringing this bill to Congress, a bill that would, once passed, be the largest rescissions package in the history of our country. This is a process that has been used by Republican and Democratic Presidents alike over decades, and it is an important process to make sure that we keep our fiscal house in order.

Mr. Speaker, I know some of my colleagues on the other side are feigning concern over the Children's Health Insurance Program, and most of them, by the way, voted against the funding for the CHIP program in the first place when that bill was before Congress due to a full funding. In fact, we overfunded the CHIP program, and so, as that surplus money was identified, we made sure that that money is going to be able to be used to help reduce the deficit and go to other things.

This letter from the Congressional Budget Office confirms that not one child will lose insurance when this bill is passed because we overfunded the CHIP program.

Mr. Speaker, I include this letter from the Congressional Budget Office in the RECORD.

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, May 8, 2018.

Re Proposed Rescissions for the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
Majority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. LEADER: At your staff's request, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed the Administration's proposed rescissions R18-15 and R18-17 for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that were transmitted to the Congress on May 8, 2018. The proposals would rescind approximately \$7 billion. Of this, \$5.1 billion would be rescinded from the unobligated balances made available by section 301(b)(3) of Public Law 114-10, and \$1.9 billion would be rescinded from amounts made available for fiscal year 2018 under the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund, section 2104(n)(2) of the Social Security Act.

Specifically, you asked for our assessment of the proposed rescissions' effect on federal spending and insurance coverage. Authority to distribute the funds to states made available under section 301(b)(3) expired in 2017. In addition, based on information from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CBO projects that the rescission from the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund would not affect payments to states over the 2018-2028 period. For these reasons, CBO estimates that rescinding the unobligated balances would reduce budget authority by \$7 billion, but would not affect outlays, or the number of individuals with insurance coverage.

I hope this information is helpful to you.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,  
Director.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that, as there was a

concern about a potential Ebola outbreak, we were able to go back and work with our OMB Director, Mick Mulvaney, who worked really closely with us to make sure that this bill was put together properly to address what the President wanted, while also making sure that we were able to respond to any potential Ebola crisis.

I especially want to thank my colleagues JEFF FORTENBERRY and General DON BACON from Nebraska for making sure that we will, with this bill's passage, still be able to respond to any possible Ebola outbreak. Hopefully, we don't have one, but we will be prepared in that event thanks to the hard work of Congressmen FORTENBERRY and BACON.

So, overall, Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill to help us reduce the deficit, keep our fiscal house in order, while properly funding those programs like CHIP that were so important to so many of us who did vote for it. I am glad that my colleagues who voted against it are now realizing it is an important program. Maybe they will support it next time.

But, in the meantime, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this bill, and then I further encourage the Senate to take this bill up quickly because it only requires 51 votes to pass, not 60. I would urge full passage. Let's get this on the President's desk.

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

But the gentleman hasn't told us that the money they take from CHIP is not going into programs for children. It is going back to the Treasury, so we will take a look at cuts to Head Start, maternal child health programs, childhood immunization, newborn screening, child lead poisoning prevention, and many others. Tell the whole story.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

□ 1430

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, it is outrageous that we are beginning this appropriations season by debating President Trump's rescissions bill, which fails the American people, hurts children and families, and injects needless partisanship into Congress' important appropriations work.

First and foremost, this bill fails the American people by eliminating funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program. Just months after exploding annual deficits, to the tune of \$1.5 trillion, and lavishing massive tax breaks to big corporations with their tax scam, Republicans are now proposing to make children and families pay with a \$7 billion cut from CHIP.

Targeting CHIP for a rescission prevents Congress from reinvesting in other priorities like child and maternal health, early childhood education, biomedical research, and our community health centers.

Additionally, the nearly \$15 billion in rescissions cut numerous efforts to cre-

ate jobs, grow our economy, and strengthen our communities. It cuts funding for the Economic Development Administration and for community development financial institutions, both of which create jobs in rural areas and distressed communities.

Treasury was prepared to announce 114 awards from CDFI's Bank Enterprise Award Program. This isn't merely spring cleaning by sweeping old funding up under the rug that would never be spent; it is taking investments away from local communities. It slashes billions of dollars from Federal loan programs that foster innovation and create clean-energy jobs.

Eight projects are in the pipeline through the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, two of which would create 2,400 manufacturing jobs and an \$890 million investment in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The Republican raw deal would rescind these funds and prevent economic growth.

I am also profoundly disappointed that Republicans are willing to bring forward legislation that undermines 2 years of bipartisan spending agreements. This bill includes cuts to funding that was appropriated under the fiscal year 2017 omnibus, which was negotiated just over a year ago. And it reneges on the bipartisan budget agreement from February by further restricting CHIP amounts that could be reinvested in future years. Upending bipartisan agreements poisons the well and makes future negotiations more difficult.

Finally, I must express my strong objection to the rushed process by which Republicans have considered this rescissions bill. The White House submitted its final version of the rescissions bill less than 48 hours ago. We have had no hearings, no markups, or even any debate at all on this bill in the Appropriations Committee, and we are considering it with no opportunity to debate the merits of each of these rescissions on their own.

Mr. Speaker, this is not regular order, and, frankly, it is no way to make such a consequential decision.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, instead of rubber-stamping President Trump's rescissions package, Congress should conduct rigorous oversight to determine why the Trump-Pence administration has not spent these funds, even as they mispend tax dollars on first-class flights, fountain pens, and luxury dining sets.

Spending cuts that hurt American families should be carefully considered, not rushed through to score political points or help the majority's whip count on other bills. I urge Members to vote "no."

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the

gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3, the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

We must always be careful stewards of the taxpayers' hard-earned money. That is why I was proud to sign on as an original cosponsor of President Trump's rescission package.

As a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I understand more than most that President Trump's proposal rescinding nearly \$15 billion is necessary.

It is common sense that money sitting in Federal coffers and not being spent should be returned to the Treasury. This bill is a welcome step to cut wasteful spending and will restore fiscal sanity to Washington.

Importantly, the rescissions package on the floor today no longer rescinds Ebola funding. Sadly, that horrible disease has recently returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also no longer rescinds funding for Hurricane Sandy victims.

I hope the Senate will pass this bill as soon as possible so that the President can sign these historic spending cuts into law. I urge all Members to support this commonsense proposal.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), the ranking member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the proposed rescission package, the so-called Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

I do not think these are unnecessary programs. They are vital programs, and our rural communities all across America rely upon them.

For example, the administration is proposing a rescission of \$37 million to the Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program at USDA. This program provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and stormwater drainage to households and businesses in rural areas.

With all due respect, that does not seem unnecessary to me. In fact, we in Congress provided a special appropriation of \$500 million for this program in fiscal year 2017, in addition to regular program funds, to begin to address the backlog in this program.

Even after the 2017 bill was enacted, the National Rural Water Association estimated there was a remaining backlog of more than \$2 billion. This rescission will only push us back down the hill in our efforts to address the needs for clean water and wastewater disposal in rural areas.

This package also takes away nearly \$15 million from the Value-Added Agricultural Product Market Development

Grant program; \$40 million from the Rural Housing Service rental assistance program; \$14.7 million from the Rural Cooperative Development Grant program; and \$147 million from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program. And that just names a few. There are even more cuts across agriculture, rural development, energy, and conservation programs.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in total, the rescission is more than \$15 billion. I cannot emphasize enough how much this bill will hurt our farmers, our ranchers, and all those who live in rural America.

I ask my colleagues to join me in standing up for rural communities by rejecting this unconscionable rescission bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding.

Originally, I have to say, I was skeptical when the administration raised the idea of rescissions, not because I am against saving money—I think we need to do a lot more of that around here—but because I thought this might undo the bipartisan agreement that the administration and our leadership had negotiated.

Frankly, this bill does nothing of the kind. And I want to compliment the President and OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, our former colleague, for using a tool that has not been used in 20 years. They did the right thing. They did it in the right way.

This is the largest rescission package ever in the history of Congress. It will save almost \$15 billion. But where are those savings coming from? They are coming from funds that we, frankly, didn't use or we overappropriated.

My friends talk a lot about CHIP. The authorization for \$5 billion of that money ran out. You can't even legally spend it. Why would you leave it in the account?

Another \$2 billion is taken from an account for when States go beyond their spending limits. We have never spent more than \$350 million of that money, and we actually left \$500 million in the account. Why not reclaim the savings and return them to the Treasury?

You can go on and on.

There was \$4.3 billion for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program that nobody has applied for or has not been used since 2011.

Again, there is example after example. It is a wise thing to reclaim unused money and spending authority and re-

turn it to the Treasury of the United States.

I am very proud to cosponsor the legislation. I am very supportive of it and would urge its passage.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

I have a lot of respect for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I do wonder sometimes if we are living in the same country, because when I look at a package like this, I look at the general philosophy over the course of the last year and a half, with the tax cuts that will at the end of the day cost our country \$2.3 trillion—that money we are borrowing.

And we are going to borrow a lot of that money from China, Mr. Speaker. And they are going to get interest on that money, and China is reinvesting back into their country. They are building islands in the South China Sea. They are building bases in Africa. They are making investments in wind, solar, battery-powered cars, AI, additive manufacturing. They are moving and shaking around the globe.

And we gave a \$2.3 trillion tax cut, which we saw just last month \$200 billion of it went for stock buybacks. Apple got it, put \$100 billion back into stock buybacks.

Who is investing in this country now? That is the main issue that we are talking about—yes, battery-powered cars; yes, Economic Development Administration; yes, rural issues that the gentleman from Georgia just talked about.

College costs are going up. We need more STEM people graduating from our colleges. We are not a healthy country. And in this bill we are going to take kids off of their healthcare, disinvestment in economic development. And our country is getting left behind the global economy.

You could talk about low unemployment all you want. The anxiety level in our country has not gone down. You could talk about the stock market all you want. Sixty-six percent of the people in this country make less than \$40,000 a year.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. RYAN of OHIO. Mr. Speaker, we have 50-some percent of the people in this country who can't withstand a \$500 emergency.

Our pension system is collapsing. Our financial aid system is collapsing.

We have got to make a decision to reinvest back in this country. And the Republican leadership here is disinvesting in the United States. We are seeing it with the stock buybacks, we are seeing it with the tax cut, and now we are seeing it with the rescissions package.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GRAVES), the chairman of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader, Mr. MCCARTHY, for his leadership in shepherding the largest spending-cut package through the House on behalf of President Trump.

□ 1445

This is a remarkable package.

Getting back to the topic at hand, this is about taking back money, or rescinding money, that will not be spent, \$15 billion of unnecessary spending. This is an important step to getting our fiscal house in order.

Now, I note that every dollar in this package either can't or won't be spent at all. Regardless of what you might hear from the other side of the aisle, this is money that just will not be spent for the purposes for which it was originally budgeted.

Now, when I think about where we are today and I think about this package and I hear the arguments that just preceded mine, I don't understand why they wouldn't support saving some additional money and putting a downpayment here on our deficit.

For example, this bill cuts \$4.3 billion from the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, which has only made five loans—that is five—since 2007 and has been untouched since 2011. That is 7 years ago. It is a dormant fund with \$4 billion in it, but the other side rejects taking that back and using it elsewhere.

This is just good government; rescinding these funds is good government. And it is a signal to the American people that President Trump and congressional Republicans are serious about getting our house in order and protecting our kids and our grandkids from this unsustainable and out-of-control national debt.

To that point, another step we are taking with the President's example in leadership here today is a fund we have created in the Financial Services bill, in which I chair. It is a fund for America's kids and grandkids, and we are putting additional savings in it. We have put \$585 million into this fund. It is a 2½ percent cut from our spending level.

We are sending a signal to the American people that just because we can spend it doesn't mean we have to spend it. So, today, here, with this \$15 billion and what we are doing here in the next couple of weeks, I look forward to getting my bill across as well and continuing on the progress we have here today.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, first, let me say I heard the gentleman from

Georgia's argument that this money wasn't needed. I heard that argument a month ago; Ebola money was not needed. Guess what? Ebola money was needed.

I rise in opposition to this rescission bill, Mr. Speaker, which I think is a sham, period. It is a shameless attempt by the majority to gloss over the tremendous deficits that have been incurred by its tax law.

Republicans are hoping they can fool the American people with a pretense of phony fiscal responsibility, but the American people can see right through it. They can see more than \$1 trillion a year in deficits for the next decade and a future for our children and grandchildren mired in debt. And for what? To give tax breaks to the wealthiest while raising taxes on many in the middle class.

We have before us, Mr. Speaker, a bill that the majority hopes will make it appear fiscally responsible. But the CBO says it would just save over \$1 billion. Now, that is a lot of money, but guess what? In the next bill, without any committee hearing, the majority has added \$1 billion. So they have already spent their savings of outlays of \$1 billion.

The CBO says that it would save just over that amount, compared to the \$1.8 trillion deficits that Republicans incurred with their tax laws. I wonder if the majority intends to bring another 1,800 bills to this floor just like this one, because that is what it would take to make up for the tax bill they passed without a single hearing and without any citizens having the opportunity to testify.

In fact, this bill rescinds less funding than Republicans just added, as I just said, to their Military Construction bill without a single vote being cast in the full Appropriations Committee, Mr. Speaker.

But this bill is also dangerous and irresponsible for another reason. It is based on the glib assertion that these funds will never be used and no one will be hurt if they are taken away. But we have already seen that to be a false promise.

The previous package, as I just said, cut funding to combat Ebola. I was told by the majority leader that we don't need those funds, which Republicans, however, now admit is very necessary to protect public health.

The same goes for children's health, I would suggest to you. Just because we haven't used these funds yet does not mean they won't be needed. It is a contingency to make sure that children aren't left out in the cold.

Oppose this rescission package.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK), who is the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this commonsense request from

President Trump to responsibly rein in wasteful government spending.

While the budgetary rescissions tool has not been utilized by the White House for some time, the President's decision to use this approach today should be commended. It importantly sheds light on the need for fiscal responsibility. The amount of this proposed rescission should also help us scale the challenge that is before us.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the Nation's debt is in excess of \$21 trillion. And that is not a stagnant figure; it is rapidly growing. It has grown in the short time that I have been at this microphone. This process helps us in Congress confront wasteful spending and draw back unspent funds on the discretionary side of our budget.

However, in order to slow down spending and actually have a chance at paying down any debt, we have to acknowledge what is actually driving the majority of this spending.

For years, Mr. Speaker, spending on mandatory programs has been on autopilot. It grows unchecked every year. Unsurprisingly, mandatory spending, including interest on the national debt, comprises the largest share of Federal spending.

It might surprise a lot of people who listen to this program or read these remarks that, in the pie of Federal spending, mandatory spending accounts for 70 percent of that amount. Without reform, in the next 10 years, it will grow to nearly 80 percent of all Federal spending.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker: There is a critical need for mandatory programs and the benefits they provide for vulnerable people. But unless we come up with real solutions, safety net programs like Social Security and Medicare will cease to exist.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Arkansas an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. WOMACK. So programs like Social Security and Medicare that people rely on now and those that they will rely on in the future will see those benefits quickly dwindle, CBO says, as early as 2026.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this modest effort on the discretionary side, but I caution that a sustainable and prosperous fiscal future is contingent on addressing the mandatory side of spending. The longer Congress takes, the more difficult those decisions will be.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), who is the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3 today, particularly because it is incredibly deceptive. The

Trump-GOP rescissions measure manages to have Republicans bundle their most damaging and misguided budget priorities into one badly flawed bill.

For starters, the deception includes the ludicrous notion that all the money that is being repealed and pulled back wouldn't be used otherwise.

This bill eliminates billions of dollars in funding for children's health insurance, which will prevent Congress from making smart, compassionate reinvestments in biomedical research and other child and maternal community health programs, which we could do if this bill were not here on the floor being forced down our throats.

What is worse is this bill cuts job creation funds while millions of families in rural and distressed communities struggle to make ends meet.

But this reckless rescission stunt doesn't stop there. It includes additional cuts to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and cuts badly needed funds for rural water programs.

Just to prove that no sector is spared, it also cuts transportation improvements in rural Appalachia and national and community service programs, as well as funding for energy efficiency and advanced technology loan programs that we know are surefire job creators. Neglecting these health, energy, and job needs is a policy failure on all fronts.

This rescissions bill ignores families struggling to put food on the table tonight. It neglects to make smart reinvestments that would benefit workers and taxpayers in the coming months and years ahead. And it shamelessly pretends to put this Nation's fiscal house in order, while still leaving future generations saddled with crushing debt.

It is rich that Republicans are suggesting that they are protectors of our deficit when they pushed through into law a tax scam bill that added more than \$1.5 trillion to our annual deficits and that gives massive handouts to corporations and the wealthy.

Budgets are a financial expression of our values, and this Trump rescissions bill just confirms that Republicans care more about the wealthiest among us while the rest of America must fend for itself.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN), who is the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I was in small business for 21 years. My wife and I were small-business owners and operators and had to meet a bottom line and pay the bills and all. I know our Speaker was in the accounting world. To me, this is basic accounting and a small business sort of set of principles.

You have money there that can't be spent because it is no longer authorized to be spent. Much of it is being just accumulated. And then somebody comes

in the backdoor and maybe tries to grab a little here and there and spend it on things it is not authorized for or whatever.

But the long and the short of it is that I can speak specifically to the Children's Health Insurance Program, because I have been a big advocate for it. I have voted for it every time it has been up.

As chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I led the effort to not only fully fund children's health insurance for 5 years, but then we were able to do it for 6 years. And, at the end, the package that was sent down to President Trump that he signed into law fully funded children's health insurance for 10 years. That is double the length of time that had ever been done before.

In my own State, that is 122,700 children and moms who are going to get coverage for health insurance. There is now certainty in this program, more than in its entire history—double the certainty.

So that resulted in some funds that were left behind that have been used when we get up against these cliffs and States maybe had overpayments here or there. They needed all this sort of emergency funding, and then there were some other programs, none of which is needed now because we brought certainty to the Children's Health Insurance Program, the longest extension in its history—10 years.

So the authority to use some of these funds expired last year. The authority expired last year. You can't spend it. The remainder of these funds simply aren't necessary, and they sit unused in a contingency fund that has an ample balance.

There has been a question about would this affect enrollment, would this affect beneficiaries. We asked the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that question, and they said, "CBO estimates that rescinding the unobligated balances would reduce the budget authority by \$7 billion but would not affect outlays or the number of individuals with insurance coverage."

They also say that it does not affect what happens with the States. That is because we did our work. We did our work. Republicans led on this issue time and again. And it is now law. So the Children's Health Insurance Program is fully funded, and kids will have access to insurance and other coverage that extends 10 years.

So what we are doing here is taking surplus money that can't be spent on these programs anymore and is not authorized to be spent on these programs anymore and applying it toward deficit reduction. The lifeline remains strong under this rescissions program. This is just good business practices, and I think it is really important to do.

By the way, the other Republican proposals we have passed in this House have resulted in one of the strongest economies in modern history and 1 million new jobs since the tax cuts took effect.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good process. This is fiscally responsible. I urge passage.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), who is a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the cuts to programs for working families that House Republicans seek to pass today.

Earlier this year, Congress did something responsible when it rejected President Trump's budget request to make devastating cuts to programs on which many Americans rely. Congress came together to make an investment in American communities and solve some pressing issues with an agreement by Democrats and Republicans.

However, these cuts today suddenly go back on that agreement, with a rescissions package that will hurt working families—all because they are saying that government is spending too much money.

Republicans caused that problem last year when they were grossly irresponsible and passed the GOP tax scam, a multitrillion-dollar giveaway to their donors, billionaires, and big corporations that they falsely sold as middle-class tax relief.

The majority's decision to blow a hole in the deficit and balloon our Nation's debt did very little to benefit working families, with 83 percent of the benefits going to the top 1 percent.

□ 1500

The Republican rescissions package will hurt the American people and make \$7 billion in cuts to children's health insurance, \$800 million in cuts to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and \$40 million to rural housing programs, just to name a few.

While GOP donors, millionaires, billionaires, big corporations, and members of Mar-a-Lago still get their gift of tax cuts in the GOP tax scam, Republicans are committed to taking away what little they gave hard-working American families. That is apparently the priority of the majority Republican Party today. With actions like this, they will likely be the minority party of tomorrow.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the majority leader of the House.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We are approaching the end of spring, but there is still enough time for a good spring cleaning. For families, that may mean doing yard work, cleaning out a closet, or maybe even giving unused items to charity. For Congress, it means tackling long-overdue budgetary spring cleaning.

There are billions and billions of taxpayer dollars originally set up to fund different programs and projects that cannot or will not be used for their intended purpose. Tonight, the House

will do something about it. We will take a first step in cleaning up the Federal Government's accounts by voting on the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

We aren't talking about taking spare change here. We are talking about something more than just that. Tonight, we have the opportunity to return \$15 billion, with a B, to the Treasury.

As Members, we are charged with being good stewards of taxpayer money. Mr. Speaker, it is a responsibility we all have and claimed on this floor many times. It shouldn't be a partisan exercise. Historically, it hasn't been.

Mr. Speaker, you can look at many Members who have been here for quite some time. Congress accepted 214 of Ronald Reagan's rescissions. The majority party on the floor was different than it is today. It accepted 111 of Bill Clinton's rescissions.

President Trump's spending cut request is a straightforward and smart way to trim a bloated Federal budget.

So, where do these savings come from, I know many of you might ask. Have you ever heard of the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program? It is an Obama-era subsidy program to green-car companies like Fisker Automotive, which defaulted on its \$192 million loan. Just think Solyndra, but for luxury cars. This failed subsidy program hasn't issued a loan since 2011. Mr. Speaker, that is 7 years ago. Yet, it has \$4.33 billion sitting unused in an account.

Can any Member think of a good reason why that money should continue sitting in that account, where it cannot and will not be used or just be wasted on another non-related government program?

I would really love to hear the reason, but I doubt one will be coming.

So, what else does this bill clean up?

It also brings back expired funds from CHIP. Before anyone claims Republicans are cutting CHIP funding, which is children's health insurance, Mr. Speaker, we debated this on the floor many times this year where one side of the aisle, the majority, passed it. Not only did they pass it while the other side in the minority, Mr. Speaker, voted against it, we passed it and made history.

How did we make history?

We signed the longest reauthorization of CHIP, guaranteeing its funding for 10 years, a full decade. A full decade, Mr. Speaker, Members of this floor had the opportunity to vote for it. Unfortunately, it wasn't one time, Mr. Speaker, that the other side voted no, and it wasn't just two times.

But, thankfully, Mr. Speaker, for all the children across America that use this program, Republicans were able to reauthorize it for 10 years—a decade—the longest ever. Republicans have made sure that CHIP isn't going anywhere. We have removed any uncertainty about the stability of the funding of that program.

The funds we are rescinding tonight were appropriated long ago and will not be used for their intended purpose now. In fact, Mr. Speaker, Democrats voted to rescind those exact CHIP funds just 2 months ago. They know they can't be used for their intended purpose.

I would like to remind my colleagues that the minority whip said he would not oppose "money laying in an account that has not been spent for 1, 2, 3 years." He even called it "a reasonable thing to do."

So instead of partisan rhetoric and doomsday speeches, let's see this bill for what it really is: a smart approach to cleaning up unused accounts in the Federal budget, which has been done many times before under President Clinton and President Reagan.

Before tonight's vote, each and every Member of the House should consider this question: If this body cannot be trusted to reclaim money that will not or cannot be used for its intended purpose, can we really be trusted to save money anywhere else?

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of opposition from First Focus Campaign for Children, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, Committee for Education Funding, National Housing Conference, Service Employees International Union, faith organizations, and other national organizations.

FIRST FOCUS CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN,  
Washington, DC, June 7, 2018.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I am writing on behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan national organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our nation's children, to express our strong opposition to H.R. 3, the so-called "Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act."

Unfortunately, the proposed rescission of \$15 billion in spending authority included in H.R. 3 targets children in about half of all the cuts. Moreover, of all the thousands of programs in hundreds of departments and agencies across the federal government, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which just went through a nearly two-year reauthorization process that was finally passed more than four months past its expiration date, is targeted for more than \$7 billion of the proposed cuts.

Over the two-decade history of CHIP, it has—in tandem with Medicaid and private health insurance—cut the uninsured rate for children by more than two-thirds. During this recent reauthorization process, a nationwide poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that 88 percent of Americans felt that Congress should make the extension of CHIP funding a top priority. The program has always had strong bipartisan support, as it did this year.

CHIP is financed as a block grant, which means that its funding is arbitrarily capped and fails to adjust to changes in unforeseen or unanticipated need, such as economic recessions, epidemics, changes in funding to the program to improve access to care, or natural disasters. Consequently, in the early years of CHIP, the program faced some difficult moments whereby some states imposed waiting lists and enrollment freezes when federal funding failed to meet the needs of children. Those indefinite waiting lists and enrollment freezes were imposed

without regard to disability or need, including children with cancer, cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, and other life-threatening or severe conditions.

In recognition of the fact that waiting periods and enrollment freezes were threatening the lives and well-being of children, Congress revamped CHIP's financing in a number of ways, including the creation of CHIP's Child Enrollment Contingency Fund in 2009. The CHIP contingency fund is set at 20 percent of overall CHIP spending and acts as a critically important backstop that protects against unforeseen or unanticipated federal funding shortfalls that threaten the health of children.

During the lengthy two-year most recent bipartisan reauthorization of CHIP that culminated in a six-year extension and a subsequent addition of four more years for a total of 10 years, there was no discussion or debate about changing the CHIP Child Enrollment Contingency Fund, as it has worked to protect the health of children. And yet, the Administration is now proposing and Congress is considering H.R. 3, which would slash the CHIP contingency fund by \$1.9 billion, or nearly 80 percent, and undermine its very purpose.

In making this proposal that targets CHIP for the bulk of its proposed cuts, the Administration argues that the contingency fund "will likely not be spent" and points to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score that the cut doesn't save any money as confirmation that it probably won't be harmful to children. And yet, during the lengthy CHIP reauthorization process, the Administration never proposed slashing the Child Enrollment Contingency Fund from 20 percent of the allotments to just 3-4 percent, as the rescission would do.

Even worse, the proposed rescission of the contingency fund fundamentally fails to understand the very purpose of a contingency that, by definition, is "a future event or circumstance that is possible but cannot be predicted with certainty." Neither the Administration nor CBO can guarantee that there will not be an economic recession, a health epidemic like Zika, or a natural disaster, which are all more likely during the forthcoming summer months. In fact, CBO doesn't "score" such events for that very reason.

As a result, the proposed rescission or raid of the CHIP contingency fund by \$1.9 billion, or 80 percent, undermines the very reason for the fund, which is to protect the health coverage of children against unanticipated or unforeseen circumstances, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, or even Hawaii's currently unanticipated erupting volcano.

Another critically important point to make is that the proposed rescission to the CHIP Child Enrollment Contingency Fund would not save money. The contingency fund is set at 20 percent of the overall CHIP allotment each year, so any money raided from the fund this year is automatically restored in the following year. In other words, over a two-year period, this proposed rescission would not save a single penny because any money raided from the contingency fund this year would be restored in the following year.

Consequently, the only effect of the proposed \$1.9 billion rescission the CHIP contingency fund would be to needlessly put the health and well-being of our nation's children at risk. In other words, H.R. 3 unnecessarily gambles with the health of our children under the guise that there probably won't be unanticipated or unforeseen events that might cause a state or states to need to tap into the contingency fund.

It is also important to point out that the CHIP extensions, including the CHIP contingency fund, that were passed just a few months ago were fully paid for. In fact, ac-

cording to CBO, the CHIP reauthorization saved billions of dollars. Therefore, CHIP should not be the target of a rescission package, and yet, it shockingly accounts for 46 percent or almost half of all the proposed reductions in H.R. 3.

For these reasons, we stand with more than 500 other national, state, and local organizations from across the country that wrote a letter to Congress in opposition to the CHIP cuts proposed in H.R. 3. As the letter reads, "The nine million children and families who depend on CHIP have already faced months of uncertainty, when its funding expired before Congress took long-overdue action to extend CHIP funding for ten years. After breathing a short sigh of relief, however, the long-term stability and protection these families fought to ensure is once again in jeopardy. Our organizations urge you to protect children and families, and to reject any proposed cuts to the Children's Health Insurance Program."

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY,  
President.

#### OPPOSE ATTEMPT TO RAID THE FARM BILL THROUGH RESCISSIONS

DEAR CHRISTIAN: With the introduction of rescission legislation in both the House and Senate, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) urges your office to oppose any effort to bring rescission legislation to a vote, and to vote no if such a vote occurs.

If the rescission package were to become law it would devastate farm bill conservation and rural development programs. The package, as proposed, would eliminate previously appropriated funding for the Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program and cut over \$650 million from farm bill conservation programs.

The rescissions proposal would strip funding from three different conservation assistance areas: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), and emergency watershed and flood protection programs, preventing USDA from entering into contracts to support farmer conservation efforts. Cuts to these programs would mean fewer voluntary conservation opportunities for farmers and ranchers who are seeking to improve their operations and be stewards of the land. Farm, conservation, and wildlife organizations across the country voiced strong opposition to the proposed conservation cuts.

The proposal to eliminate \$15 million from the VAPG program would mean that USDA is able to fund just a fraction of the 379 currently pending applications for business planning and development grants. A recent Economic Research Service report found that VAPG is facilitating job creation and long-term business survivability in rural America. Cuts to the program would mean less economic growth and fewer enterprise development opportunities for farmers and ranchers around the country.

For more information on how farmers and rural communities would be impacted by this rescission package, please see our recent blog on the topic.

Sincerely,

GREG FOGEL,  
Policy Director,  
National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

COMMITTEE FOR  
EDUCATION FUNDING,  
Washington, DC, May 14, 2018.

Hon. RICHARD SHELBY,  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee,  
Washington, DC.  
Hon. RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN,  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN SHELBY AND FRELINGHUYSEN: On behalf of the 110 national education organizations and institutions that are members of the Committee for Education Funding (CEF), we write to urge you to reject the Administration's proposal to rescind \$15.4 billion that Congress has already approved. The rescission package will cut \$7 billion that would otherwise be available for education programs and other services funded through the Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill for fiscal year 2019. The rescission package also rescinds funding for educational awards for AmeriCorps volunteers who have completed their terms of service. CEF is also very concerned that the Administration has announced its intention to submit additional proposals to rescind funding Congress just enacted for fiscal year 2018, undermining bipartisan support to make and keep its agreement to raise the level of non-defense discretionary funding.

Congress and the Administration approved increases in the spending caps for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 with the understanding of the needs facing the nation and with the intention to use the available resources to meet them. Congress regularly rescinds funding that is not ultimately needed for the programs it has enacted, and then reinvests the savings in other programs serving similar needs in the same funding bill. Enacting large rescissions outside of the regular appropriations process—one that is well underway already for fiscal year 2019—not only reduces the resources available to appropriators but also reduces flexibility to reprogram funding as needed.

CEF, the nation's oldest and largest education coalition, is a non-partisan organization reflecting the entire continuum of the education community. Our long-term "5¢ Makes Sense" campaign supports the goal of increasing education investments from the current two percent of the federal budget to five cents on the federal dollar. CEF urges Congress to reject proposals to rescind funding provided through bipartisan negotiations, and to instead continue efforts to wisely invest resources where they are most needed, including for education programs, which are still below the fiscal year 2011 level when adjusted for inflation.

Sincerely,

JEFF CARTER,  
President.  
SHERYL COHEN,  
Executive Director.

NATIONAL HOUSING CONFERENCE,  
Washington, DC, May 21, 2018.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.  
Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.  
Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.  
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER RYAN AND MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: The National Housing Conference and the undersigned organizations write to you to express our strong opposition to the rescission proposal from the White House and Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The package requests over \$234 million in rescissions from housing and community development programs including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Public Housing Capital Fund, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's (Treasury) Capital Magnet Fund and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rental Assistance program and Rural Community Facilities program.

According to a recent HUD study, the public housing capital backlog reached \$26 billion in 2010 and has grown by approximately \$3.4 billion per year. Assuming a continued growth of \$3.4 billion per year, the current estimated capital backlog is over \$50 billion. Public housing capital funds are awarded slowly as contracts are negotiated and work is completed. Public housing agencies are able to save their capital funds over three years in order to pay for more expensive projects like new roofs that they would otherwise not be able to afford from a single year's allocation. The rescission would also impact funding for Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency grants and the Jobs-Plus grants, including a complete elimination of all Jobs-Plus grants for FY 2017. These are critical grant programs that allow residents of public housing to work toward increased self-sufficiency, something in which the administration has expressed great interest. Rescinding over \$31 million from a program with such dire needs jeopardizes the initial investment made by taxpayers to build public housing as well as the residents who live in public housing. Ultimately, it is "penny-wise, pound-foolish."

Treasury's Capital Magnet Fund has a proven track record of success. The 2010 awardees of the Capital Magnet Fund leveraged over \$20 for every \$1 of public funding to create more than 13,300 affordable homes, far beyond the required 10.1 leverage ratio. The Capital Magnet Fund is funded through a fee assessed on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac business, not taxpayer dollars. The \$151 million proposed for rescission was only made available to the Treasury on May 1, 2018, and will most likely be spent before the end of the calendar year, providing it is not rescinded. The Capital Magnet Fund has created thousands of jobs and provides much-needed affordable housing throughout the country.

USDA's Rental Assistance and Rural Community Facilities programs provide access to housing and essential community facilities such as police stations and medical clinics. Combined, the administration proposes rescinding \$31 million from these accounts. Through a public-private partnership with landlords, USDA's rental assistance funding ensures that low-income renters in rural America have access to an affordable home. The FY 2017 spending bill specifically appro-

priated \$40 million to be spent in FY 2018. The patchwork of continuing resolutions that Congress has passed to fund the federal government has made it difficult for USDA to renew contracts with private landlords in the rental assistance program. In response, Congress has decided to future fund the account to help alleviate the contract renewal process. OMB cites the fact that as of the beginning of FY 2018 on October 1, 2017, there was \$40 million left in the account. It is premature, at best to determine as of October 1, 2017, that those funds have gone unspent and are therefore unneeded.

The proposed rescissions will do little to reduce the national debt while doing significant damage to people and communities throughout America. We ask that you reject the proposed rescissions from these programs and to do so in a timely manner so that the agencies can continue to manage their budgets responsibly. If Congress does not vote to reject the rescissions, these accounts will be frozen for 45 legislative days, which will create damaging disruptions well into the fall.

Sincerely,

AHC, Inc.; American Association of Service Coordinators; Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc.; Bodaken & Associates; Charleston Housing Authority; Cinnaire; Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation; Citizens' Housing and Planning Association; Clarksville Housing Authority, Arkansas; Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio; Consumer Mortgage Coalition; Cook County, Illinois; County of Butler, Pennsylvania; Crowell Housing Authority, Texas; Curtis + Ginsberg Architects LLP; Dover Housing Authority, Arkansas; Economic Mobility Pathways, Inc.; Enterprise Community Partners; Habitat for Humanity International; Habitat for Humanity of Champaign County, Illinois.

HAI Group; Housing Development Corporation MidAtlantic; Housing Assistance Council; Housing Authority of Cook County, Illinois; Housing Authority of Indiana County, Pennsylvania; Housing Authority of St. Mary's County, Maryland; Housing Authority of the City of Brownsville, Texas; Housing Authority of the City of Columbia, Missouri; Housing Authority of the County of Beaver, Pennsylvania; Housing Authority of the County of Warren, Pennsylvania; Housing Merit; Housing Partnership Network; IDP Housing, LP; Janis Smith Executive Communications, LLC; Jo Daviess County Housing Authority, Illinois; Lemle & Wolff, Inc.; Leviticus Fund; LINC Housing Corporation; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Make Room.

National Affordable Housing Management Association; National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders; National Development Council; National Housing Conference; National Housing and Rehabilitation Association; National Housing Trust; Network for Oregon Affordable Housing; New York Housing Conference; New York State Rural Housing Coalition, Inc.; Opportunity Finance Network; Pennsylvania Association of Housing & Redevelopment Agencies; Piedmont Housing Alliance; Prosperity Indiana; Public And Affordable Housing Research Corporation; Public Housing Authorities Directors Association.

Philadelphia Housing Authority; Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc.; Rebuilding Together, Inc.; Redevelopment Authority of Somerset County, Pennsylvania; Rural Ulster Preservation Company; Seasoned Partners; Selfhelp Community Services; Somerset Development Company; Springfield Housing Authority, Illinois; Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future; The Community Builders; University Neighborhood Housing Program; Wilkes-Barre Housing Authority, Pennsylvania; York Housing Authority, Pennsylvania.

SEIU,

Washington, DC, June 7, 2018.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 2 million members of the Service Employees International Union ("SEIU"), I write to oppose H.R. 3, the legislation that would violate the bi-partisan funding agreement and compromise reached as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018. In what appears to be a continuing escalation of a war on families and children by the Administration and Congressional Republicans, H.R. 3 will result in cuts in investments in health, housing, job, and other supportive services that are vital to our communities around the country. Perhaps most disturbing is that this package raids funding that could be used to provide health and other essentials for working families and children in the name of so-called "fiscal responsibility," even though those supporting these cuts passed a \$1.5 trillion tax cut that mostly benefits corporations and the wealthy.

A significant portion of the cuts included in H.R. 3 are from the Children's Health Insurance Program ("CHIP"), which helps kids get the healthcare they need. Some of these funds make sure that states have enough resources to provide care in case of emergencies that may create increased CHIP enrollment; for example, natural disasters—like hurricanes, wildfires, and volcanic eruptions—economic downturns, public health epidemics or other unexpected events. In addition, the funding in question also supports investments in other services and programs that are vital to our local communities' economies and social infrastructure. Furthermore, H.R. 3 eliminates \$800 million from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation ("CMMI"), which is tasked with developing models that improve the quality of care for Americans, undermining efforts to improve systematic efficiencies without harming patients.

Unfortunately, it is not surprising that a Congress and Administration so intent on sabotaging US healthcare is now trying to use money designated for health and other supports for our communities to offset the windfall for corporations included in the tax bill. In addition, this bill breaks the agreement reached in the Bi-partisan Budget Act. If those in Congress cannot trust the promises and agreements they make to each other and break the commitments that they make to Americans, it is no wonder that the public has such low confidence in the institution. Americans have been demanding that Congress work together across party lines, and after passing a landmark budget agreement with both Republican and Democratic support, some have retreated to partisan-driven policy making. H.R. 3 demonstrates that the Administration and congressional leadership are unable to negotiate in good faith, putting at risk future deal making and potentially bringing our legislative system to a standstill at the expense of our futures.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 3. We may add votes on this legislation to our legislative scorecard.

Sincerely,

JOHN GRAY,  
Legislative Director.

JUNE 6, 2018.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: We, the undersigned 18 organizations, representing various religious denominations, urge you to vote NO on H.R. 3, the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act. As currently written, this measure contains a harmful provision that would rescind \$7 billion in funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program ("CHIP"). As people of faith we believe that healthcare is a human right and that care for children is a sacred

responsibility. If enacted, this rescission to CHIP would threaten the health and well-being of the 9 million children who utilize the program every year.

We are especially concerned with the \$2 billion in cut, to the CHIP contingency fund. This fund has consistently been used in times of economic downturn, natural disaster, and other uncertain times to ensure that children can have access to healthcare. More recently, the fund was used when Congress was unable to pass a CHIP funding bill before individual state funding for the program ran out. If this fund was not available during the reauthorization process last year, thousands of children would have lost healthcare while Congress failed to act. Congress should not take away this vital security measure for the health of our children.

Recent Congressional action to pass a 10-year extension of CHIP was a major success for the 115th Congress, but this risky rescission could undercut the program and undermine this success. CHIP, as it is currently funded, is projected to decrease the deficit by \$6 billion over 10 years. The health of our children is too important to be used as additional means to pay down the deficit. It is especially relevant to protect our children from additional cuts after the passage of the tax bill provided enormous benefits to the wealthy and large corporations while adding over \$1.7 trillion to the deficit. Children must not pay for the enrichment of the wealthiest in our nation.

CHIP has enjoyed bipartisan support and success for more than 20 years. It has proven to be an effective investment in the health of our children and should be protected and supported. Our faith traditions teach us to protect the most vulnerable people, especially children. We believe that a rescissions package that threatens to take healthcare away from children does not live up to our moral obligation. We urge you reject and refuse a vote on H.R. 3, until and unless these harmful CHIP cuts are removed.

Sincerely,

American Muslim Health Professionals; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Faith in Public Life; Franciscan Action Network; Hadasah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.; Interfaith Worker Justice; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Council of Churches; National Council of Jewish Women; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Poligon Education Fund; Religious Institute; Union for Reform Judaism; Unitarian Universalist Association; Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice; Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation; United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, 6 months ago, Congress passed a tax cut that cost almost \$2 trillion that overwhelmingly benefited corporations and the wealthy. Today, the Republicans are asking struggling children and families to foot the bill.

Nearly half of the \$15 billion in cuts in the Trump-GOP rescissions package targets the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. While \$7 billion may be a rounding error in the corporate tax cut, eliminating this funding from CHIP will jeopardize its ability to en-

sure access to healthcare for the children and families who depend on the program every year.

The bill contains an 80 percent cut to the CHIP contingency fund. That is particularly shortsighted and dangerous. The need for healthcare assistance is greatest when our Nation experiences unexpected challenges, including recessions, public health emergencies, and national disasters. Hopefully, that money will not be needed, but we should not be stealing from the fund that provides vital care for children and families when their communities are confronted by these unforeseen but inevitable challenges.

In addition, the bill also includes cuts to the Corporation for National and Community Service, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, health infrastructure, rural water programs, and many other small but important programs that protect our citizens, create jobs, and grow the economy.

In an attempt to give taxpayers the illusion of fiscal responsibility, my colleagues have once again revealed their misguided priorities. We should not be paying for the irresponsible tax cuts by making even more reckless cuts to the investments in our future.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), chairman of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Agriculture Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, it is a bit disconcerting to hear a lot of my friends on the other side of the aisle say that any funds left over in the executive branch account should not be returned to the U.S. Treasury, which would reduce Federal borrowing; but instead, Congress should find some way to spend that money.

This really, I think, is an indication of the serious problem of overspending that we have here in Washington, a problem that I think so many of our constituents sent us here to address.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government is running an annual deficit. I think people know that. These repeated annual deficits have combined to create a staggering national debt, which currently stands at more than \$21 trillion. These deficits are not free, but costly, because of the interest our country has to pay on these borrowed dollars.

Today, with this legislation, we mark a return to a legislative tool that both Republicans and Democrats alike have utilized to clean up accounts that went underutilized. The rescission tool that is being used in this legislation was commonly used in the 1970s, when it was established, all the way through the 1980s and 1990s, as a way to return unused, unobligated tax dollars to the U.S. Treasury.

To recap, the rescission bill we have before us today returns unspent dollars to the Treasury. Every dollar returned is a dollar that we don't have to borrow. Every dollar that does not need to be borrowed does not incur interest payments.

While I understand there is no perfect bill, this bill is an important step in restoring a measure of fiscal restraint. I am proud to stand with the President to clean up some old accounts and prevent waste as well as abuse.

Let me add that some of these accounts are worthwhile, but this is not a debate about individual accounts. This is about doing the necessary steps to clean up the executive branch's balance sheets.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions about whether this line item or that line item might be something to rescind or not. To them, I would point out that we are in the middle of an appropriations process. We can work on these issues and we can address them. It doesn't mean that they are left off the table.

So I stand ready to continue to work with my colleagues as we face the challenges facing this Nation as we continue working on the Appropriations Committee, and I welcome the input of my colleagues as we continue on for FY 2019.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, the majority leader said a couple of moments ago that \$15 billion was spare change.

Let me tell you what he apparently means by spare change. It means cutting food assistance for working families and taking \$7 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program. I guess that is spare change.

The previous speaker just said he was alarmed at the prospect that on the precipice of borrowing we were now going to cut back on our borrowing capacity as it relates to savings. After the same political party borrowed \$2.3 trillion over 10 years to pay for a tax cut for people at the top, the strongest in America.

Those are the priorities. The priority is: Let's cut taxes for the strongest and the wealthiest. And let's pay for it by taking money from people who need it most in America.

We have seen time and again they are more focused on the needs of the wealthiest and the well-connected. We should be addressing the challenges of the middle class in this session and making sure that they have ample assistance.

Now they are after healthcare for children. Now they want to propose \$7

billion for their healthcare plan. Let's be clear: that priority, as long as I have been in this Congress, has been taking care of the strongest and the most powerful at the very top.

On January 19, 2001, when Bill Clinton said good-bye to the country, there was a \$5.6 trillion surplus. They cut taxes by \$1.3 in 2001. They cut taxes again by another \$1 trillion in 2003.

So there was \$2.3 million worth of tax cuts, two wars, a million and half new veterans. The answer to that, of course, was: let's have more tax cuts. That is precisely what they did with their tax cut plan. There was \$2.3 trillion borrowed to provide for a tax cut for people at the very top.

They call themselves conservatives. They pronounce that they are disciples of balanced budgets. It has been reckless spending that we have watched them embrace time and again, and this is but another example of that endeavor.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES).

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3, the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

These spending cuts, or rescissions, address the desire by President Trump and many in Congress to begin the long overdue process of reigning in government spending. This package is important because, as an engineer, businessman, and former State treasurer, I know you can't build a strong economy on debt and borrowed money.

Spending money we don't have on things we don't need increases our unsustainable \$21 trillion national debt and mortgages the future for our kids and grandkids. But reducing the size and scope of government isn't about budget number, it is about returning freedom and liberty to the American people. It is also common sense.

Kansas families have to live within their means. Our Federal Government should be no different. H.R. 3 is a great first step.

□ 1515

Today's spending cuts will save the taxpayers \$15 billion, the largest rescission package since the tool was adopted in 1974, which comes from programs that have expired or can no longer be used.

If we don't pass this rescission bill, it is like leaving cash lying around the kitchen table, the silverware drawer, or in the corner. It may leave the money available for use, but it is a poor way to manage the taxpayers' dollars. Returning the money to our treasury allows us to make investments in other needed areas without raising taxes or spending money we don't have.

Over the past 2 years, Republicans in Congress have jump-started our economy through the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and slashing government red tape and regulation. This has helped our economy reach the lowest unemploy-

ment rate in nearly 20 years. However, now is the time we need to get serious about cutting spending, and today's vote is a great first step.

I look forward to passage of H.R. 3 and to identifying even more ways to cut spending, as well as reforming entitlements and quasi-entitlements and growing our economy in the future.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY), the chair of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act.

This bill strips \$7 billion from the Children's Health Insurance Program, CHIP. Mr. Speaker, \$7 billion for sick kids.

It is really unbelievable if you stop and consider it. Republicans are asking children to pay for their tax break to the rich.

This is just another illustration of the GOP's convoluted priorities. Mr. Speaker, \$1.5 trillion goes to corporations and special interests; and when the budget comes up short, Republicans dip into healthcare for children to make up for their recklessness.

It doesn't have to be this way. CHIP was, for decades, a bipartisan piece of legislation because, despite any policy differences we may have or may have had, Democrats and Republicans were always able to come together and agree that CHIP is a fundamentally important program for our Nation.

What changed? Where did your consciences go?

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Republicans want to talk about spending. Let's talk about the Republican tax cut. It was rigged for the rich. It gave 83 percent of the tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent. They raised taxes on 86 million middle class families. It cost \$1.5 trillion.

We have a staggering national debt. They want to reduce that deficit. Well, then why don't they go ahead and rescind the money from the tax giveaways to the corporations? The corporations are just using it to buy back stocks and not to raise any wages.

What we ought to be doing is reinvesting: create jobs; help children and families, not millionaires and billionaires.

If they wanted to do something about the CHIP program, they would have made it permanent or they would take that money and reinvest it in programs that have to do with children, not send it back to the treasury. What they ought to do is to find those resources from their rich donors and others and put them back into where they belong, to the American people.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to support H.R. 3, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOWEY for yielding and for her tireless leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this shameful bill—H.R. 3—that would cut vital life-saving programs and hurt the American people.

Just months after the ink is dry on our nation's largest tax scam in history—Republicans are balancing their \$1.5 trillion deficit on the backs of struggling families.

This is a disgrace.

This shameful bill eliminates funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) by \$7 billion.

Mr. Speaker, this bill literally steals health care from the most vulnerable children in America.

H.R. 3 also deeply cuts funds for programs that create jobs, help the grow the economy, and lift more families out of poverty, like the Community Development Financial Institute.

And, this bill continues Republicans' assault on the climate change and green energy. By slashing billions of dollars from Energy Efficiency Programs, Republicans are not only hurting our environment, they're also hurting our economy.

I thought Republicans wanted to create jobs, Mr. Speaker? Then why are we voting on a bill that will take jobs away?

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better. Instead of pulling the rug out from under from the most vulnerable, we should be creating jobs, boosting our economy and lifting more families out of poverty.

But this bill does just the opposite. So, I urge my colleagues to vote 'no' on this cruel and mean-spirited bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as the founder and chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus and as a mother, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3, the "Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act."

I oppose this legislation because it would eliminate \$7 billion for children's health insurance without allowing for Congress to reinvest the funds into healthcare services for families and children.

I also oppose this bill because it undermines the Bipartisan Budget Agreement we only just passed last year.

Instead of wasting time on their partisan agenda, House Republicans should be bringing to the floor legislation that addresses the real challenges facing the American people such as: (1) tax reform; (2) DACA and immigration; (3) restoring the Voting Rights Act; (4) healthcare; (5) and education.

Yet here we are rushing through another piece of legislation that will do harm to millions of Americans, mostly children and working families, without proper discussion or deliberation.

It is very clear that H.R. 3 has been pushed to the floor today without debate in the Appropriations Committee because of all the harm it will inflict on the American people.

H.R. 3 undermines our nation's ability to improve and promote health, safety and environmental standards and provide much-needed protections for the American people.

But perhaps most deceitful of all are the cuts in funding for the Children's

Health Insurance Program, a program which plays such a critical role in our nation's health care system.

Together, CHIP and Medicaid cover 39 percent of children in the United States.

This is over 9 billion children, whose lives the opposition has decided to quit investing in.

When CHIP was first passed in Congress over two decades ago, this was a bipartisan movement that not only strengthened the ties between the parties, but also ensured coverage for so many lower income families who do not qualify for Medicaid.

Without such a vital program, the number of children covered, and the number of treatments they would be covered for, would vastly decrease, in a most harmful and debilitating way.

Not only this, but if the funds were to be rescinded, Congress could be prevented from reallocating those funds into early childhood education, health-related research, and other initiatives that only improve the quality of life for our constituents.

Given that we have experienced multiple health and safety disasters in communities across the country in recent years, it is the wrong time to thwart the progress of programs that are beneficial to so many Americans.

It is no wonder that leading children's organizations such as First Focus, along with 500 national, state, and local organizations across the country, are urging Congress to reject any cuts to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The value of the contingent funding is in its ability to protect children's health coverage in the event of unforeseen circumstances or unexpected disasters, such as Hawaii's overwhelming volcano eruption or Hurricane Harvey, which devastated the state of Texas just last year.

The Administration and CBO cannot guarantee that there will not be an economic recession or health epidemic for which contingency funding would be necessary and yet they are still willing to gamble with our children's lives.

It is time for the Trump Administration and House Republicans to abandon their crusade to balance the budget on the backs of the poor and vulnerable.

We should be investing in our children's futures, not risking their chances of having one at all.

I urge my colleagues to vote NO on this reckless, irresponsible, and cruel measure.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that the government has a spending problem. We have a moral responsibility to take every opportunity to help right the ship. In recent years, rescissions have been used as budget gimmicks to hide higher spending in appropriations bills. Today, the rescissions of unspent funds will instead be used for deficit reduction for the American taxpayers.

At the Republican Study Committee, we have been working with the Office of Management and Budget on these spending cuts since last Fall. I am glad that those conversa-

tions led to something tangible in the form of the largest rescissions package in American history.

I commend President Trump, Director Mulvaney, and House Leadership for their efforts in developing this package and securing the votes to bring this across the finish line.

True, today's package is just a drop in the barrel of our total debt but this should be just the first of many rescissions packages. The members of the Republican Study Committee hope that this is true and that as we pass several rescissions packages, we can begin to bend the trajectory of our spending curve in the right direction.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letters in opposition to H.R. 3:

MAY 22, 2018.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned 151 national organizations strongly urge you to reject the \$15.3 billion rescissions package proposed by the Trump Administration as well as other rescissions messages that may be subsequently offered. These cuts would violate the agreement enacted in the Bipartisan Budget Act, by eliminating funds that make fairer levels of domestic appropriations possible, so that unmet needs in public health, education, job training, housing, and other essential areas may be addressed.

The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is targeted for nearly half the cuts in the rescissions package. Nearly \$2 billion of the rescinded funds could reduce CHIP's capacity to respond if enrollment unexpectedly rises, as in the aftermath of a disaster, large layoffs due to plant closures, or an overall economic slowdown. Congress just enacted a long-overdue 10-year reauthorization of CHIP; it should not undermine that bipartisan agreement either by tampering with CHIP in this package. Another \$5 billion would renege on the two-year Bipartisan Budget Act agreement, which in part counted on the availability of unspent CHIP funds to pay for needed increases in other services of importance to children and families.

The rescissions package also includes an \$800 million cut to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, a program which according to the Congressional Budget Office will save \$3 for every \$1 spent between 2017 and 2026. It makes no sense to end such a cost-effective investment. Nor does it make sense to describe this package of cuts as putting "... our Nation on a sustainable fiscal path" when the recently enacted tax cuts, mainly for the wealthy and corporations, impose a \$2 trillion cost.

Congress made important progress in the FY 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill because its bipartisan agreement allowed for increases in child care, opioid treatment, and other services. Congress should now turn its attention to building on this progress in FY 2019. Reneging on the hard-won bipartisan agreement now will make further gains extremely difficult. With the limited number of legislative days before you, please do not be distracted by undoing past progress.

We cannot emphasize enough that basic needs programs have lost ground after years of reductions, making it extremely important that you do not undermine the agreement to start to reverse these downward trends. Adult and youth job training has been cut nearly 15 percent since FY 2010, adjusted for inflation. If we are serious about helping people to get good jobs, we must undo these cuts. Many other services need rebuilding, such as home heating and cooling assistance (cut nearly 38 percent since FY 2010), juvenile justice programs (cut more than 40 percent), maternal and child health

programs (cut 14 percent), and special education funding (cut between 7–11 percent since FY 2010). In an analysis of more than 180 human needs programs, the Coalition on Human Needs found that nearly 70 percent are still at lower levels than in FY 2010.

Please reject this rescissions package, and turn instead to your real responsibility: to provide adequate resource to address the unmet needs for education and training, child care, housing, health care, and other essential services.

Sincerely,

Action on Smoking and Health; ADAP Advocacy Association; Advance CTE; African American Health Alliance; AFSCME; AIDS United; Allied Progress; American Association of People with Disabilities; American Association on Health and Disability; American Federation of Teachers; Americans for Democratic Action (ADA); Asian Americans Advancing Justice—AAJC; Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges; Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs; Autism Society of America; Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Bend the Arc Jewish Action CAEAR Coalition; Campaign for Youth Justice; Center for Community Change Action; Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO).

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP); Center for Popular Democracy Action; Center for Public Representation; Ceres Policy Research; Child Care Aware of America; Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund; Children's Leadership Council; Children's Advocacy Institute; Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation; Coalition for Health Funding; Coalition for Juvenile Justice; Coalition on Human Needs; Community Access National Network (CANN); Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, US Provinces; Council on Social Work Education; Disciples Center for Public Witness; Dominican Sisters Conference; Dominican Sisters of Peace; Ecumenical Poverty Initiative.

Equal Rights Advocates; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Every Child Matters; Faith in Public Life; Families USA; Family Focused Treatment Association Food & Water Watch; Food Research & Action Center (FRAC); Forum for Youth Investment; Friends Committee on National Legislation; Friends of the Earth—US Girls Inc.; Grounded Solutions Network; Health Care for America Now; Healthy Teen Network HEAR US Inc.; Hispanic Federation; HIV Medicine Association; Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA—JPIC Housing Works, Inc.; International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW; Justice in Aging; Lakeshore Foundation; Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

League of Women Voters of the United States; LIFT; Main Street Alliance; Mom2Mom Global; MomsRising; NAACP; NARAL Pro-Choice America; National Action Network; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Alliance of HUD Tenants; National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; National Association of Counsel for Children; National Association of Regional Councils; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of State Head Injury Administrators; National Association for Bilingual Education; National Black Justice Coalition; National Coalition for the Homeless; National Coalition of STD Directors; National Consumer Law Center (on behalf of its low income clients).

National Council of Jewish Women; National Crittenton; National Disability Institute; National Domestic Workers Alliance; National Education Association; National Employment Law Project; National Employ-

ment Lawyers Association; National Housing Trust; National Indian Education Association; National Juvenile Justice Network; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National Network for Youth; National Network to End Domestic Violence; National Organization for Women; National Urban League; National WIC Association; National Women's Health Network; National Women's Law Center; New Progressive Alliance; North American Passionists, JPIC; People Demanding Action; People For the American Way.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Poligon Education Fund; Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians); Public Advocacy for Kids; Public Citizen; Rachel Carson Council; Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition; Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need; RESULTS; Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition; Safer Foundation; School Social Work Association of America; Service Employees International Union; Sinsinawa Dominicans; Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership; Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Sisters of Mercy South Central Community; SocioEnergetics Foundation; Somerset Development Company; SparkAction; StopTheDrugWar.org; Strategies for Youth, Inc.

Students or Sensible Drug Policy; The Arc of the United States; The Children's Partnership; The John Leary Organization; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society; Transportation Learning Center; Treatment Action Group; Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance; UnidosUS; United Church of Christ; United Methodist Women; Voices for Progress; W. Haywood Burns Institute; WildWest Institute; Woodhull Freedom Foundation; Woodstock Institute; Workplace Fairness; Young Invincibles; Youth Service America; YWCA USA; ZERO TO THREE.

MAY 21, 2018.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Majority Leader, Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,  
*Minority Leader, Senate,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Minority Leader, House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SPEAKER RYAN, & MINORITY LEADER PELOSI: On behalf of the 68 undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our opposition to the Administration's proposal in its fiscal year (FY) 2018 rescission package to recapture \$151 million in funding for the Capital Magnet Fund (CMF).

We respectfully request that Congress promptly reject this rescission to enable the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) at the Department of Treasury to distribute the next round of funding of this highly successful program as soon as possible. Organizations are deploying these funds to address the housing affordability crisis among our nation's seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, and families.

The origin and intent of the rescission mechanism in the Congressional Budget Impoundment and Control Act is well-established. Namely, it was designed and has uniformly been used to return unspent funds in appropriated accounts from prior fiscal years to taxpayers, typically for programs that are poorly performing or have been eliminated entirely. The Administration's effort to claw back CMF funding by means of rescission flies in the face of this practice.

First, CMF is not an appropriated program. Rather, it was created by Congress through the bipartisan Housing and Economic Recovery Act (HERA) of 2008, an early federal response to the nation's growing housing and financial crisis. HERA funded the CMF through a small fee on total new business purchases of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (collectively, the Government-Sponsored Enterprises or GSEs) to create an enduring program to generate new investment in affordable housing and other economic development projects in underserved communities across our nation through the housing finance system and not be reliant entirely on the annual Congressional appropriations process.

Second, CMF funds have not been sitting unspent at the CDFI Fund. Rather, these funds were not released to the Treasury Department by the GSEs until May 1, 2018, and if prior year CMF rounds are predictive, the entire amount of funds will be obligated to awardees before the end of calendar year 2018.

Finally, one would be hard pressed to find a program where taxpayers are getting more "bang for the buck" than the CMF. The innovation at the heart of CMF is that it provides direct, entity-level investments in high capacity CDFIs, nonprofit housing developers, banks and public sector agencies.

This structure is designed to attract private capital and maximize return on investment. Organizations that receive the grants are required to leverage their funding 10:1 with other sources of capital. The CMF multiplies the impact of awards many times over because grant recipients are also required to redeploy CMF-supported loans in new projects throughout the grant term.

By any measure, CMF has succeeded. Earlier this year, the CDFI Fund released new data that illustrates the powerful impact of the FY 2010 funding round of CMF. The 23 awardees from 2010 have used the \$80 million in grants to attract \$1.8 billion in other investment by the public and private sector, a 22:1 ratio; have produced 13,325 affordable homes and have created or retained 16,000 jobs across America.

The CMF is poised to continue its strong track record. The 2017 award round of \$120 million will enable 40 grantees to serve 41 states and the District of Columbia. Collectively, awardees are projected to create approximately 17,000 additional jobs, produce 21,000 affordable homes and attract more than \$3.2 billion in additional investment, with 78% (\$2.5 billion) expected to come from the private sector.

The need for affordable housing—and for CMF funding—is greater today than ever before. Although the economy has improved since 2008, the number of renter households that pay more than half of their income in rent is near an all-time high of 11.4 million families, 3.7 million more than in 2001 and one in four of all renters in the United States.

The CMF has proven to be a highly cost-effective resource for creating affordable housing and improving communities. In 2017, the CDFI Fund received applications for more than 3.5 times the amount awarded. The nation would be better served if the Administration deployed the \$151 million in available CMF funds as quickly as possible to meet the demand for this flexible, effective program rather than targeting it for rescission.

We urge Congress to reject this rescission request.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Abode Communities; ACTION-Housing, Inc.; Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership, Inc.; Better Housing Coalition; Capital Impact Partners; Capitol Hill Housing; Century Housing Corporation; Chicago

Community Loan Fund; Chicanos Por La Causa; Cinnaire; Clearinghouse Community Development Financial Institution; Coastal Enterprises, Inc.; Community Development Corporation of Utah; Community Development Financial Institution Coalition; Community Housing Partners; Corporation for Supportive Housing; EAH Housing; Eden Housing; Enterprise Community Partners; Fahe.

Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation; Grounded Solutions Network; Habitat for Humanity; Homeport; Homes for America; Homewise, Inc.; Housing Channel; Housing Development Fund; Housing Partnership Network; Idaho-Nevada CDFI; IFF; Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership; Leviticus 25:23 Alternative Fund, Inc.; Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC); Low Income Investment Fund; Maine Affordable Housing Coalition; Mercy Housing, Inc.; Mercy Loan Fund; Mission First Housing Group; Montgomery Housing Partnership.

National Affordable Housing Management Association; National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders; National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders; National Coalition for the Homeless; National Council of State Housing Agencies; National Development Council; National Housing Conference; National Housing Resource Center; National Housing Trust; National Low Income Housing Coalition; National NeighborWorks Association; National Stabilization Trust; New Community Corporation; New Jersey Community Capital; NHS of Chicago; NYC Housing Partnership; Ohio Capital Finance Corporation; Opportunity Finance Network; Preservation of Affordable Housing, Inc. (POAH); Project for Pride in Living.

Prospera Housing Community Services; Reinvestment Fund; Self-Help Ventures Fund; Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership; St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center; Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future; The Community Builders, Inc.; Volunteers of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to House Resolution 918 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5895.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MITCHELL) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1522

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 consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with Mr. MITCHELL in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 5895, the first set of the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills: Energy and Water, the Legislative Branch, and the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

I am pleased that the House is considering three appropriations bills this afternoon. These bills provide funding to rebuild our military infrastructure, support military families, improve nuclear security, support our Nation's energy and water infrastructure, and assure the smooth and safe operations of the legislative branch.

To highlight a few of these important investments:

The Energy and Water bill, under Chairman SIMPSON's direction, funds our national security and supports the energy and water infrastructure that keeps our economy moving and America open for business.

In total, his bill provides \$44.7 billion in discretionary funding. To support a strong nuclear national security strategy, particularly at this time of rapidly shifting global dynamics, his bill provides targeted increases that will maintain an effective nuclear arsenal, preserve our Nation's nuclear-powered fleet, and keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of those who would misuse them.

Beyond these critical responsibilities, the bill also directs \$7.28 billion to the Army Corps of Engineers for projects and activities that will improve America's ports and waterways and promote public health and safety.

The bill also further supports economic growth by investing in the Department of Energy's programs to advance the goal of an all-of-the-above solution to energy independence. This includes funding to continue congressional efforts for the safe, secure storage of nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain.

Next, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill under Chairman YODER's

lead provides \$3.8 billion in funding for the operation of Congress and its support agencies, excluding Senate-only items. It may be the smallest of the 12 appropriations bills, but it is very important to the operation of our great democracy.

This total represents a small increase above current enacted levels. These increases are directed to critical programs that make our Capitol complex more secure and more efficient. This includes supporting our wonderful and dedicated Capitol Police force, which keeps the complex safe for Members and visitors.

Lastly, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, led initially by former Chairman DENT and now by Chairman Judge CARTER, provides a total of \$96.9 billion in discretionary funding at a crucial time for our Armed Forces and the VA. This includes \$11.3 billion for military construction projects, a 3.8 percent increase above fiscal year 2018 levels, recognizing the need to rebuild our military infrastructure. This funding will enable our troops to fight current and emerging threats around the globe, as well as provide them with peace of mind and care for their families.

This bill also includes \$85.3 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest total amount for the VA in its history. These additional funds will be directed to critical priorities within the Veterans Administration: improved access to healthcare; quicker claims processing; and support for crucial health programs like suicide prevention, mental health, and opioid abuse prevention. This also includes \$1.2 billion for the new VA Electronic Health Record system to accelerate the progress on this long-awaited project.

Accompanying these funding increases are strong oversight provisions that will increase accountability at both the Pentagon and the Veterans Administration and ensure that precious tax dollars go where they are most needed.

I want to thank the chairs and ranking members and all the staff who worked on these bills that all Members should be proud to support.

These bills received bipartisan support in committee because they focus on universal priorities: national security, care for our veterans and military families, and essential infrastructure.

I am extremely disappointed to read and hear the minority has directed its Members to oppose this appropriations package, despite the fact that all of these bills were constructed as they always have been: in a bipartisan manner. If there is no minority support for this package, those Members will be turning their backs on this House's historic support for our veterans and their families and for modernizing our military installations around the world, which include medical facilities, new barracks and mess halls, playgrounds, schools, and family housing.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON, Chairman YODER, former Chairman

DENT and now Chairman Judge CARTER for their leadership on these bills; and also Ranking Member KAPTUR, Ms. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. TIM RYAN from Ohio for their work on these bills.

I would also like to thank the hard-working staff who helped to bring the

bills to the floor: Jenny Panone and Tim Monahan from the Legislative Branch Subcommittee; Sue Quantius, Sarah Young, Kiya Batmanglidj, and Tracey Russell from the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Angie Giancarlo, Loraine Heckenberg, Perry Yates, and Amy

Murphy from the Energy and Water Subcommittee; along with the front office staff and my personal staff.

I urge my colleagues to support these responsible appropriations bills and vote “yes” on H.R. 5895.

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

DIVISION A - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
-----					
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - CIVIL					
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY					
Corps of Engineers - Civil					
Investigations.....	123,000	82,000	128,000	+5,000	+46,000
Construction.....	2,085,000	871,733	2,323,000	+238,000	+1,451,267
Mississippi River and Tributaries.....	425,000	244,735	430,000	+5,000	+185,265
Operation and Maintenance.....	3,630,000	2,076,733	3,820,000	+190,000	+1,743,267
Regulatory Program.....	200,000	200,000	200,000	---	---
Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP).....	139,000	120,000	150,000	+11,000	+30,000
Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.....	35,000	27,000	35,000	---	+8,000
Expenses.....	185,000	187,000	187,000	+2,000	---
Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works).....	5,000	5,000	5,000	---	---
Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.....	---	965,132	---	---	-965,132
Inland Waterways Trust Fund.....	---	5,250	---	---	-5,250
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, title I, Department of Defense - Civil...	6,827,000	4,784,583	7,278,000	+451,000	+2,493,417
TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR					
Central Utah Project					
Central Utah Project Completion Account.....	10,500	7,983	15,000	+4,500	+7,017
Bureau of Reclamation					
Water and Related Resources.....	1,332,124	891,017	1,381,992	+49,868	+490,975
Central Valley Project Restoration Fund.....	41,376	62,008	62,008	+20,632	---
California Bay-Delta Restoration.....	37,000	35,000	35,000	-2,000	---
Policy and Administration.....	59,000	61,000	61,000	+2,000	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total, Bureau of Reclamation.....	1,469,500	1,049,025	1,540,000	+70,500	+490,975
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, title II, Department of the Interior.....	1,480,000	1,057,008	1,555,000	+75,000	+497,992
TITLE III - DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY					
Energy Programs					
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.....	2,321,778	695,610	2,078,640	-243,138	+1,383,030
Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.....	248,329	---	---	-248,329	---
Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response	---	95,800	146,000	+146,000	+50,200
Electricity Delivery.....	---	61,309	175,000	+175,000	+113,691
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Nuclear Energy.....	1,072,056	621,000	1,200,000	+127,944	+579,000
Defense function.....	133,000	136,090	146,090	+13,090	+10,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subtotal.....	1,205,056	757,090	1,346,090	+141,034	+589,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fossil Energy Research and Development.....	726,817	502,070	785,000	+58,183	+282,930
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves.....	4,900	10,000	10,000	+5,100	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Strategic Petroleum Reserve.....	252,000	175,105	252,000	---	+76,895
Sale of crude oil.....	-350,000	-300,000	-300,000	+50,000	---
Use of sale proceeds.....	350,000	---	300,000	-50,000	+300,000
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subtotal.....	252,000	-124,895	252,000	---	+376,895

DIVISION A - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
SPR petroleum account.....	8,400	---	10,000	+1,600	+10,000
Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve.....	6,500	10,000	10,000	+3,500	---
Energy Information Administration.....	125,000	115,035	125,000	---	+9,965
Non-defense Environmental Cleanup.....	298,400	218,400	240,000	-58,400	+21,600
Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund.....	840,000	752,749	870,000	+30,000	+117,251
Science.....	6,259,903	5,390,972	6,600,000	+340,097	+1,209,028
Nuclear Waste Disposal.....	---	90,000	190,000	+190,000	+100,000
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.....	353,314	---	325,000	-28,314	+325,000
Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, Offsetting collection.....	33,000	10,000	32,000	-1,000	+22,000
Rescission.....	-10,000	-15,000	-15,000	-5,000	---
	---	-240,000	---	---	+240,000
Subtotal.....	23,000	-245,000	17,000	-6,000	+262,000
Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loans program.....	5,000	1,000	5,000	---	+4,000
Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program.....	1,000	---	1,000	---	+1,000
Rescission.....	---	-8,500	---	---	+8,500
Subtotal.....	1,000	-8,500	1,000	---	+9,500
Departmental Administration.....	285,652	235,534	280,524	-5,128	+44,990
Miscellaneous revenues.....	-96,000	-96,000	-96,000	---	---
Net appropriation.....	189,652	139,534	184,524	-5,128	+44,990
Office of the Inspector General.....	49,000	51,330	51,330	+2,330	---
Total, Energy programs.....	12,918,049	8,512,504	13,421,584	+503,535	+4,909,080
Atomic Energy Defense Activities					
National Nuclear Security Administration					
Weapons Activities.....	10,642,138	11,017,078	11,200,000	+557,862	+182,922
Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation.....	2,048,219	1,862,825	1,902,000	-146,219	+39,175
Rescission.....	-49,000	---	---	+49,000	---
Subtotal.....	1,999,219	1,862,825	1,902,000	-97,219	+39,175
Naval Reactors.....	1,620,000	1,788,618	1,788,618	+168,618	---
Federal Salaries and Expenses.....	407,595	422,529	422,529	+14,934	---
Total, National Nuclear Security Administration.....	14,668,952	15,091,050	15,313,147	+644,195	+222,097
Environmental and Other Defense Activities					
Defense Environmental Cleanup.....	5,988,048	5,630,217	5,759,220	-228,828	+129,003
Other Defense Activities.....	840,000	853,300	870,300	+30,300	+17,000
Defense nuclear waste disposal.....	---	30,000	30,000	+30,000	---
Total, Environmental and Other Defense Activities.....	6,828,048	6,513,517	6,659,520	-168,528	+146,003
Total, Atomic Energy Defense Activities.....	21,497,000	21,604,567	21,972,667	+475,667	+368,100
Power Marketing Administrations /1					
Operation and maintenance, Southeastern Power Administration.....	6,379	6,500	6,500	+121	---
Offsetting collections.....	-6,379	-6,500	-6,500	-121	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---

DIVISION A - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Operation and maintenance, Southwestern Power					
Administration.....	30,288	45,802	45,802	+15,514	---
Offsetting collections.....	-18,888	-35,402	-35,402	-16,514	---
Subtotal.....	11,400	10,400	10,400	-1,000	---
Construction, Rehabilitation, Operation and Maintenance, Western Area Power Administration.....	223,276	265,142	265,142	+41,866	---
Offsetting collections.....	-129,904	-175,770	-175,770	-45,866	---
Subtotal.....	93,372	89,372	89,372	-4,000	---
Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund.....	4,176	5,207	5,207	+1,031	---
Offsetting collections.....	-3,948	-4,979	-4,979	-1,031	---
Subtotal.....	228	228	228	---	---
Total, Power Marketing Administrations.....	105,000	100,000	100,000	-5,000	---
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	367,600	369,900	369,900	+2,300	---
Revenues applied.....	-367,600	-369,900	-369,900	-2,300	---
General Provisions					
Title III Rescissions:					
Northeast gasoline supply reserve sale.....	---	-71,000	---	---	+71,000
Strategic Petroleum Reserve crude oil sale.....	---	-15,000	---	---	+15,000
Strategic Petroleum Reserve use of sale proceeds.....	---	15,000	---	---	-15,000
Total General Provisions.....	---	-71,000	---	---	+71,000
Total, title III, Department of Energy.....	34,520,049	30,146,071	35,494,251	+974,202	+5,348,180
Appropriations.....	(34,569,049)	(30,394,571)	(35,494,251)	(+925,202)	(+5,099,680)
Rescissions.....	(-49,000)	(-248,500)	---	(+49,000)	(+248,500)
TITLE IV - INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Appalachian Regional Commission.....	155,000	152,000	155,000	---	+3,000
Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.....	31,000	31,243	31,243	+243	---
Delta Regional Authority.....	25,000	2,500	15,000	-10,000	+12,500
Donali Commission.....	30,000	7,300	15,000	-15,000	+7,700
Northern Border Regional Commission.....	15,000	850	12,000	-3,000	+11,150
Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.....	250	---	250	---	+250
Nuclear Regulatory Commission:					
Salaries and expenses.....	909,137	958,050	953,050	+43,913	-5,000
Revenues.....	-779,768	-805,019	-763,640	+16,128	+41,379
(Rescission).....	-68	---	---	+68	---
Subtotal.....	129,301	153,031	189,410	+60,109	+36,379
Office of Inspector General.....	12,859	12,609	12,609	-250	---
Revenues.....	-10,555	-10,355	-10,355	+200	---
Subtotal.....	2,304	2,254	2,254	-50	---
Total, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.....	131,605	155,285	191,664	+60,059	+36,379
Appropriations.....	(131,673)	(155,285)	(191,664)	(+59,991)	(+36,379)
Rescissions.....	(-68)	---	---	(+68)	---

DIVISION A - ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS BILL, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.....	3,600	3,600	3,600	---	---
Total, title IV, Independent agencies.....	391,455	352,778	423,757	+32,302	+70,979
Appropriations.....	(391,523)	(352,778)	(423,757)	(+32,234)	(+70,979)
Rescissions.....	(-68)	---	---	(+68)	---
Grand total.....	43,218,504	36,340,440	44,751,008	+1,532,504	+8,410,568
Appropriations.....	(43,267,572)	(36,588,940)	(44,751,008)	(+1,483,436)	(+8,162,068)
Rescissions.....	(-49,068)	(-248,500)	---	(+49,068)	(+248,500)

1/ Totals adjusted to net out alternative financing costs, reimbursable agreement funding, and power purchase and wheeling expenditures. Offsetting collection totals only reflect funds collected for annual expenses, excluding power purchase wheeling

DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>TITLE I - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH</b>					
<b>HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</b>					
Payment to Widows and Heirs of Deceased Members of Congress (FY17 PL 114-223, Sec.142)1/.....	174	---	---	-174	---
Salaries and Expenses					
House Leadership Offices					
Office of the Speaker.....	6,645	6,645	7,124	+479	+479
Office of the Majority Floor Leader.....	2,180	2,180	2,643	+463	+463
Office of the Minority Floor Leader.....	7,114	7,114	7,752	+638	+638
Office of the Majority Whip.....	1,887	1,887	2,197	+310	+310
Office of the Minority Whip.....	1,460	1,460	1,700	+240	+240
Republican Conference.....	1,505	1,505	2,187	+682	+682
Democratic Caucus.....	1,487	1,487	1,776	+289	+289
Subtotal, House Leadership Offices.....	22,278	22,278	25,379	+3,101	+3,101
Members' Representational Allowances Including Members' Clerk Hire, Official Expenses of Members, and Official Mail					
Expenses.....	562,632	573,630	573,630	+10,998	---
Committee Employees					
Standing Committees, Special and Select.....	127,053	126,903	127,903	+850	+1,000
Committee on Appropriations (including studies and investigations).....	23,226	23,113	23,113	-113	---
Subtotal, Committee employees.....	150,279	150,016	151,016	+737	+1,000
Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission					
Salaries and Expenses.....	---	---	230	+230	+230
Salaries, Officers and Employees					
Office of the Clerk.....	27,945	28,305	28,305	+360	---
Office of the Sergeant at Arms.....	20,505	18,773	18,773	-1,732	---
Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.....	132,865	152,558	147,558	+14,693	-5,000
Office of the Inspector General.....	4,968	5,019	5,019	+51	---
Office of General Counsel.....	1,492	1,502	1,502	+10	---
Office of the Parliamentarian.....	2,037	2,026	2,026	-11	---
Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House.....	3,209	3,327	3,327	+118	---
Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House.....	9,937	9,925	9,937	---	+12
Office of Interparliamentary Affairs.....	814	814	814	---	---
Other authorized employees.....	584	584	584	---	---
Subtotal, Salaries, officers and employees.....	204,356	222,833	217,845	+13,489	-4,988
Allowances and Expenses					
Supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims.....	3,625	3,625	525	-3,100	-3,100
Official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House.....	190	190	190	---	---
Government contributions.....	233,040	260,000	239,000	+5,960	-21,000
Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery.....	16,186	16,186	16,186	---	---
Transition activities.....	2,273	3,000	3,000	+727	---
Wounded Warrior program.....	2,750	2,750	2,750	---	---
Office of Congressional Ethics.....	1,670	1,741	1,670	---	-71
Miscellaneous items.....	720	722	722	+2	---
Subtotal, Allowances and expenses.....	260,454	288,214	264,043	+3,589	-24,171
Total, House of Representatives (discretionary)...	1,199,999	1,256,971	1,232,143	+32,144	-24,828
Total, House of Representatives (mandatory).....	174	---	---	-174	---

DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
JOINT ITEMS					
Joint Economic Committee.....	4,203	4,203	4,203	---	---
Joint Committee on Taxation.....	11,169	11,169	11,169	---	---
Office of the Attending Physician					
Medical supplies, equipment, expenses, and allowances...	3,838	3,798	3,798	-40	---
Office of Congressional Accessibility Services					
Salaries and expenses.....	1,444	1,486	1,486	+42	---
Total, Joint items.....	20,654	20,656	20,656	+2	---
CAPITOL POLICE					
Salaries.....	351,700	374,804	374,804	+23,104	---
General expenses.....	74,800	81,554	81,554	+6,754	---
Total, Capitol Police.....	426,500	456,358	456,358	+29,858	---
OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE					
Salaries and expenses.....	4,959	4,553	5,410	+451	+857
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE					
Salaries and expenses.....	49,945	50,737	50,737	+792	---
ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL (AOC)					
Capital Construction and Operations.....	93,478	103,962	103,962	+10,484	---
Capitol building.....	45,300	46,154	44,379	-921	-1,775
Capitol grounds.....	13,333	17,978	16,761	+3,428	-1,217
House of Representatives buildings:					
House office buildings.....	197,294	180,098	187,098	-10,196	+7,000
House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund...	10,000	10,000	10,000	---	---
Capitol Power Plant.....	115,694	127,980	127,980	+12,286	---
Offsetting collections.....	-9,000	-9,000	-9,000	---	---
Subtotal, Capitol Power Plant.....	106,694	118,980	118,980	+12,286	---
Library buildings and grounds.....	74,873	113,427	70,201	-4,672	-43,226
Capitol police buildings, grounds and security.....	34,249	59,309	52,542	+18,293	-6,767
Botanic Garden.....	13,800	14,659	14,759	+959	+100
Capitol Visitor Center.....	21,470	23,322	23,322	+1,852	---
Total, Architect of the Capitol.....	610,491	687,889	642,004	+31,513	-45,885
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS					
Salaries and expenses.....	477,017	475,196	493,818	+16,801	+18,622
Authority to spend receipts.....	-6,350	-6,000	-6,000	+350	---
Subtotal, Salaries and expenses.....	470,667	469,196	487,818	+17,151	+18,622
Copyright Office, Salaries and expenses.....	72,011	86,438	93,407	+21,396	+6,969
Authority to spend receipts.....	-41,305	-43,464	-45,490	-4,185	-2,026
Prior year unobligated balances.....	-2,260	-4,328	-4,328	-2,068	---
Subtotal, Copyright Office.....	28,446	38,646	43,589	+15,143	+4,943
Congressional Research Service, Salaries and expenses...	119,279	113,621	125,688	+6,409	+12,067
Books for the blind and physically handicapped.					
Salaries and expenses.....	51,498	51,192	52,783	+1,285	+1,591
Total, Library of Congress.....	669,890	672,655	709,878	+39,988	+37,223

DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<b>GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE</b>					
Congressional publishing .....	79,528	79,000	79,000	-528	---
Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents, Salaries and expenses.....	29,000	32,000	32,000	+3,000	---
Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund .....	8,540	6,000	6,000	-2,540	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Government Publishing Office .....	117,068	117,000	117,000	-68	---
<b>GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE</b>					
Salaries and expenses.....	602,717	640,301	602,717	---	-37,584
Offsetting collections.....	-23,800	-24,200	-23,800	---	+400
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Government Accountability Office.....	578,917	616,101	578,917	---	-37,184
<b>OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND</b>					
Payment to the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) Trust Fund.....	5,600	5,800	5,600	---	-200
<b>JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>					
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	430	430	430	---	---
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS</b>					
Scorekeeping adjustment (CBO estimate) 1/.....	-2,000	---	-2,000	---	-2,000
<b>OTHER APPROPRIATIONS</b>					
<b>FURTHER ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER RELIEF REQUIREMENTS ACT, 2018</b>					
Government Accountability Office, Salaries and expenses (FY2018 PL115-123, Title IX) (emergency).....	14,000	---	---	-14,000	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Other Appropriations.....	14,000	---	---	-14,000	---
<b>OTHER SCOREKEEPING ADJUSTMENTS</b>					
Copyright Office additional spending authority (CBO estimate).....	---	2,000	---	---	-2,000
GPO unobligated balances transferred to Business Operations Revolving Fund (reappropriation) (CBO estimate).....	---	20,000	---	---	-20,000
AOC House Office Buildings Fund (PL114-254) (CBO estimate).....	-4,000	-7,000	-7,000	-3,000	---
Office of Compliance Settlements and Awards (CBO estimate).....	---	1,000	1,000	+1,000	---
Less emergency appropriations.....	-14,000	---	---	+14,000	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total (including scorekeeping adjustments)...	3,678,627	3,905,150	3,811,133	+132,506	-94,017
Discretionary.....	(3,678,453)	(3,905,150)	(3,811,133)	(+132,680)	(-94,017)
Mandatory 1/.....	(174)	---	---	(-174)	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

1/ FY2018 is Div D, Sec.101(a)(9) of Continuing  
Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-56)

DIVISION B - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
RECAPITULATION					
House of Representatives (discretionary).....	1,199,999	1,256,971	1,232,143	+32,144	-24,828
House of Representatives (mandatory) 1/.....	174	---	---	-174	---
Joint Items.....	20,654	20,656	20,656	+2	---
Capitol Police.....	426,500	456,358	456,358	+29,858	---
Office of Compliance.....	4,959	4,553	5,410	+451	+857
Congressional Budget Office.....	49,945	50,737	50,737	+792	---
Architect of the Capitol.....	610,491	687,889	642,004	+31,513	-45,885
Library of Congress.....	669,890	672,655	709,878	+39,988	+37,223
Government Publishing Office .....	117,068	117,000	117,000	-68	---
Government Accountability Office.....	578,917	616,101	578,917	---	-37,184
Open World Leadership Center.....	5,600	5,800	5,600	---	-200
Stennis Center for Public Service.....	430	430	430	---	---
Administrative Provisions 2/.....	-2,000	---	-2,000	---	-2,000
Other Scorekeeping adjustments.....	-4,000	16,000	-6,000	-2,000	-22,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Grand total.....	3,678,627	3,905,150	3,811,133	+132,506	-94,017
Discretionary.....	(3,678,453)	(3,905,150)	(3,811,133)	(+132,680)	(-94,017)
Mandatory 1/.....	(174)	---	---	(-174)	---
Other Appropriations (emergency).....	14,000	---	---	-14,000	---

1/ FY2018 is Div D, Sec101(a)(9) of Continuing  
Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-56)

DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
(Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
TITLE I - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE					
Military Construction, Army.....	923,994	1,011,768	1,001,768	+77,774	-10,000
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	1,553,275	2,543,189	2,100,298	+547,023	-442,891
Hurricane Supplemental (P.L. 115-123) (Emergency).....	201,636	---	---	-201,636	---
Total.....	1,754,911	2,543,189	2,100,298	+345,387	-442,891
Military Construction, Air Force.....	1,543,558	1,725,707	1,454,723	-88,835	-270,984
Military Construction, Defense-Wide.....	2,811,513	2,693,324	2,465,738	-345,775	-227,586
Additional Funds (P.L. 115-96) (Emergency).....	200,000	---	---	-200,000	---
Total.....	3,011,513	2,693,324	2,465,738	-545,775	-227,586
Total, Active components.....	7,233,976	7,973,988	7,022,527	-211,449	-951,461
Military Construction, Army National Guard.....	220,652	180,122	180,122	-40,530	---
Hurricane Supplemental (P.L. 115-123) (Emergency).....	519,345	---	---	-519,345	---
Subtotal.....	739,997	180,122	180,122	-559,875	---
Military Construction, Air National Guard.....	171,491	129,126	129,126	-42,365	---
Military Construction, Army Reserve.....	83,712	64,919	64,919	-18,793	---
Military Construction, Navy Reserve.....	95,271	43,065	43,065	-52,206	---
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve.....	73,535	50,163	50,163	-23,372	---
Total, Reserve components.....	1,164,006	467,395	467,395	-696,611	---
North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program.....	177,932	171,064	171,064	-6,868	---
Department of Defense Base Closure Account.....	310,000	267,538	322,390	+12,390	+54,852
Total, Military Construction.....	8,885,914	8,879,985	7,983,376	-902,538	-896,609
Family Housing Construction, Army.....	182,662	330,660	330,660	+147,998	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Army.....	348,907	376,509	376,509	+27,602	---
Family Housing Construction, Navy and Marine Corps.....	83,682	104,581	104,581	+20,899	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Navy and Marine Corps.....	328,282	314,536	314,536	-13,746	---
Family Housing Construction, Air Force.....	85,062	78,446	78,446	-6,616	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Air Force.....	318,324	317,274	317,274	-1,050	---
Family Housing Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	59,169	58,373	58,373	-796	---
DoD Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund.....	623	600	600	-23	---
Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund.....	2,726	1,653	1,653	-1,073	---
Total, Family Housing.....	1,409,437	1,582,632	1,582,632	+173,195	---
ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS					
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 126) (rescission).....	---	---	-31,158	-31,158	-31,158
Military Construction, Army (Sec. 125).....	93,800	---	44,100	-49,700	+44,100
Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps (Sec. 125).....	202,130	---	317,800	+115,670	+317,800
Military Construction, Air National Guard (Sec. 125).....	52,000	---	---	-52,000	---
Military Construction, Army National Guard (Sec. 125).....	113,500	---	11,000	-102,500	+11,000
Military Construction, Air National Guard (Sec. 125).....	---	---	62,000	+62,000	+62,000
Military Construction, Army Reserve (Sec. 125).....	76,000	---	23,000	-53,000	+23,000
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 126) (rescission).....	-25,000	---	-25,000	---	-25,000
42 USC 3374 (Sec. 126).....	---	---	-15,000	-15,000	-15,000
Military Construction, Air Force (Sec. 125).....	138,100	---	144,450	+6,350	+144,450
Military Construction, Air Force Reserve (Sec. 125).....	64,100	---	84,800	+20,700	+84,800
NATO Security Investment Program (Sec. 126).....	---	---	---	---	---
Family Housing Construction, Army (Sec. 126).....	-18,000	---	---	+18,000	---
Defense Access Roads Program (Sec. 131).....	20,000	---	---	-20,000	---

DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<hr/>					
Military Construction - Enhancing Force Protection and Safety on Military Installations (Sec. 131).....	---	---	150,000	+150,000	+150,000
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Administrative Provisions.....	716,630	---	765,992	+49,362	+765,992
Appropriations.....	(759,630)	---	(837,150)	(+77,520)	(+837,150)
Rescissions.....	(-43,000)	---	(-71,158)	(-28,158)	(-71,158)
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, title I, Department of Defense.....	11,011,981	10,462,617	10,332,000	-679,981	-130,617
Appropriations.....	(10,134,000)	(10,462,617)	(10,403,158)	(+269,158)	(-59,459)
Rescissions.....	(-43,000)	---	(-71,158)	(-28,158)	(-71,158)
Emergency appropriations.....	(920,981)	---	---	(-920,981)	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, title I less emergency appropriations.....	10,091,000	10,462,617	10,332,000	+241,000	-130,617
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
 TITLE II - DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Veterans Benefits Administration					
Compensation and pensions:					
Advance from prior year.....	(90,119,449)	(95,768,462)	(95,768,462)	(+5,649,013)	---
Current year request.....	---	1,410,332	1,410,332	+1,410,332	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subtotal, current year.....	90,119,449	97,178,794	97,178,794	+7,059,345	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	95,768,462	107,119,807	107,119,807	+11,351,345	---
Readjustment benefits:					
Advance from prior year.....	(13,708,648)	(11,832,175)	(11,832,175)	(-1,876,473)	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subtotal.....	13,708,648	11,832,175	11,832,175	-1,876,473	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	11,832,175	14,065,282	14,065,282	+2,233,107	---
Veterans insurance and indemnities:					
Advance from prior year.....	(107,899)	(109,090)	(109,090)	(+1,191)	---
Current year request.....	12,439	---	---	-12,439	---
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Subtotal.....	120,338	109,090	109,090	-11,248	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	109,090	111,340	111,340	+2,250	---
Veterans housing benefit program fund:					
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(500)	(500)	(500)	---	---
Administrative expenses.....	178,626	200,612	200,612	+21,986	---
Vocational rehabilitation loans program account.....	30	39	39	+9	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,356)	(2,037)	(2,037)	(-319)	---
Administrative expenses.....	395	396	396	+1	---
Native American veteran housing loan program account..	1,163	1,149	1,149	-14	---
General operating expenses, VBA.....	2,910,000	2,868,909	2,922,000	+12,000	+53,091
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Total, Veterans Benefits Administration.....	110,812,380	125,777,866	125,830,957	+15,018,577	+53,091
Appropriations.....	(3,102,653)	(4,481,437)	(4,534,528)	(+1,431,875)	(+53,091)
Advance appropriations, FY 2020.....	(107,709,727)	(121,296,429)	(121,296,429)	(+13,586,702)	---
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(103,935,996)	(107,709,727)	(107,709,727)	(+3,773,731)	---
 Veterans Health Administration					
Medical services:					
Advance from prior year.....	(44,886,554)	(49,161,165)	(49,161,165)	(+4,274,611)	---
Current year request /1.....	1,962,984	---	---	-1,962,984	---

DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Hurricane Supplemental (P.L. 115-123) (Emergency).....	11,075	---	---	-11,075	---
Subtotal.....	46,860,613	49,161,165	49,161,165	+2,300,552	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	49,161,165	48,747,988	48,747,988	-413,177	---
1/ \$2.1 billion in emergency funding for Medical Services purposes was appropriated in H.J. Res. 124 in addition to these funds					
Medical community care:					
Advance from prior year.....	(9,409,118)	(8,384,704)	(8,384,704)	(-1,024,414)	---
Current year request.....	419,176	---	---	-419,176	---
4/13/2018 Budget Amendment.....	---	500,000	500,000	+500,000	---
Subtotal.....	9,828,294	8,884,704	8,884,704	-943,590	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	8,384,704	14,419,786	14,419,786	+6,035,082	---
Choice Fund.....	---	1,900,000	---	---	-1,900,000
Medical support and compliance:					
Advance from prior year.....	(6,654,480)	(7,239,156)	(7,239,156)	(+584,676)	---
Current year request.....	100,000	---	---	-100,000	---
Hurricane Supplemental (P.L. 115-123) (Emergency).....	3,209	---	---	-3,209	---
Subtotal.....	6,757,689	7,239,156	7,239,156	+481,467	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	7,239,156	7,106,150	7,106,150	-133,006	---
Medical facilities:					
Advance from prior year.....	(5,434,880)	(5,914,288)	(5,914,288)	(+479,408)	---
Current year request.....	707,000	---	---	-707,000	---
Hurricane Supplemental (P.L. 115-123) (Emergency).....	75,108	---	---	-75,108	---
Subtotal.....	6,216,988	5,914,288	5,914,288	-302,700	---
Advance appropriation, FY 2020.....	5,914,288	5,276,676	5,276,676	-637,612	---
Medical and prosthetic research.....	722,262	727,369	732,262	+10,000	+4,893
Medical care cost recovery collections:					
Offsetting collections.....	-2,507,000	-3,590,000	-3,590,000	-1,083,000	---
Appropriations (indefinite).....	2,507,000	3,590,000	3,590,000	+1,083,000	---
Subtotal.....	---	---	---	---	---
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (transfers out).....	(-297,137)	(-301,578)	(-306,378)	(-9,241)	(-4,800)
DoD-VA Joint Medical Funds (by transfer).....	(297,137)	(301,578)	(306,378)	(+9,241)	(+4,800)
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (Transfer out).....	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	(-15,000)	---	---
DoD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund (by transfer).....	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)	---	---
Total, Veterans Health Administration.....	74,700,127	78,677,969	76,782,862	+2,082,735	-1,895,107
Appropriations.....	(3,911,422)	(3,127,369)	(1,232,262)	(-2,679,160)	(-1,895,107)
(By transfer).....	(312,137)	(316,578)	(321,378)	(+9,241)	(+4,800)
Advance appropriations, FY 2020.....	(70,699,313)	(75,550,600)	(75,550,600)	(+4,851,287)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(66,385,032)	(70,699,313)	(70,699,313)	(+4,314,281)	---
National Cemetery Administration					
National Cemetery Administration.....	306,193	315,836	315,836	+9,643	---
Departmental Administration					
General administration.....	335,891	367,629	346,091	+10,200	-21,538
Board of Veterans Appeals.....	161,048	174,748	174,748	+13,700	---

DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
Information technology systems.....	4,055,500	4,184,571	4,105,500	+50,000	-79,071
Veterans Electronic Health Record.....	782,000	1,207,000	1,207,000	+425,000	---
Office of Inspector General.....	164,000	172,054	172,054	+8,054	---
Construction, major projects.....	512,430	1,127,486	1,127,486	+615,056	---
Construction, minor projects.....	342,570	706,889	649,514	+306,944	-57,375
Hurricane Supplemental (P.L. 115-123) (Emergency).....	4,088	---	---	-4,088	---
Subtotal.....	346,658	706,889	649,514	+302,856	-57,375
Grants for construction of State extended care facilities.....	110,000	150,000	150,000	+40,000	---
Grants for the construction of veterans cemeteries.....	45,000	45,000	45,000	---	---
Total, Departmental Administration.....	6,512,527	8,135,377	7,977,393	+1,464,866	-157,984
Administrative Provisions					
Mandatory disability exams language (Sec. 256).....	25,000	---	---	-25,000	---
Medical services (Sec. 237) (rescission).....	-751,000	---	---	+751,000	---
VA deferred maintenance (Sec. 238).....	2,000,000	---	2,000,000	---	+2,000,000
Construction, major projects:					
Sec. 243(a) rescission.....	-10,000	---	---	+10,000	---
Sec. 243(b) reappropriation.....	10,000	---	---	-10,000	---
Sec. 243(c) rescission.....	-410,000	---	---	+410,000	---
Sec. 243(d) reappropriation.....	410,000	---	---	-410,000	---
Total, Administrative Provisions.....	1,274,000	---	2,000,000	+726,000	+2,000,000
Total title II.....	193,605,227	212,907,048	212,907,048	+19,301,821	---
Appropriations.....	(15,853,707)	(16,060,019)	(16,060,019)	(+206,312)	---
Reappropriations.....	(420,000)	---	---	(-420,000)	---
Emergency appropriations.....	(93,480)	---	---	(-93,480)	---
Rescissions.....	(-1,171,000)	---	---	(+1,171,000)	---
(By transfer).....	(312,137)	(316,578)	(321,378)	(+9,241)	(+4,800)
Advance Appropriations, FY 2020:					
Mandatory.....	(107,709,727)	(121,296,429)	(121,296,429)	(+13,586,702)	---
Discretionary.....	(70,699,313)	(75,550,600)	(75,550,600)	(+4,851,287)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations:					
Mandatory.....	(103,935,996)	(107,709,727)	(107,709,727)	(+3,773,731)	---
Discretionary.....	(66,385,032)	(70,699,313)	(70,699,313)	(+4,314,281)	---
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,856)	(2,537)	(2,537)	(-319)	---
Discretionary.....	(85,883,061)	(90,200,287)	(90,200,287)	(+4,317,226)	---
Advances from prior year less FY 2020 advances	(-4,314,281)	(-4,851,287)	(-4,851,287)	(-537,006)	---
Net discretionary.....	(81,475,300)	(85,349,000)	(85,349,000)	(+3,873,700)	---
Mandatory.....	(107,722,166)	(122,706,761)	(122,706,761)	(+14,984,595)	---
Advances from prior year less FY 2020 advances	(-3,773,731)	(-13,586,702)	(-13,586,702)	(-9,812,971)	---
Net mandatory.....	(103,948,435)	(109,120,059)	(109,120,059)	(+5,171,624)	---
Total mandatory and discretionary.....	185,423,735	194,469,059	194,469,059	+9,045,324	---
TITLE III - RELATED AGENCIES					
American Battle Monuments Commission					
Salaries and expenses.....	79,000	75,100	75,100	-3,900	---
Total, American Battle Monuments Commission.....	79,000	75,100	75,100	-3,900	---

DIVISION C - MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
 APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2019 (H.R. 5895)  
 (Amounts in thousands)

	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Request	Bill	Bill vs. Enacted	Bill vs. Request
<hr/>					
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims					
Salaries and expenses.....	33,600	107,455	33,600	---	-73,855
Department of Defense - Civil					
Cemeterial Expenses, Army					
Salaries and expenses.....	80,800	70,800	70,800	-10,000	---
Construction.....	167,000	---	73,855	-93,145	+73,855
Total, Cemeterial Expenses, Army.....	247,800	70,800	144,655	-103,145	+73,855
Armed Forces Retirement Home - Trust Fund					
Operation and maintenance.....	41,300	41,300	41,300	---	---
Capital program.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	---	---
Payment from General Fund.....	22,000	22,000	22,000	---	---
Total, Armed Forces Retirement Home.....	64,300	64,300	64,300	---	---
Total, title III.....	424,700	317,655	317,655	-107,045	---
<hr/>					
TITLE IV - OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS					
Overseas Contingency Operations					
Army.....	130,400	---	---	-130,400	---
Navy.....	13,390	---	---	-13,390	---
Air Force.....	275,522	---	---	-275,522	---
Defense-Wide.....	22,400	---	---	-22,400	---
Subtotal.....	441,712	---	---	-441,712	---
European Deterrence / Reassurance Initiative					
Army.....	15,700	261,250	261,250	+245,550	---
Navy.....	19,858	227,320	227,320	+207,462	---
Air Force.....	270,830	345,800	345,800	+74,970	---
Defense-Wide.....	1,900	87,050	87,050	+85,150	---
Subtotal.....	308,288	921,420	921,420	+613,132	---
Total, title IV.....	750,000	921,420	921,420	+171,420	---
<hr/>					
Grand total.....	205,791,908	224,608,740	224,478,123	+18,686,215	-130,617
Appropriations.....	(26,412,407)	(26,840,291)	(26,780,832)	(+368,425)	(-59,459)
Reappropriations.....	(420,000)	---	---	(-420,000)	---
Rescissions.....	(-1,214,000)	---	(-71,158)	(+1,142,842)	(-71,158)
Advance appropriations, FY 2020.....	(178,409,040)	(196,847,029)	(196,847,029)	(+18,437,989)	---
Overseas contingency operations.....	(750,000)	(921,420)	(921,420)	(+171,420)	---
Advances from prior year appropriations.....	(170,321,028)	(178,409,040)	(178,409,040)	(+8,088,012)	---
(By transfer).....	(312,137)	(316,578)	(321,378)	(+9,241)	(+4,800)
(Transfer out).....	(-312,137)	(-316,578)	(-321,378)	(-9,241)	(-4,800)
(Limitation on direct loans).....	(2,856)	(2,537)	(2,537)	(-319)	---

□ 1530

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the three-bill package that Republicans are bringing to the floor today.

Instead of following regular order and debating and amending the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bills separately, Republican leadership is forcing us to consider them together.

This broken process has a simple aim. Republicans are using America's veterans as pawns to force through cuts to clean energy research and harmful policy provisions that weaken environmental standards.

We all recognize the tremendous debt of gratitude we owe to those who have sacrificed for us in our Armed Forces, as well as their family members who share in their service to our country. That is why it is so important that Congress ensure our veterans receive the honors, benefits, and assistance they have earned.

While I support many of the increases within the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill, Republicans have created a dilemma by transitioning the VA Choice program from mandatory to discretionary funding in the middle of fiscal year 2019.

I want to make it clear: This is a serious decision. It should have been adequately debated.

Even worse, Republicans have blocked consideration of my amendment to solve this problem. That will mean a further squeeze, and perhaps even cuts, to programs that benefit the middle class.

The Bipartisan Budget Act provided an \$18 billion increase for both defense and nondefense discretionary spending between fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

Instead of using those resources to create jobs and grow our economy, Republicans have chosen to devote \$4.8 billion, more than a quarter of that increase, to the Department of Homeland Security, presumably for President Trump's border wall and the deportation force.

Not only is such spending a betrayal of our American values, it is a waste of resources that crowds out investments that keep our families and communities safe, strong, and moving forward.

Frankly, it is just part of a pattern in which Republicans are underfunding bills that will come later in the appropriations process.

For example, Republicans have not provided a single penny in additional resources to the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. What does that mean? This means that they threaten to starve our schools, hurt job training and workplace rights protection, jeopardize Pell grants, and limit access to affordable healthcare, among many other ill effects.

We can and must do better than spending levels that prioritize Presi-

dent Trump's border wall and attacks on immigrant communities over the urgent needs of American children, families, and seniors.

Now, with regard to the Energy and Water bill specifically, we are confronted with a partisan bill that contains cuts to many important priorities for the American people.

With gas prices approaching \$3 a gallon, the bill cuts energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives. It cuts transformational science efforts, such as the successful and popular ARPA-E program.

And just as bad, it contains many harmful riders, including rolling back clean water protections, blocking the National Ocean Policy, further endangering salmon on the Columbia River, and weakening gun safety rules on public lands.

These provisions and the cuts to important priorities that drive innovation and safeguard our national security make it impossible for Democrats to support this bill.

We can and must do better. I urge my colleagues to vote "no," oppose the Republican raw deal that cuts critical priorities, includes harmful poison-pill riders, and sets Congress on a path to future bills that will cause serious pain for American children, families, and seniors.

Before I reserve the balance of my time, I would like to thank our chair, with whom I have always worked cooperatively, and your staff and my staff and all those who spend many, many hours making sure we can work together. However, I do hope, at the end of the process, we can put together a more responsible bipartisan bill.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to present to the House the fiscal year 2019 Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Before I review the details of the bill, I would like to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the appropriations process. Our committee is back on track to bring 12 bills through the committee markup and before the full House for the second year in a row.

I would also like to thank Ranking Members LOWEY and KAPTUR. As always, their thoughtful approach to the issues have made this a better bill, even though I was disappointed that the gentlewoman from New York, who is my friend, said she didn't like the Energy and Water bill just now.

The Energy and Water bill totals \$44.7 billion, which is \$1.5 billion more than last year's level and \$8.2 billion above the budget request.

Increases over last year were targeted to those areas where they are needed most: to provide for our Nation's defense and to support our Nation's infrastructure.

The bill provides a total of \$15.3 billion for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons security programs, including Weapons Activities, Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, and Naval Reactors, a \$644 million increase above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level and \$222 million above the President's budget request.

It aligns with the administration's Nuclear Posture Review and calls for continuing to maintain a strong nuclear deterrent to meet the challenges of a changing security environment, revitalizing our nuclear complex, and supporting effective arms control and nonproliferation efforts.

Additionally, the bill provides for funding increases across the Department of Energy to defend against cyber attacks and within the administration's new Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response Office to strengthen energy-sector cybersecurity preparedness, response, and recovery.

The bill includes strong funding for the Army Corps of Engineers—\$451 million more than last year and \$2.5 billion more than the budget request. This is to address our Nation's critical infrastructure needs.

Harbor maintenance activities are funded at \$1.6 billion, which is \$200 million more than the fiscal year 2018 appropriation. The level exceeds the WRDA annual target by \$160 million and represents—and I am proud of this—95 percent of the estimated revenue.

Basic science research and applied energy research and development programs at the Department of Energy, including Nuclear Energy, Fossil Energy, the Office of Science, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and ARPA-E, are strongly supported in this bill. Taken together, these programs advance the all-of-the-above energy strategy that will support a strong national economy well into the future.

Finally, the bill sends a clear message that it is time to address the long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel and finish the Yucca Mountain license application, with \$220 million going to the Department of Energy and \$47.7 million to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. We simply cannot wait any longer to finish the license application process and proceed to construction and operation of the permanent repository.

This is a strong bill that incorporates priorities and interests of all Members of the House. In fact, this bill addresses, in full or in part, 94 percent of the more than 3,000 separate requests that we received from Members. I urge my colleagues to support this.

Before I end, I would like to say and emphasize what the chairman said. These bills would not be possible without the strong work and the competent

work of the staff of the Energy and Water Appropriations Committee, both minority and majority, and also from our personal offices. They do a great job trying to address the concerns of individual Members and the requests of individual Members. We wouldn't be able to do this without the strong work they do, and I thank them for that.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank the ranking member from New York, NITA LOWEY, for yielding me this time and for the wonderful work she has done on 12 bills, and this is but the first.

I also want to thank the chair of the full committee, Congressman FRELINGHUYSEN, whose service has been so meritorious. We miss his service on the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Committee directly, but he has moved up to greater things.

I also thank Chairman SIMPSON and the members of our fine subcommittee and our staff on our side of the aisle, Jaime Shimek and T.J. Loudermilk, and on the majority side, Angie Giancarlo, for their hard work on this bill under rushed circumstances.

I value the hard work that all of you have put into this bill and the dispatch with which Chair SIMPSON has moved through the process, including with great cordiality.

Our bill contributes to ensuring the critical availability of energy and waterway improvements for domestic stability and national security, not just for today but for the tomorrows to come.

Energy is the power that flows and drives our economy and courses through our Nation. Sometimes people even forget it is there binding our country together at the community level, connecting our Nation from coast to coast, and ensuring our superior defense posture globally.

Our Nation has made enormous strides in increasing our energy independence by developing a broad portfolio of power sources, with no bill more important than this one in reaching the strategic goal of energy independence for America's independence.

But it is not yet time to declare mission accomplished. Today, the price of oil is on the rise again, standing 50 percent higher than it was 1 year ago, due at least in part to unrest across our globe.

It is no secret that every time in recent history—and I am talking 40, 50 years—that fuel prices exceed \$4 per gallon our Nation sinks into deep recession. Actually, energy can become a tourniquet that throttles economic growth, and rising fuel prices means our Nation could be headed there again.

So we must not lose sight of the ultimate goal of energy independence for

American independence. Largely, thanks to the bipartisan budget agreement, the chairman has been able to provide increased funding levels to that end across much of our bill.

Turning to the water and waterway elements in our bill, all essential to human life, our bill significantly increases funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure continued forward progress in all regions of our country across all project areas, including navigation and environmental restoration. All projects are job creators and benefit future economic growth and environmental improvement.

I am grateful for the chairman's continued partnership to address the Asian carp threat to our freshwater Great Lakes ecosystem, as well as for funding to keep our Great Lakes ports open to shippers, which drive economic investment in the Great Lakes region.

And, unfortunately, while the chair has been generous in the funding of most programs, the bill cuts over \$400 million in funding from this year's levels for next year for some of the highest priorities to those of us on this side of the aisle.

Let me enumerate them: energy efficiency and renewable energy, where America is making great strides and nations like China seek to blunt our lead; transformational science driven by the highest level of research in our country, the advanced research and energy we call ARPA-E; and, finally, in the third important area of nuclear nonproliferation.

Those accounts should not be cut. They all exist within the Department of Energy budget.

□ 1545

These programs invest in new horizons to move our country and economy forward through innovation, creating jobs along the way. Think about this: Nearly 3.2 million Americans now work in clean energy industries alone. Those are jobs that didn't exist 35 years ago. Energy means jobs, and new energy systems means economic growth.

I remain troubled by the continued unsustainable spending in the Department of Energy's weapons program. Instead of working to rein in costs, just over a month ago, the administration submitted a budget amendment to begin work on a new, low-yield ballistic missile, as proposed in the Nuclear Posture Review. I remain unconvinced this new capability will actually improve our nuclear deterrent.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. We owe it to the American people to have a full discussion and debate before wandering down a path to new varieties of nuclear weapons, including security, cost, and schedule.

The bill, again, includes several unnecessary and controversial policy rid-

ers, everything related to the Waters of the United States to new language legislating an ongoing court case in the northwest. I ask my colleagues to vote no when I offer an amendment to eliminate all of them.

One of our biggest concerns is the damage this bill does to other bills. It is like musical chairs: if we succeed with our bill, then the 11 bills that follow may not have sufficient funding.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman for leading us to this point. We are very proud to be the first bill on the floor this year, 2018, in the appropriations process.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the new chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies on Appropriations, and I also thank him for his leadership and work on the Homeland Security Subcommittee as well.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be here as the newly appointed chairman of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

I arrived post-midstream and I have a lot to learn. But I have served on this subcommittee before and I have got a great base to start with. CHARLIE DENT and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ developed such a good bill that it was approved by a 47-0 vote in the full committee.

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill provides generously for our servicemembers, our veterans, their families, and our monuments and cemeteries. Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and Ranking Member LOWEY have provided strong support for this bill. I appreciate their leadership, as well as the participation of all of the members of the subcommittee, and I especially want to thank my ranking member, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

The bill contains \$96.9 billion in budget authority, an increase of \$4.2 billion over last year's level. The funding recommendation includes:

\$11.3 billion for military construction, which is a \$412 million, or 3.8 percent, increase over the fiscal year 2018 level. The bill includes \$10.3 billion in base funding and \$921 million in overseas contingency operations funding. The level is \$131 million below the request.

\$85.3 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is an increase of nearly \$4 billion, or 4.8 percent over the FY18 level, and the same as the budget request. Of the \$85.3 billion provided for VA, \$71.2 billion is for medical care for 7 million veterans. We make important investments in many VA programs, including: mental health treatment and suicide prevention; development of the VA electronic health record; prevention of opioid abuse; and disability claims processing.

And \$2 billion is provided as the second year of the budget deal commitment for infrastructure funding for VA facilities.

This bill supports our troops with the facilities necessary to maintain readiness and morale at bases here in the United States and around the world.

In addition, the bill funds our veterans healthcare and benefits systems to ensure that our promise to care for those who have sacrificed in defense of our Nation is met as those men and women return home.

This is a strong bill, and I urge everyone to support it.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for yielding, and I thank her for her leadership on the Appropriations Committee.

I also thank my partner on the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations, Mr. YODER, who was chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee on Appropriations until recently. He carried out his responsibilities as chairman in an inclusive and thoughtful manner. Not only did we hold a budget hearing with almost every agency funded under the bill, but we ended our markup with a bipartisan measure that gives most of the agencies in the legislative branch their full budget request.

Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN is now wielding the gavel for both the full Appropriations Committee and the Legislative Branch Subcommittee. I am grateful for the courtesy he has shown me as full committee chair, and in his short tenure so far as my subcommittee chair. I know he will continue to work with me as the ranking minority member in the same sort of respectful bipartisan manner as Mr. YODER did.

And, of course, I would like to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle: subcommittee clerk Jenny Panone, Tim Monahan, Adam Berg; and, from my office, Anne Sokolov and Ryan Keating.

As Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN noted, the Legislative Branch division of this bill provides \$3.81 billion, excluding Senate items.

With \$456.4 million for the Capitol Police and \$18.8 million for the House Sergeant at Arms, we are looking after the security needs of the Members, staff, and visitors both here in Washington and at our district offices back home.

The bill's \$5.4 million for the Office of Compliance and \$147.6 million for the House chief administrative officer will support our response to the sexual harassment that has been pervasive since longer than any of us have been Members of Congress, but has only recently become a national scandal.

The \$642 million for the Architect of the Capitol will help continue to reduce our backlog of deferred maintenance.

The \$578.9 million for the Government Accountability Office will bring

the Federal Government's premier auditor and watchdog back up to the staffing level it needs to root out waste, fraud, and abuse.

Those are just some of the worthwhile issues to which we are putting taxpayer dollars in the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, I have to oppose this bill. It isn't because the funding for legislative branch agencies or energy and water or military construction and veterans affairs is inadequate. On the contrary. It is because the majority has taken the sequestration relief that Democrats fought for, and used it all for Republican priorities in fiscal year 2019, instead of putting it toward programs that help working people support their families and grow the middle class. That was not what we agreed upon.

A number of the appropriations bills this year won't see an increase at all, even though there are billions more dollars available for domestic spending.

The Republican plan says the Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education bill that funds the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the National Institutes of Health are not priorities, even in the face of the opioid crisis that we see in Ohio.

We are saying it isn't a priority to fund the wage and hour division of the Department of Labor, which enforces Federal minimum wage, overtime pay, and recordkeeping laws to prevent wage theft.

We are saying we don't care about the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, whose mission it is to promote a fair global playing field for workers in the U.S. and around the world by enforcing trade commitments, strengthening labor standards, and more.

We are saying we don't care about job training and apprenticeship programs.

But we somehow have billions of dollars for a wasteful, unnecessary, ineffective border wall?

Shifting domestic spending away from programs that help the middle class isn't the only way in which the majority is effectively violating the bipartisan budget caps deal we agreed to in February.

The majority is also counting over \$1 billion for bipartisan veterans programs against the domestic spending caps, even though those dollars were previously outside the caps. They changed the rules to move it under the caps, and you have to spend less somewhere else. It is just another way of squeezing out funding for Democratic priorities.

And, as we saw earlier today, they are rescinding money that we were relying on to write 2019 spending bills that made adequate investments in our country under the budget cap levels. Both sides understood we would use rescinded money to cover investments in health and education, for example, and

now the Republicans are taking that away. Again, changing the rules to squeeze out spending for programs that help working families.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Lastly, Republicans are trying to simply sit on some of the domestic funds we agreed to in the bipartisan budget deal in February. For example, in the financial services bill, Republicans are taking \$585 million away.

If Republicans think they can get all the way through this year's appropriations process without bipartisan cooperation, good luck. And to get cooperation, you have to show good faith. We had a deal, we need to keep the deal.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we can return to working together, like we did when we produced the fiscal year 2018 omnibus, less than 3 months ago. There is still time. But, for today, we have to oppose this bill.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT), the chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and thank him for getting through such a successful markup of 5 hours yesterday afternoon. Actually, I thank all members for their perseverance in that regard.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of these appropriations bills on the floor.

I thank the full committee chairman, RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN, for his dedication to regular order. We are committed to fulfilling our constitutional responsibility and pass these bills before the end of the fiscal year, and I commend the relevant chairmen and ranking members for their hard work on these bills.

One of the most important duties of Members of Congress is to provide for the United States Armed Forces. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill does just that. In particular, the bill provides \$50 million in force protection funding for each of the services. This money could be used for access control points, air traffic control towers, and fire stations.

This funding is particularly important for bases near my congressional district: March Air Reserve Base and Camp Pendleton. March Air Reserve Base is busier than ever, including managing the deployment of over 4,000 troops every month. In order to ensure the safety of these brave men and women, a new main gate complex is needed.

At Camp Pendleton, the fire stations are in dire need of replacement. Of the top six fire stations identified for replacement by the Navy, five are at Camp Pendleton. Of the full-time stations, all but three are spartan wood-

frame structures built in the 1940s. The funding in this bill would start the process of replacing old, outdated fire stations with contemporary structures able to respond to the needs of our United States Marine Corps.

I also support the Energy and Water portion of the bill put forward by my friend MIKE SIMPSON. The robust funding for the Bureau of Reclamation will go to critical infrastructure, including \$134 million for water storage projects. The bill includes language directing FERC to continue working with the industry on cost-effective ways to increase the resilience of our electric transmission system. This is especially important following one of the worst fire seasons in California's modern history.

The bill also provides strong funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, allowing them to update and improve water projects throughout the country. The report contains much-needed language for the Murrieta Creek project in my own district. The report highlights that the project is critical to the health, safety, and protection of the communities of Murrieta and Temecula.

Finally, the bill also repeals the disastrous Waters of the United States rule that would significantly restrict the ability of private landowners to make decisions about their own property. Deciding how water should be used is a State and local issue, not the Federal Government.

□ 1600

Mr. Chair, I thank the full committee chairman and ranking member, the relevant subcommittee chairmen and ranking members, and staff for their diligent work.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of the bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I also thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN and former Chairman DENT for their hard work on the bill.

Mr. Chair, I recognize Chairman CARTER for taking up the reins on this bill. It is not an easy, carefree situation to come in and take over after a bill has been completely written and then have to manage it. But I am confident, given the track record that I have seen Chairman CARTER have, that it is going to be an absolute pleasure to work with him, as it has been all throughout my tenure on the Appropriations Committee.

As you all know, the MILCON-VA bill has a strong reputation for common ground and bipartisanship. Chairman DENT set a cooperative tone and was inclusive throughout the process before his retirement.

The MILCON portion of the bill is up by \$241 million over last year's enacted

level. In my opinion, the fiscal year 2019 request adequately provides funding for both the Active and Reserve components.

One item that I want to point out in the MILCON portion of the bill is new funding for enhancing security and safety. The bill includes \$150 million for enhancing much-needed force protection and safety concerns at military installations. Too often, we had situations where these projects were deferred for big-ticket items and then never made it into the request.

For the Department of Veterans Affairs, title 2 is \$3.9 billion over, for a 5 percent increase above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level.

Mr. Chairman, I am also pleased the bill rejects the administration's proposal to combine the Medical Services and Community Care accounts into one enormous account, which was a bipartisan agreement. Maintaining the old structure of two accounts offers us the most transparency for the committee to both monitor and control spending in these two areas.

Mr. Chairman, while the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs division makes many important investments, it does fall far short in averting the multibillion-dollar funding shortfall at the VA in both the Choice and Community Care programs.

The majority has acknowledged this fact because included in the rule was a self-executing amendment that added \$1.1 billion to the Community Care account to address a discretionary shortfall caused by the VA MISSION Act, which the Democrats had repeatedly since the introduction and passage of the MISSION Act warned the majority about.

Even with this additional \$1.1 billion, the bill fails to address the \$1.6 billion shortfall in traditional Community Care due to increased requirements. And it does nothing to address the long-term stability of the Veterans Community Care program, which CBO now estimates will need an additional \$1 billion for fiscal year 2019 and at least \$47 billion from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2023.

This future shortfall—make no mistake, you can take this to the bank, mark my words—if we don't deal with this, will ultimately force the VA to begin cannibalizing other critical VA priorities.

Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member LOWEY submitted an amendment to the Rules Committee that would have addressed this issue, as did Mr. WALZ in the VA authorizing process, that would have preserved the Bipartisan Budget Act deal and prevented cuts to VA programs.

It also would have held nondefense discretionary caps for VA negotiated under the Bipartisan Budget Act harmless when funding for the Veterans Choice Program is transferred from mandatory to discretionary accounts.

Another concern I have is that, despite calls to return to regular order,

as many of my colleagues have discussed here today, we are instead taking up, completely unnecessarily—because we have plenty of time to do this—three bills at once. This year especially, the process should have been better.

The bipartisan budget agreement enacted in February provided us relief from unworkable discretionary spending caps by giving this committee a bipartisan top-line number for fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019. Yet here we are, for the second straight year, doing another minibus. This is extremely disappointing, and it is nowhere close to regular order.

Mr. Chairman, if we want to return to regular order, we have to know the full 302(b) picture at the beginning of this process, not five bills in to when we have marked up over a third of the bills that we consider every year. We have to return to considering bills one at a time and under an open process that allows each Member of this body to have reasonable input.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot continue to govern in this fashion. We must stop listening to the most extreme voices, because it is clear that passing any appropriations bill at the end of the day that will be signed into law is going to require a bipartisan majority of both houses, which this minibus will not get, in my estimation.

As a result of this irresponsible posture, I am incredibly disappointed that I will be voting against the minibus and look forward to working towards an appropriations product that both parties have actually worked on together and can support.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN), a valuable member of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 5895.

But before I do that, I want to thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for his tremendous hard work and efforts and also the ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY, for her hard work on this bill as well.

Mr. Chair, this bill combines the appropriation bills for Energy and Water Development, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Legislative Branch.

As the vice chairman of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, I am especially proud to support this bill, which reflects the hard work of the subcommittee members and staff under the leadership of Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR.

This bill provides robust funding for the National Nuclear Security Administration to maintain the safety and readiness of our Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile, addresses aging infrastructure in our weapons complex facilities, and supports current and future missions of our great nuclear Navy.

Another issue that is near and dear to me is nuclear cleanup, as both Y-12 and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory have significant ongoing cleanup missions.

As the chairman of the Nuclear Cleanup Caucus, I know that addressing the legacy of the Cold War in communities around the Nation is a vital Federal commitment. This bill provides the Department of Energy's Office of Environmental Management with the funding it needs to continue to live up to this commitment.

I am also pleased with the strong support in this bill for the Department of Energy's Office of Science. Notably, this bill supports continued investment in the area of supercomputing and supports the Department of Energy's goal to deploy a first-in-the-world exascale supercomputer. Much of that critical research will take place at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

There is also continued support for Oak Ridge National Laboratory's high-flux neutron sources, which enable novel scientific research into the fundamental nature of matter that can be formed nowhere else in the world.

Funding in this bill provides critical infrastructure for our waterways, which is essential to our economy.

Mr. Chair, I will close by reiterating my full, strong support for this bill and encouraging all of my colleagues to support this bill and support the incredibly important national priorities that it funds.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member, Mrs. LOWEY, for yielding.

I rise twice today in sadness. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, albeit on leave, I have great respect for this committee, but I rise to express my concern with this minibus legislation.

Republicans brought it to the floor through a closed process and without an agreement on funding levels. Doing so, of course, shuts down debate, limits opportunity for Members to amend an appropriations bill, and sets the House up once again to shortchange important domestic priorities like healthcare and education.

And let me say to my friends on the majority side, who regularly and strongly and somewhat sanctimoniously attacked putting bills together, not considering them one at a time, and have now repaired to this 'bus system, they are putting America under the bus. And they are putting regular order under the bus. And they are putting the ability to consider bills under the bus.

This minibus includes problematic cuts to funding for renewable energy programs, changes to gun safety rules, and a weakening of environmental protections. So if you are for MILCON and you are for the Leg bill, you ought to

vote for the stuff you don't like. That is what this process does to all of us.

I am also particularly concerned with the title funding the legislative branch. Most people won't talk about this, but, yes, I am known as a person of this institution, and I am proud of it. I am also proud that I have fought for Members for over two decades as a leader.

As many of my colleagues are aware but few Americans might be, the people's Representatives have been asked to do more and more each year with fewer and fewer resources. The Members' Representational Allowance exists in order to ensure that Members and their staff can serve their districts and constituents in the most effective and responsible way possible.

For example, my office—and all of yours—uses its resources to help veterans navigate the VA system, help seniors collect their Social Security benefits, and to advocate for our district's critical military and civilian installations.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the MRA is often considered the low-hanging fruit of discretionary cuts, a political messaging freebie that has no constituency to advocate on its behalf.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. As result, the MRA today has shrunk to 85 percent of what it was 8 years ago. Meanwhile, the population of the United States has grown by an estimated 19 million people. Less service for our people.

That is why I wrote the Appropriations Committee and asked the MRA be funded at least at 2010 levels, 8 years ago. I am disappointed that was not done.

At the same time—and, Members, hear this, because most of you won't say it because you are afraid that somehow your constituents will make you pay the price—we have once again frozen the cost-of-living adjustment as the costs go up in Washington, D.C.

I don't ask for a raise for Members, but I do ask that they be kept at the same level. We ought to stop all this hair-shirting in this body and treat Members with the respect that they deserve.

Mr. Chair, I will vote against this bill. I will vote against this bill because it is bad process and bad product and lets the American people down.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a new member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN for his leadership on this bill with scores of amendments through committee.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

This bill makes key investments in water resources infrastructure and coastal flood protection, increases funding for veterans healthcare and benefits, bolsters our military assets, and increases funding for the Capitol Police by \$29 million.

Of great importance to my district, Mr. Chair, in northeast Florida is the MILCON appropriation, which includes \$111 million for two much-needed facilities for the training and support of the littoral combat ship crews at Naval Station Mayport. These facilities will ensure that the LCS crews are efficiently and adequately trained as we continue to rebuild our fleet and deploy these ships in the future.

Mr. Chair, I am grateful to former Chairman DENT, Chairman CARTER, the committee staff, and my colleagues for their hard work on this package, and I urge its passage.

□ 1615

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman FRELINGHUYSEN as well as Chairman SIMPSON for their hard work on this package of bills.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5895, which includes the fiscal year 2019 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill.

Of all the funding bills I work on with my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the Energy and Water legislation is one of the most important for my district of central Washington.

From supporting the continued cleanup efforts at the Hanford nuclear site to boosting the groundbreaking scientific research conducted at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, to aiding the vitally important water projects managed and developed by both the Army Corps of Engineers as well as the Bureau of Reclamation, this bill is composed of important resources for central Washington.

Regarding Hanford, I am proud this bill restores more than \$200 million from the President's request for the Richland office to continue providing for continued safe and effective cleanup operations onsite.

I am also pleased with the restoration of more than \$40 million to the Office of River Protection to continue important work on the 56 million gallons of radioactive nuclear waste that is stored at the site.

I remain steadfast in my commitment to holding the Federal Government accountable to its moral and legal obligation to the cleanup of the Hanford site, and this bill does precisely that, so thank you.

I am also encouraged by this legislation's demonstrated commitment to

moving forward with Yucca Mountain as the lead geological repository for legacy waste and spent nuclear fuel, as well as the continued commitment to support science, including robust funding for Basic Energy Sciences, cybersecurity, and the National Nuclear Security Administration. These programs are important for the groundbreaking work conducted at PNNL to tackle some of the most challenging problems in energy, the environment, and in national security.

Finally, this legislation includes a provision that I authored to stop the dangerous, antiscience forced spill order currently in effect on the eight lower Snake and lower Columbia River dams, which began in early April of this year.

Just a week ago, Mr. Chairman, we received news from the Army Corps that fish managers are having to take measures to manage the effects of this reckless spill order. High flow rates from the forced spill are causing fish to stall in their migration upstream, with only 300 to 400 spring chinook passing through Little Goose Dam in late May. However, after the Corps reduced the spill rate by just 20 percent a week ago, the daily passage rose to 2,689 fish. This demonstrates the strain the spill order is placing on our endangered species.

Some of my colleagues refuse to acknowledge this unambiguous scientific data and claim to support endangered fish species with their words.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman an additional 15 seconds.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chair, they claim to support the endangered species with their words but not with their actions.

I am proud to have advocated for the inclusion of this language to stop this misguided spill to help save our fish and save our dams.

I urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 5895.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), chairman of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this first package of FY 2019 appropriations bills. This combined bill that we are talking about today is the start of the process, and it is a good example of how the House is doing its job.

We have had a lot of hearings and we have had a lot of meetings with administration officials over the last several months, and we have talked about their budget and how they justified it and how we are moving through the process.

The Appropriations Committee has now taken action. We have marked up

and passed these bills that are before us out of the subcommittee. We have passed them out of the committee. The House has taken action with this legislative package that we will pass tomorrow, and now it is the Senate's turn.

Mr. Chairman, let me point out that the Senate has passed just two appropriations bills through subcommittee and full committee and had floor votes in the Senate since 2012, just two standalone bills in 6 years.

Mr. Chairman, certainly I think it is a real problem. The House is doing its job and it is time for the Senate to do theirs, and they may have to stay in session during the month of August to get their work done.

The President has promised that he will not sign another 12-bill package omnibus bill. We are doing our part here to ensure the process moves forward and that we have the bills to conference with the Senate once they are completed. So I urge my colleagues to support this three-bill package to fund our veterans' healthcare, infrastructure package, and these other important programs.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO), a great member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chairman, as a member of the committee of jurisdiction, I am proud to rise today in strong support of the fiscal year 2019 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

Our military servicemembers have made immeasurable sacrifices for our Nation, and we are forever indebted to the brave men and women who have served. Providing access to benefits ranging from medical care to education opportunities is a small, yet important, symbol of gratitude for their service.

The bill before us today improves the management of the VA facilities across the Nation and rebuilds our military infrastructure at facilities such as Naval Air Station Lemoore in California's 21st Congressional District, the district I have the honor of representing.

But, most importantly, the legislation ensures our veterans get the care they deserve. In fact, I am proud to say this historic piece of legislation provides the VA with more financial resources than any other previous year, resources desperately needed in order to ensure our veterans receive the services and treatment they have earned and truly deserve.

In rural areas like California's Central Valley, where unemployment is high and primary care options are limited, healthcare options are, unfortunately, inadequate. This is especially true for our Nation's veterans living in rural America. However, this package delivers targeted, results-oriented solutions to increase access to healthcare

for 3 million veterans living in rural communities across the Nation.

On top of that, more than 450,000 veterans from coast to coast are waiting to be compensated for medical claims they have submitted to the VA, and this is simply unacceptable. As a result of this legislation, we can cut through that backlog and provide our veterans with the financial relief they desperately need.

Mr. Chairman, I stand here today representing the 22,000 veterans who call California's 21st Congressional District home. They have sacrificed so much for us and it is past time that we repay the favor.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), chairman of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of increased funding for the Moab UMTRA project in the underlying legislation. This bill would fund the site cleanup at \$42 million, an increase of approximately \$4 million over last year's funding.

Located just across the street from Arches National Park, the Energy Department is currently undertaking the largest uranium mill tailing pile relocation in the United States. Once the cleanup is complete, this valuable real estate can be used for a wide variety of economic and other uses in the area.

I appreciate the leadership of Chairman SIMPSON on this issue as well as his support of other programs that are important to the West within his subcommittee. I urge my colleagues to support funding for the Moab UMTRA project as well as the underlying legislation.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate my colleague's support for the cleanup activities of the Department of Energy.

The bill provides \$62 million for the cleanup at DOE's nondefense small sites, \$7.1 million above the budget request. Within that, funding for the Moab uranium mill tailings site is available at \$42 million. We would be pleased to work with the gentleman from Utah on expediting cleanup of the site and appreciate his support for the underlying legislation.

Mr. CURTIS. I would like to thank Chairman SIMPSON for his support of the Moab UMTRA cleanup. I look forward to continuing to work on this issue as well as other issues that can benefit our constituents and the American people.

Again, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill, which guts critical

investments in clean energy, guts clean water protection.

The Republican raw deal prioritizes President Trump's border wall and deportation force over much-needed increases to services that help American families, from early childhood education, job training, to securing the sanctity of our elections.

I vote "no," and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to urge Members to vote for this three-bill package. I know that both Members of the majority and minority have worked hard on those bills. I think it is important we deliver this package for the American people.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member LOWEY for yielding and for her tireless work.

Mr. Chair, as a member of the Appropriations Committee, I rise in strong opposition to this bill—H.R. 5895—the Fiscal Year 2019 Energy and Water, Leg Branch, and MilconVA spending bills.

This Republican minibus fails to protect the health, security, and safety of the American people.

And really, this bill is an attempt to block critical funding for education, health, and the economic security.

Once again, Republicans are funding defense at the expense of priorities here at home.

This is shameful and short-sighted.

Mr. Chair, the Pentagon does not need more funding. A Washington Post report in 2016 exposed \$125 billion in waste, fraud and abuse at the Pentagon. But rather than come clean, leaders at the Pentagon chose to bury the report and continue wasting taxpayer dollars.

Yet, Republicans want to increase Defense spending by \$17 billion. Mr. Chair—instead of making defense contractors even richer, how about we start helping struggling families home at home?

At a time when we should invest robustly in the American people, Republicans are doing just the opposite.

The partisan bill before us cuts vital clean energy initiatives, attacks job-creating investments, and slashes funds for nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

All this bill does is make it harder to grow the economy and for hardworking Americans to succeed.

By flat funding four of our most important domestic spending bills—including Labor, HHS, and Education, the funding subcommittee I sit on—there will be less money for job training, education, and public health.

This is a shame, Mr. Chair.

And I am sad to say that with the flat funding of many of our bills—people will lose out.

Americans want good-paying jobs. They want to be able to see a doctor when they're sick. They want safe schools to send their kids to.

But instead, Republicans keep short-changing families so that billionaires, polluters and defense contractors can pad their pockets.

This bill is a disgrace. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-71 shall be considered as adopted, and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 5895

*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 "Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019".*

## **DIVISION A—ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019**

*The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:*

### **TITLE I**

#### **CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

##### **CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL**

*The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.*

##### **INVESTIGATIONS**

*For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$128,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary shall initiate six new study starts during fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the new starts proposed in the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.*

##### **CONSTRUCTION**

*For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$2,323,000,000, to remain available until expended; of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund as*

*authorized by Public Law 104-303; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover one-half of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: Provided, That the Secretary shall initiate five new construction starts during fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That for new construction projects, project cost sharing agreements shall be executed as soon as practicable but no later than August 31, 2019: Provided further, That no allocation for a new start shall be considered final and no work allowance shall be made until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an out-year funding scenario demonstrating the affordability of the selected new starts and the impacts on other projects: Provided further, That the Secretary may not deviate from the new starts proposed in the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.*

##### **MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES**

*For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$430,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.*

##### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

*For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$3,820,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such sums as are necessary to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors shall be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; and of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected: Provided, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities.*

##### **REGULATORY PROGRAM**

*For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable*

waters and wetlands, \$200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

#### FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$187,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: Provided further, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That not more than 25 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in this title (as designated under such heading in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act) to specific programs, projects, or activities.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;
- (4) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act;
- (5) increases funds for any program, project, or activity by more than \$2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or
- (6) reduces funds for any program, project, or activity by more than \$2,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less.

(b) Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity authorized under section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948, section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, section 208 of the

Flood Control Act of 1954, section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960, section 103 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962, section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968, section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, or section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992.

(c) The Corps of Engineers shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 102. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 103. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$5,400,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 104. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341): Provided, That until an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for any acquisition of buoy chain that is not consistent with 48 CFR 225.7007, subsections (a)(1) and (a)(2).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 595).

SEC. 107. Notwithstanding section 404(f)(2) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(2)), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require a permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.) for the activities identified in subparagraphs (A) and (C) of section 404(f)(1) of the Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(f)(1)(A), (C)).

SEC. 108. The final rule issued by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army entitled "Clean Water Rule: Definition of Waters of the United States" (80 Fed. Reg. 37053 (June 29, 2015)) is repealed, and, until such time as the Administrator and the Secretary issue a final rule after the date of enactment of this Act defining the scope of waters protected under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and such new final rule goes into effect, any regulation or policy revised under, or otherwise affected as a result of, the rule repealed by this section shall be applied as if that repealed rule had not been issued.

SEC. 109. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under sec-

tion 327.0 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), if—

- (1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and
- (2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SEC. 110. For fiscal year 2019, none of the funds provided in this Act or available in the revolving fund established by the Civil Functions Appropriations Act of 1954 (33 U.S.C. 576(a)) may be obligated or expended on a new hopper dredge.

#### TITLE II

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

##### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

##### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$898,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: Provided, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,398,675 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2019, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000 for administrative expenses.

##### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

##### WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and others, \$1,381,992,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$67,393,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$5,551,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: Provided, That such transfers may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: Provided further, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: Provided further, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: Provided further, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: Provided further, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706.

##### CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, \$62,008,000, to be derived from such sums as may be collected in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until

expended: Provided, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

**CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: Provided, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: Provided further, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

**POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION**

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the five regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2020, \$61,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377: Provided, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION**

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase of not to exceed five passenger motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR**

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act;
- (4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits—

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Oper-

ation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “transfer” means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the “Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan” and the “SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan” described in the report entitled “Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995”, prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. Hereinafter, notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period from November 1 through April 30, water users may use their diversion structures for the purpose of recharging the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, when the Secretary, in consultation with the Advisory Committee and Water District 1 watermaster, determines there is water available in excess of that needed to satisfy existing Minidoka Project storage and hydropower rights and ensure operational flexibility.

SEC. 204. Section 9001(d) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 1295) is amended by striking “10” and inserting “20”.

SEC. 205. None of the funds in this Act shall be available to implement the Stipulation of Settlement (Natural Resources Defense Council, et al. v. Kirk Rodgers, et al., Eastern District of California, No. Civ. 9 S-88-1658 LKK/GGH) or subtitle A of title X of Public Law 111-11.

SEC. 206. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for the purchase of water in the State of California to supplement instream flow within a river basin that has suffered a drought within the last two years.

SEC. 207. Section 9(c)(1) of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 (43 U.S.C. 485h(c)(1)) is amended by inserting “and pumped storage hydropower development exclusively using Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs” after “including small conduit hydropower development”.

**TITLE III  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
ENERGY PROGRAMS**

**ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY**

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the

acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,078,640,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$153,700,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

**CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND  
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy sector cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$146,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$11,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

**ELECTRICITY DELIVERY**

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity delivery activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$175,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$17,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

**NUCLEAR ENERGY**

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,346,090,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$66,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

**FOSSIL ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$785,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount \$61,070,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

**NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES**

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

**STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE**

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$252,000,000, to remain available until expended:

Provided, That, as authorized by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-74; 42 U.S.C. 6239 note), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell not to exceed \$300,000,000 of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That the proceeds from such drawdown and sale shall be deposited into the "Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund" during fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That such amounts shall be made available and shall remain available until expended for necessary expenses to carry out the Life Extension II project for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

#### SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT

For the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products, and for other necessary expenses pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241, 6239 note), and section 5010 of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255), \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$125,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$240,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$870,000,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$32,959,000 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, including for the purchase of not to exceed one ambulance for replacement only.

#### SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 16 passenger motor vehicles and one airplane for replacement only, including one bus, \$6,600,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$183,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (Public Law 97-425), as amended (herein-

after referred to as the "NWP"), including the acquisition of any real property or facility construction, or expansion, \$190,000,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 1.62 percent shall be provided to the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada solely for expenditures, other than salaries and expenses of State employees, to conduct scientific oversight responsibilities and participate in licensing activities pursuant to the NWP: Provided further, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 2.91 percent shall be provided to affected units of local government, as defined in the NWP, to conduct appropriate activities and participate in licensing activities under Section 116(c) of the NWP: Provided further, That of the amounts provided to affected units of local government, 7.5 percent shall be made available to affected units of local government in California with the balance made available to affected units of local government in Nevada for distribution as determined by the Nevada affected units of local government: Provided further, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 0.16 percent shall be provided to the affected Federally-recognized Indian tribes, as defined in the NWP, solely for expenditures, other than salaries and expenses of tribal employees, to conduct appropriate activities and participate in licensing activities under section 118(b) of the NWP: Provided further, That of the funds made available in this Act for nuclear waste disposal and defense nuclear waste disposal activities, 3.0 percent shall be provided to Nye County, Nevada, 0.05 percent shall be provided to Clark County, Nevada, and 0.46 percent shall be provided to the State of Nevada as payment equal to taxes under section 116(c)(3) of the NWP: Provided further, That within 90 days of the completion of each Federal fiscal year, the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Nevada, each affected Federally-recognized Indian tribe, and each of the affected units of local government shall provide certification to the Department of Energy that all funds expended from such payments have been expended for activities authorized by the NWP and this Act: Provided further, That failure to provide such certification shall cause such entity to be prohibited from any further funding provided for similar activities: Provided further, That none of the funds herein appropriated may be: (1) used for litigation expenses; (2) used for interim storage activities; or (3) used to support multi-State efforts or other coalition building activities inconsistent with the restrictions contained in this Act: Provided further, That all proceeds and recoveries realized by the Secretary in carrying out activities authorized by the NWP, including but not limited to any proceeds from the sale of assets, shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended, for carrying out the purposes of this account.

#### ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$325,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$29,250,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

#### TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided, That for

necessary administrative expenses to carry out this Loan Guarantee program, \$32,000,000 is appropriated from fees collected in prior years pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 which are not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That if the amount in the previous proviso is not available from such fees, an amount for such purposes is also appropriated from the general fund so as to result in a total amount appropriated for such purpose of no more than \$32,000,000: Provided further, That fees collected pursuant to such section 1702(h) for fiscal year 2019 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and shall not be available until appropriated: Provided further, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

#### ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

#### TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, \$1,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$280,524,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): Provided, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: Provided further, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$96,000,000 in fiscal year 2019 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$184,524,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$51,330,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

#### ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed one ambulance for replacement only, \$11,200,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount,

\$102,022,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

#### DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed three aircraft, \$1,902,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### NAVAL REACTORS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$1,788,618,000, to remain available until expended, of which, \$85,500,000 shall be transferred to “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy”, for the Advanced Test Reactor: Provided, That of such amount, \$48,709,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

#### FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$422,529,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$12,000.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

##### DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and the purchase of not to exceed one passenger minivan for replacement only, \$5,759,220,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$295,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

##### OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$870,300,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of such amount, \$301,085,000 shall be available until September 30, 2020, for program direction.

#### DEFENSE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, as amended, including the acquisition of real property or facility construction or expansion, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

##### BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Pub-

lic Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: Provided, That during fiscal year 2019, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$6,500,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$6,500,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$55,360,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$45,802,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$35,402,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation estimated at not more than \$10,400,000: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$10,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

#### CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$265,142,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$265,142,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: Provided, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$175,770,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation estimated at not more than \$89,372,000, of which \$89,372,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: Provided further, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$180,408,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

#### FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$5,207,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): Provided, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$4,979,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: Provided further, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: Provided further, That for fiscal year 2019, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$122,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: Provided further, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and

Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$369,900,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$369,900,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2019 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2019 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

**GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal

Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the “Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2019 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 305. The Secretary of Energy may not transfer more than \$274,833,000 from the amounts made available under this title to the working capital fund established under section

653 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7263): Provided, That the Secretary may transfer additional amounts to the working capital fund after the Secretary provides notification in advance of any such transfer to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That any such notification shall identify the sources of funds by program, project, or activity: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before adding or removing any activities from the fund.

SEC. 306. (a) None of the funds made available in this or any prior Act under the heading “Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation” may be made available to enter into new contracts with, or new agreements for Federal assistance to, the Russian Federation.

(b) The Secretary of Energy may waive the prohibition in subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that such activity is in the national security interests of the United States. This waiver authority may not be delegated.

(c) A waiver under subsection (b) shall not be effective until 15 days after the date on which the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, in classified form if necessary, a report on the justification for the waiver.

SEC. 307. (a) NEW REGIONAL RESERVES.—The Secretary of Energy may not establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submission and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(b) The budget request or notification shall include—

(1) the justification for the new reserve;

(2) a cost estimate for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(3) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(4) the location of the reserve; and

(5) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

SEC. 308. (a) Funds provided by this Act for Project 99-D-143, Mixed Oxide Fuel Fabrication Facility, and any funds provided by prior Acts for such Project that remain unobligated, may be made available only for construction and project support activities for such Project.

(b) The Secretary of Energy may waive the requirement under subsection (a) if the Secretary concurrently submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress—

(1) the commitment, certification, and details described in section 3121(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 131 Stat. 1892); and

(2) the lifecycle cost estimate used to make such certification.

(c) If the Secretary waives the requirements under subsection (a), the Secretary may not use funds provided for the Project described in such subsection to eliminate such Project until the date that is 30 days after the submission of the lifecycle cost estimate required under subsection (b)(2).

SEC. 309. Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), upon a determination by the President in this fiscal year that a regional supply shortage of refined petroleum product of significant scope and duration exists, that a severe increase in the price of refined petroleum product will likely result from such shortage, and that a draw down and sale of refined petroleum product would assist directly and significantly in reducing the adverse impact of such shortage, the Secretary of Energy may draw down and sell refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Proceeds from a sale under this section shall be deposited into the SPR Petroleum Account established in section 167 of the

Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247), and such amounts shall be available for obligation, without fiscal year limitation, consistent with that section.

SEC. 310. (a) REPORT.—The Secretary of Energy shall submit to Congress and the State of Nevada a report on the potential of locating a reprocessing or recycling facility for spent nuclear fuel near the Yucca Mountain site.

(b) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in the report required under subsection (a) a description of—

(1) the energy technology benefits associated with a reprocessing or recycling facility for spent nuclear fuel;

(2) the potential economic benefits for the host community associated with such a facility, including employment, infrastructure development, and workforce development benefits;

(3) the energy and national security implications for the supply and availability of nuclear fuel associated with such a facility; and

(4) the potential for locating other nuclear fuel cycle facilities near the Yucca Mountain site, such as an enrichment facility for national defense purposes.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In preparing the report required under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with institutions in the Nevada System of Higher Education, as defined by the State of Nevada, with prior reprocessing research experience.

(d) YUCCA MOUNTAIN SITE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Yucca Mountain site” has the meaning given that term in section 2(30) of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101(30)).

#### TITLE IV

##### INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

###### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$155,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$31,243,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

###### DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: Provided, That funds shall be available for construction projects in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-

Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

###### NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$12,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

###### SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$250,000, to remain available until expended.

###### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$953,050,000, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$25,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$47,700,000 shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund: Provided, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$9,500,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which, notwithstanding section 201(a)(2)(c) of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5841(a)(2)(c)), the use and expenditure shall only be approved by a majority vote of the Commission: Provided further, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$763,640,000 in fiscal year 2019 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, not less than \$9,896,000 shall be for activities related to the development of regulatory infrastructure for advanced nuclear technologies, and \$16,080,000 shall be for international activities, except that the amounts provided under this proviso shall not be derived from fee revenues, notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 2214: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2019 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation estimated at not more than \$189,410,000: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$10,000,000 shall be for university research and development in areas relevant to the Commission's mission, and \$5,000,000 shall be for a Nuclear Science and Engineering Grant Program that will support multiyear projects that do not align with programmatic missions but are critical to maintaining the discipline of nuclear science and engineering, except that the amounts provided under this proviso shall not be derived from fee revenues, notwithstanding 42 U.S.C. 2214.

###### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$12,609,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$10,355,000 in fiscal year 2019 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2020, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: Provided further, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2019 so as to result in a final fiscal year

2019 appropriation estimated at not more than \$2,254,000: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$1,103,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, which shall not be available from fee revenues.

###### NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

###### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$3,600,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

###### GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information, consistent with Department of Justice guidance for all federal agencies.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for “Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses” shall be expended as directed in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act.

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

#### TITLE V

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations

accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report of the Committee on Appropriations accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semi-annual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 503. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of Executive Order No. 12898 of February 11, 1994 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations).

SEC. 504. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to further implementation of the coastal and marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management components of the National Ocean Policy developed under Executive Order No. 13547 of July 19, 2010.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act, or federal funds provided from any other source, may be used to operate the Federal Columbia River Power System hydroelectric dams in a manner that is inconsistent with the Army Corps of Engineers' 2017 Fish Operations Plan.

SEC. 507. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the removal of any federally owned or operated dam unless the removal was previously authorized by Congress.

SEC. 508. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to conduct closure of adjudicatory functions, technical review, or support activities associated with the Yucca Mountain geologic repository license application, or for actions that irrevocably remove the possibility that Yucca Mountain may be a repository option in the future.

#### REFERENCES TO ACT

SEC. 509. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

#### REFERENCES TO REPORT

SEC. 510. Any reference to a "report accompanying this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-697. The effect of such Report shall be limited to this division and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this division.

#### SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 511. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

This division may be cited as the "Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019".

#### DIVISION B—LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

#### TITLE I

#### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

#### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the House of Representatives, \$1,232,143,035, as follows:

#### HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES

For salaries and expenses, as authorized by law, \$25,378,875, including: Office of the Speaker, \$7,123,634, including \$25,000 for official expenses of the Speaker; Office of the Majority Floor Leader, \$2,642,739, including \$10,000 for official expenses of the Majority Leader; Office of the Minority Floor Leader, \$7,751,946, including \$10,000 for official expenses of the Minority Leader; Office of the Majority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Majority Whip, \$2,197,163, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Majority Whip; Office of the Minority Whip, including the Chief Deputy Minority Whip, \$1,700,079, including \$5,000 for official expenses of the Minority Whip; Republican Conference, \$2,186,819; Democratic Caucus, \$1,776,495: Provided, That such amount for salaries and expenses shall remain available from January 3, 2019 until January 2, 2020.

#### MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES

#### INCLUDING MEMBERS' CLERK HIRE, OFFICIAL EXPENSES OF MEMBERS, AND OFFICIAL MAIL

For Members' representational allowances, including Members' clerk hire, official expenses, and official mail, \$573,630,000.

#### COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES

#### STANDING COMMITTEES, SPECIAL AND SELECT

For salaries and expenses of standing committees, special and select, authorized by House resolutions, \$127,903,173: Provided, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2020, except that \$4,000,000 of such amount shall remain available until expended for committee room upgrading.

#### COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

For salaries and expenses of the Committee on Appropriations, \$23,112,971, including studies and examinations of executive agencies and temporary personal services for such committee, to be expended in accordance with section 202(b) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and to be available for reimbursement to agencies for services performed: Provided, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses until December 31, 2020.

#### TOM LANTOS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

For salaries and expenses of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission established under House Resolution 1451, One Hundred Tenth Congress, \$230,000: Provided, That such amount shall remain available for such salaries and expenses from January 3, 2019 until January 3, 2020.

#### SALARIES, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES

For compensation and expenses of officers and employees, as authorized by law, \$217,845,000, including: for salaries and expenses of the Of-

fice of the Clerk, including the positions of the Chaplain and the Historian, and including not more than \$25,000 for official representation and reception expenses, of which not more than \$20,000 is for the Family Room and not more than \$2,000 is for the Office of the Chaplain, \$28,305,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including the position of Superintendent of Garages and the Office of Emergency Management, and including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$18,773,000 of which \$5,524,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer including not more than \$3,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$147,558,000, of which \$11,631,000 shall remain available until expended; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, \$5,019,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of General Counsel, \$1,502,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Parliamentarian, including the Parliamentarian, \$2,000 for preparing the Digest of Rules, and not more than \$1,000 for official representation and reception expenses, \$2,026,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House, \$3,327,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of the Legislative Counsel of the House, \$9,937,000; for salaries and expenses of the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, \$814,000; for other authorized employees, \$584,000.

#### ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES

For allowances and expenses as authorized by House resolution or law, \$264,043,016, including: supplies, materials, administrative costs and Federal tort claims, \$525,016; official mail for committees, leadership offices, and administrative offices of the House, \$190,000; Government contributions for health, retirement, Social Security, and other applicable employee benefits, \$239,000,000, to remain available until March 31, 2020; Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery, \$16,186,000 of which \$5,000,000 shall remain available until expended; transition activities for new members and staff, \$3,000,000, to remain available until expended; Wounded Warrior Program \$2,750,000, to remain available until expended; Office of Congressional Ethics, \$1,670,000; and miscellaneous items including purchase, exchange, maintenance, repair and operation of House motor vehicles, inter-parliamentary receptions, and gratuities to heirs of deceased employees of the House, \$722,000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

#### REQUIRING AMOUNTS REMAINING IN MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES TO BE USED FOR DEFICIT REDUCTION OR TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEBT

SEC. 110. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any amounts appropriated under this Act for "HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—SALARIES AND EXPENSES—MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCES" shall be available only for fiscal year 2019. Any amount remaining after all payments are made under such allowances for fiscal year 2019 shall be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction (or, if there is no Federal budget deficit after all such payments have been made, for reducing the Federal debt, in such manner as the Secretary of the Treasury considers appropriate).

(b) REGULATIONS.—The Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives shall have authority to prescribe regulations to carry out this section.

(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "Member of the House of Representatives" means a Representative in, or a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress.

#### DELIVERY OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SEC. 111. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used to deliver a printed copy of a bill, joint resolution, or resolution to the office of a Member of the House of

Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) unless the Member requests a copy.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

SEC. 112. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used to deliver a printed copy of any version of the Congressional Record to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### LIMITATION ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE TO LEASE VEHICLES

SEC. 113. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to make any payments from any Members' Representational Allowance for the leasing of a vehicle, excluding mobile district offices, in an aggregate amount that exceeds \$1,000 for the vehicle in any month.

#### LIMITATION ON PRINTED COPIES OF U.S. CODE TO HOUSE

SEC. 114. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used to provide an aggregate number of more than 50 printed copies of any edition of the United States Code to all offices of the House of Representatives.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### DELIVERY OF REPORTS OF DISBURSEMENTS

SEC. 115. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used to deliver a printed copy of the report of disbursements for the operations of the House of Representatives under section 106 of the House of Representatives Administration Reform Technical Corrections Act (2 U.S.C. 5535) to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### DELIVERY OF DAILY CALENDAR

SEC. 116. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used to deliver to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) a printed copy of the Daily Calendar of the House of Representatives which is prepared by the Clerk of the House of Representatives.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### DELIVERY OF CONGRESSIONAL PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

SEC. 117. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used to deliver a printed copy of the Congressional Pictorial Directory to the office of a Member of the House of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress).

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR FORMER SPEAKERS

SEC. 118. (a) REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATIONS FOR OFFICE SPACE, OFFICE EXPENSES, FRANKING AND PRINTING PRIVILEGES, AND STAFF.—The first section and sections 2, 4, 5, and 8 of House Resolution 1238, Ninety-first Congress, agreed to December 22, 1970 (as enacted into permanent law by chapter VIII of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1971) (2 U.S.C. 5125(a), 5126, 5127, 5128, and 5129) are repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (b) of the first section of Public Law 93-532 (2 U.S.C. 5125(b)) is repealed.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to any individual who serves as a Representative in

Congress during the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress or any succeeding Congress.

#### ADJUSTMENTS TO COMPENSATION

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no adjustment shall be made under section 601(a) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4501) (relating to cost of living adjustments for Members of Congress) during fiscal year 2019.

#### TRANSFER AUTHORITY

SEC. 120. (a) AUTHORITY TO MAKE TRANSFERS AMONG HOUSE LEADERSHIP OFFICES.—Section 101 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1993 (2 U.S.C. 5507) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) Amounts appropriated for any fiscal year for the House of Representatives under the heading ‘House Leadership Offices’ may be transferred among and merged with the various offices and activities under such heading, effective upon the expiration of the 21-day period (or such alternative period that may be imposed by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives) which begins on the date such Committee has been notified of the transfer.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### JOINT ITEMS

For Joint Committees, as follows:

##### JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Economic Committee, \$4,203,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

##### JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

For salaries and expenses of the Joint Committee on Taxation, \$11,169,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

For other joint items, as follows:

##### OFFICE OF THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN

For medical supplies, equipment, and contingent expenses of the emergency rooms, and for the Attending Physician and his assistants, including:

(1) an allowance of \$2,175 per month to the Attending Physician;

(2) an allowance of \$1,300 per month to the Senior Medical Officer;

(3) an allowance of \$725 per month each to three medical officers while on duty in the Office of the Attending Physician;

(4) an allowance of \$725 per month to 2 assistants and \$580 per month each not to exceed 11 assistants on the basis heretofore provided for such assistants; and

(5) \$2,740,000 for reimbursement to the Department of the Navy for expenses incurred for staff and equipment assigned to the Office of the Attending Physician, which shall be advanced and credited to the applicable appropriation or appropriations from which such salaries, allowances, and other expenses are payable and shall be available for all the purposes thereof, \$3,798,000, to be disbursed by the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

#### OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, \$1,486,000, to be disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate.

#### CAPITOL POLICE

##### SALARIES

For salaries of employees of the Capitol Police, including overtime, hazardous duty pay, and Government contributions for health, retirement, social security, professional liability insurance, and other applicable employee benefits, \$374,804,000 of which overtime shall not exceed \$47,000,000 unless the Committee on Appropriations of the House and Senate are notified, to be

disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee.

#### GENERAL EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Capitol Police, including motor vehicles, communications and other equipment, security equipment and installation, uniforms, weapons, supplies, materials, training, medical services, forensic services, stenographic services, personal and professional services, the employee assistance program, the awards program, postage, communication services, travel advances, relocation of instructor and liaison personnel for the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and not more than \$5,000 to be expended on the certification of the Chief of the Capitol Police in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$81,554,000, to be disbursed by the Chief of the Capitol Police or his designee: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the cost of basic training for the Capitol Police at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center for fiscal year 2019 shall be paid by the Secretary of Homeland Security from funds available to the Department of Homeland Security.

#### OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses of the Office of Compliance, as authorized by section 305 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1385), \$5,410,000, of which \$550,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2019: Provided, That not more than \$500 may be expended on the certification of the Executive Director of the Office of Compliance in connection with official representation and reception expenses.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For salaries and expenses necessary for operation of the Congressional Budget Office, including not more than \$6,000 to be expended on the certification of the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses, \$50,737,000.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

##### RELOCATION EXPENSES

SEC. 130. (a) AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF RELOCATION EXPENSES.—Amounts made available for salaries and expenses of the Congressional Budget Office for a fiscal year may be used to reimburse new employees of the Office for relocation expenses if the Director of the Office determines that reimbursing such expenses is of sufficient benefit or value to the Office.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

#### ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

##### CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONS

For salaries for the Architect of the Capitol, and other personal services, at rates of pay provided by law; for all necessary expenses for surveys and studies, construction, operation, and general and administrative support in connection with facilities and activities under the care of the Architect of the Capitol including the Botanic Garden; electrical substations of the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, and other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol; including furnishings and office equipment; including not more than \$5,000 for official reception and representation expenses, to be expended as the Architect of the Capitol may approve; for purchase or exchange, maintenance, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle, \$103,962,000.

##### CAPITOL BUILDING

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol, \$44,379,000, of which \$17,731,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023.

## CAPITOL GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for care and improvement of grounds surrounding the Capitol, the Senate and House office buildings, and the Capitol Power Plant, \$16,761,000, of which \$5,519,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023.

## HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the House office buildings, \$187,098,000, of which \$127,552,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023, and of which \$62,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the restoration and renovation of the Cannon House Office Building; Provided, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$7,000,000 shall be derived by transfer from the House Office Building Fund established under section 176(d) of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017, as added by section 101(3) of the Further Continuing Appropriation Act, 2017 (Public Law 114–254; 2 U.S.C. 2001 note).

In addition, for a payment to the House Historic Buildings Revitalization Trust Fund, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

## CAPITOL POWER PLANT

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Capitol Power Plant; lighting, heating, power (including the purchase of electrical energy) and water and sewer services for the Capitol, Senate and House office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the grounds about the same, Botanic Garden, Senate garage, and air conditioning refrigeration not supplied from plants in any of such buildings; heating the Government Publishing Office and Washington City Post Office, and heating and chilled water for air conditioning for the Supreme Court Building, the Union Station complex, the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building and the Folger Shakespeare Library, expenses for which shall be advanced or reimbursed upon request of the Architect of the Capitol and amounts so received shall be deposited into the Treasury to the credit of this appropriation, \$118,980,000, of which \$36,292,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That not more than \$9,000,000 of the funds credited or to be reimbursed to this appropriation as herein provided shall be available for obligation during fiscal year 2019.

## LIBRARY BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

For all necessary expenses for the mechanical and structural maintenance, care and operation of the Library buildings and grounds, \$70,201,000, of which \$42,079,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023.

## CAPITOL POLICE BUILDINGS, GROUNDS AND SECURITY

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of buildings, grounds and security enhancements of the United States Capitol Police, wherever located, the Alternate Computing Facility, and Architect of the Capitol security operations, \$52,542,000, of which \$26,605,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023.

## BOTANIC GARDEN

For all necessary expenses for the maintenance, care and operation of the Botanic Garden and the nurseries, buildings, grounds, and collections; and purchase and exchange, maintenance, repair, and operation of a passenger motor vehicle; all under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library, \$14,759,000, of which \$3,559,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of the amount made available under this heading, the Architect of the Capitol may obligate and expend such sums as may be necessary for the maintenance, care and operation of the National Garden established under section 307E of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 1989 (2 U.S.C. 2146), upon vouchers approved by the

Architect of the Capitol or a duly authorized designee.

## CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

For all necessary expenses for the operation of the Capitol Visitor Center, \$23,322,000.

## ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

## NO BONUSES FOR CONTRACTORS BEHIND SCHEDULE OR OVER BUDGET

SEC. 140. None of the funds made available in this Act for the Architect of the Capitol may be used to make incentive or award payments to contractors for work on contracts or programs for which the contractor is behind schedule or over budget, unless the Architect of the Capitol, or agency-employed designee, determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program.

## SCRIMS

SEC. 141. (a) None of the funds made available in any fiscal year may be used for scrims containing photographs of building facades during restoration or construction projects performed by the Architect of the Capitol.

(b) This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

## SECURITY PROGRAMS

SEC. 142. (a) PURPOSE OF PROGRAMS.—Section 906(b) of the 2002 Supplemental Appropriations Act for Further Recovery From and Response To Terrorist Attacks on the United States (2 U.S.C. 1865(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) Funds in the account shall be used by the Architect of the Capitol for all necessary expenses for—

“(1) resilience and security programs of the Architect of the Capitol; and

“(2) the maintenance, care, and operation of buildings, grounds, and security enhancements for facilities of the United States Capitol Police and for other facilities associated with such resilience and security programs at any location.”

(b) TRANSFERS OF FUNDS.—Section 906 of such Act (2 U.S.C. 1865) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

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

“(c)(1) For carrying out the purposes of the account, the Architect of the Capitol may receive transfers of appropriations from any agency or instrumentality of the United States Government upon the approval of—

“(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, in the case of a transfer from an office of the House of Representatives;

“(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, in the case of a transfer from an office of the Senate; or

“(C) the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in the case of a transfer from any other office of the Government.

“(2) Amounts transferred under this subsection shall be merged with the account and made available under this section.

“(3) This subsection shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.”

## INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR SMALL PURCHASE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

SEC. 143. (a) INCREASE.—Section 1201(a)(1) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1821(a)(1)) is amended by striking “\$100,000” and inserting “\$250,000”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

## INTERAGENCY DETAILS

SEC. 144. (a) AUTHORIZING DETAILS OF EMPLOYEES UNDER JOINT AGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

In addition to any other authority relating to the detail of employees, the Architect of the Capitol and the head of any other department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may enter into a joint agency agreement under which—

(1) employees of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (including employees of the United States Botanic Garden) may be detailed to such department, agency, or instrumentality on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis; and

(2) employees of such department, agency, or instrumentality may be detailed to the Office of the Architect of the Capitol on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis.

(b) DURATION.—The detail of an employee under a joint agency agreement under this section shall be for such duration as may be provided in the agreement, except that in the case of a detail made on a non-reimbursable basis, the duration of the detail may not exceed one year unless the Architect of the Capitol and the head of the department, agency, or instrumentality involved each determine that an extension of the detail of the employee is in the public interest.

(c) NO EFFECT ON APPROPRIATIONS OF RECIPIENT OF NON-REIMBURSABLE DETAIL.—For purposes of any law, rule, or regulation, the detail of an employee on a non-reimbursable basis under a joint agency agreement under this section for a fiscal year shall not be treated as an increase or modification of the appropriation for the fiscal year of the office to whom the employee is detailed.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

## ACCEPTANCE OF TRAVEL EXPENSES FROM NON-FEDERAL SOURCES

SEC. 145. (a) PERMITTING ACCEPTANCE OF EXPENSES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Architect of the Capitol may accept payment or authorize an employee of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol to accept payment on the Office's behalf from non-Federal sources for travel, subsistence, and related expenses with respect to attendance of the employee (or the spouse of such employee) at any meeting or similar function relating to the employee's official duties. Any cash payment so accepted shall be credited to the appropriation applicable to such expenses. In the case of a payment in kind so accepted, a pro rata reduction shall be made in any entitlement of the employee to payment from the Government for such expenses.

(b) PROHIBITING ACCEPTANCE FROM OTHER SOURCES.—Except as provided in this section or section 7342 of title 5, United States Code, the Office or an employee of the Office may not accept payment for expenses referred to in subsection (a). An employee who accepts any payment in violation of the preceding sentence—

(1) may be required, in addition to any penalty provided by law, to repay, for deposit in the general fund of the Treasury, an amount equal to the amount of the payment so accepted; and

(2) in the case of a repayment under paragraph (1), shall not be entitled to any payment from the Government for such expenses.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Library of Congress not otherwise provided for, including development and maintenance of the Library's catalogs; custody and custodial care of the Library buildings; special clothing; cleaning, laundering and repair of uniforms; preservation of motion pictures in the custody of the Library; operation and maintenance of the American Folklife Center in the Library; preparation and distribution of catalog records and other publications of the Library; hire or purchase of one

passenger motor vehicle; and expenses of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board not properly chargeable to the income of any trust fund held by the Board, \$493,818,272, of which not more than \$6,000,000 shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2019, and shall remain available until expended, under the Act of June 28, 1902 (chapter 1301; 32 Stat. 480; 2 U.S.C. 150): Provided, That the Library of Congress may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under the Act of June 28, 1902, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: Provided further, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$6,350,000: Provided further, That of the total amount appropriated, not more than \$12,000 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for the Overseas Field Offices: Provided further, That of the total amount appropriated, \$8,589,000 shall remain available until expended for the digital collections and educational curricula program: Provided further, That of the total amount appropriated, \$1,133,000 shall remain available until expended for upgrade of the Legislative Branch Financial Management System: Provided further, That of the total amount appropriated, \$20,000,000 is provided to enhance public exhibits and visitor services at the Library to remain available until expended, may be obligated and expended only upon written approval by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, following review of a project plan.

#### COPYRIGHT OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses of the Copyright Office, \$93,407,000, of which not more than \$39,218,000, to remain available until expended, shall be derived from collections credited to this appropriation during fiscal year 2019 under section 708(d) of title 17, United States Code: Provided, That the Copyright Office may not obligate or expend any funds derived from collections under such section, in excess of the amount authorized for obligation or expenditure in appropriations Acts: Provided further, That not more than \$6,272,000 shall be derived from collections during fiscal year 2019 under sections 111(d)(2), 119(b)(3), 803(e), 1005, and 1316 of such title: Provided further, That the total amount available for obligation shall be reduced by the amount by which collections are less than \$45,490,000: Provided further, That \$4,328,000 shall be derived from prior year unobligated balances: Provided further, That not more than \$100,000 of the amount appropriated is available for the maintenance of an "International Copyright Institute" in the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress for the purpose of training nationals of developing countries in intellectual property laws and policies: Provided further, That not more than \$6,500 may be expended, on the certification of the Librarian of Congress, in connection with official representation and reception expenses for activities of the International Copyright Institute and for copyright delegations, visitors, and seminars: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any provision of chapter 8 of title 17, United States Code, any amounts made available under this heading which are attributable to royalty fees and payments received by the Copyright Office pursuant to sections 111, 119, and chapter 10 of such title may be used for the costs incurred in the administration of the Copyright Royalty Judges program, with the exception of the costs of salaries and benefits for the Copyright Royalty Judges and staff under section 802(e).

#### CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 203 of the Legislative Reor-

ganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 166) and to revise and extend the Annotated Constitution of the United States of America, \$125,688,000: Provided, That no part of such amount may be used to pay any salary or expense in connection with any publication, or preparation of material therefor (except the Digest of Public General Bills), to be issued by the Library of Congress unless such publication has obtained prior approval of either the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives or the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate: Provided further, That this prohibition does not apply to publication of non-confidential Congressional Research Service (CRS) products: Provided further, That a non-confidential CRS product includes any written product containing research or analysis that is currently available for general congressional access on the CRS Congressional Intranet, or that would be made available on the CRS Congressional Intranet in the normal course of business and does not include material prepared in response to Congressional requests for confidential analysis or research.

#### BOOKS FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For all necessary expenses to carry out the Act of March 3, 1931 (chapter 400; 46 Stat. 1487; 2 U.S.C. 135a), \$52,783,000: Provided, That of the total amount appropriated, \$650,000 shall be available to contract to provide newspapers to blind and physically handicapped residents at no cost to the individual.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

##### REIMBURSABLE AND REVOLVING FUND ACTIVITIES

SEC. 150. (a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2019, the obligational authority of the Library of Congress for the activities described in subsection (b) may not exceed \$194,608,000.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are reimbursable and revolving fund activities that are funded from sources other than appropriations to the Library in appropriations Acts for the legislative branch.

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

##### CONGRESSIONAL PUBLISHING

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For authorized publishing of congressional information and the distribution of congressional information in any format; publishing of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed to Members of Congress; and publishing, and distribution of Government publications authorized by law to be distributed without charge to the recipient, \$79,000,000: Provided, That this appropriation shall not be available for paper copies of the permanent edition of the Congressional Record for individual Representatives, Resident Commissioners or Delegates authorized under section 906 of title 44, United States Code: Provided further, That this appropriation shall be available for the payment of obligations incurred under the appropriations for similar purposes for fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That notwithstanding the 2-year limitation under section 718 of title 44, United States Code, none of the funds appropriated or made available under this Act or any other Act for printing and binding and related services provided to Congress under chapter 7 of title 44, United States Code, may be expended to print a document, report, or publication after the 27-month period beginning on the date that such document, report, or publication is authorized by Congress to be printed, unless Congress reauthorizes such printing in accordance with section 718 of title 44, United States Code: Provided further, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year may be transferred to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund for carrying out the pur-

poses of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate: Provided further, That notwithstanding sections 901, 902, and 906 of title 44, United States Code, this appropriation may be used to prepare indexes to the Congressional Record on only a monthly and session basis.

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF DOCUMENTS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses of the public information programs of the Office of Superintendent of Documents necessary to provide for the cataloging and indexing of Government publications and their distribution to the public, Members of Congress, other Government agencies, and designated depository and international exchange libraries as authorized by law, \$32,000,000: Provided, That amounts of not more than \$2,000,000 from current year appropriations are authorized for producing and disseminating Congressional serial sets and other related publications for fiscal years 2017 and 2018 to depository and other designated libraries: Provided further, That any unobligated or unexpended balances in this account or accounts for similar purposes for fiscal year 2019 and each succeeding fiscal year may be transferred to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund for carrying out the purposes of this heading, subject to the approval of the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and Senate.

#### GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE BUSINESS OPERATIONS REVOLVING FUND

For payment to the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund, \$6,000,000, to remain available until expended, for information technology development and facilities repair: Provided, That the Government Publishing Office is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds available and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs and purposes set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for the Government Publishing Office Business Operations Revolving Fund: Provided further, That not more than \$7,500 may be expended on the certification of the Director of the Government Publishing Office in connection with official representation and reception expenses: Provided further, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for the hire or purchase of not more than 12 passenger motor vehicles: Provided further, That expenditures in connection with travel expenses of the advisory councils to the Director of the Government Publishing Office shall be deemed necessary to carry out the provisions of title 44, United States Code: Provided further, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund shall be available for temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title: Provided further, That activities financed through the Business Operations Revolving Fund may provide information in any format: Provided further, That the Business Operations Revolving Fund and the funds provided under the heading "Public Information Programs of the Superintendent of Documents" may not be used for contracted security services at Government Publishing Office's passport facility in the District of Columbia.

#### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Government Accountability Office, including not more than

\$12,500 to be expended on the certification of the Comptroller General of the United States in connection with official representation and reception expenses; temporary or intermittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not more than the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of such title; hire of one passenger motor vehicle; advance payments in foreign countries in accordance with section 3324 of title 31, United States Code; benefits comparable to those payable under sections 901(5), (6), and (8) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4081(5), (6), and (8)); and under regulations prescribed by the Comptroller General of the United States, rental of living quarters in foreign countries, \$578,916,653: Provided, That, in addition, \$23,800,000 of payments received under sections 782, 791, 3521, and 9105 of title 31, United States Code, shall be available without fiscal year limitation: Provided further, That this appropriation and appropriations for administrative expenses of any other department or agency which is a member of the National Intergovernmental Audit Forum or a Regional Intergovernmental Audit Forum shall be available to finance an appropriate share of either Forum's costs as determined by the respective Forum, including necessary travel expenses of non-Federal participants: Provided further, That payments hereunder to the Forum may be credited as reimbursements to any appropriation from which costs involved are initially financed: Provided further, That this appropriation shall be available to transfer amounts to the Department of the Army for the construction of an Army facility at Redstone Arsenal for the sole, unlimited use of GAO: Provided further, That hereafter, amounts appropriated for the salaries and expenses of the Government Accountability Office shall be available to transfer to the Department of the Army for the maintenance of such facility.

#### OPEN WORLD LEADERSHIP CENTER TRUST FUND

For a payment to the Open World Leadership Center Trust Fund for financing activities of the Open World Leadership Center under section 313 of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2001 (2 U.S.C. 1151), \$5,600,000: Provided, That funds made available to support Russian participants shall only be used for those engaging in free market development, humanitarian activities, and civic engagement, and shall not be used for officials of the central government of Russia.

#### JOHN C. STENNIS CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

For payment to the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Development Trust Fund established under section 116 of the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development Act (2 U.S.C. 1105), \$430,000.

#### TITLE II

##### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### MAINTENANCE AND CARE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES

SEC. 201. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be used for the maintenance or care of private vehicles, except for emergency assistance and cleaning as may be provided under regulations relating to parking facilities for the House of Representatives issued by the Committee on House Administration and for the Senate issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

##### FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION

SEC. 202. No part of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond fiscal year 2019 unless expressly so provided in this Act.

##### RATES OF COMPENSATION AND DESIGNATION

SEC. 203. Whenever in this Act any office or position not specifically established by the Legislative Pay Act of 1929 (46 Stat. 32 et seq.) is

appropriated for or the rate of compensation or designation of any office or position appropriated for is different from that specifically established by such Act, the rate of compensation and the designation in this Act shall be the permanent law with respect thereto: Provided, That the provisions in this Act for the various items of official expenses of Members, officers, and committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, and clerk hire for Senators and Members of the House of Representatives shall be the permanent law with respect thereto.

##### CONSULTING SERVICES

SEC. 204. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through procurement contract, under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive order issued under existing law.

##### COSTS OF LBFMC

SEC. 205. Amounts available for administrative expenses of any legislative branch entity which participates in the Legislative Branch Financial Managers Council (LBFMC) established by charter on March 26, 1996, shall be available to finance an appropriate share of LBFMC costs as determined by the LBFMC, except that the total LBFMC costs to be shared among all participating legislative branch entities (in such allocations among the entities as the entities may determine) may not exceed \$2,000.

##### LIMITATION ON TRANSFERS

SEC. 206. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriation Act.

##### GUIDED TOURS OF THE CAPITOL

SEC. 207. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available to the Architect of the Capitol in this Act may be used to eliminate or restrict guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns of offices of Members of Congress and other offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, unless through regulations as authorized by section 402(b)(8) of the Capitol Visitor Center Act of 2008 (2 U.S.C. 2242(b)(8)).

(b) At the direction of the Capitol Police Board, or at the direction of the Architect of the Capitol with the approval of the Capitol Police Board, guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by employees and interns described in subsection (a) may be suspended temporarily or otherwise subject to restriction for security or related reasons to the same extent as guided tours of the United States Capitol which are led by the Architect of the Capitol.

##### REFERENCES TO ACT

SEC. 208. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

##### REFERENCES TO REPORT

SEC. 209. Any reference to a "report accompanying this Act" contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115-696. The effect of such Report shall be limited to this division and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this division.

##### SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 210. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

This division may be cited as the "Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2019".

#### DIVISION C—MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

##### TITLE I

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, \$1,001,768,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$110,068,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, \$2,100,298,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$185,542,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, \$1,454,723,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of this amount, not to exceed \$206,577,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as currently authorized by law, \$2,465,738,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred:

Provided further, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$195,345,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That the Director of the Missile Defense Agency shall provide quarterly reports to the congressional defense committees on the construction timeline and obligations for the Poland Aegis Ashore complex.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$180,122,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$16,622,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$129,126,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$18,500,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$64,919,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$5,855,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$43,065,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$4,695,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the

training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$50,163,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That, of the amount, not to exceed \$4,055,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: Provided further, That, the Chief of the Air Force Reserve shall take immediate action to address unfunded military construction requirements for access control points and security issues at Air Force Reserve facilities.

#### NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

##### SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, \$171,064,000, to remain available until expended.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), \$322,390,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$330,660,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023: Provided, That none of the funds provided under this heading for family housing construction may be expended for family housing improvements on Kwajalein Atoll until the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that the new housing units represent the best value to the taxpayer and that no reasonable alternatives exist at a lower cost.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$376,509,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$104,581,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$314,536,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, \$78,446,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, \$317,274,000.

#### FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, \$58,373,000.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, \$1,653,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, \$600,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed \$25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code, when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than \$25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for

which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed \$500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed \$1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: Provided, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: Provided further, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed \$100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appro-

priated for construction in "Family Housing" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in "Military Construction" accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: Provided, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: Provided, That not more than \$15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: Provided further, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation "Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense", to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), none of the funds made available in this Act may be used by the Secretary of the Army to relocate a unit in the Army that—

(1) performs a testing mission or function that is not performed by any other unit in the Army and is specifically stipulated in title 10, United States Code; and

(2) is located at a military installation at which the total number of civilian employees of the Department of the Army and Army contractor personnel employed exceeds 10 percent of the total number of members of the regular and reserve components of the Army assigned to the installation.

(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Secretary of the Army certifies to the congressional defense committees that in proposing the relocation of the unit of the Army, the Secretary complied with Army Regulation 5–10 relating to the policy, procedures, and responsibilities for Army stationing actions.

SEC. 123. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14-R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 124. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 125. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2023:

"Military Construction, Army", \$44,100,000;  
 "Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps", \$317,800,000;  
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$144,450,000;  
 "Military Construction, Army National Guard", \$11,000,000;  
 "Military Construction, Air National Guard", \$62,000,000;  
 "Military Construction, Army Reserve", \$23,000,000; and  
 "Military Construction, Air Force Reserve", \$84,800,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2019 submitted to Congress: Provided further, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

(RESCISSIONS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 126. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Defense from prior appropriation Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

"NATO Security Investment Program", \$25,000,000;  
 "Military Construction, Air Force", \$31,158,000; and

"The fund established in section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374)", \$15,000,000: Provided, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism or as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term “congressional defense committees” means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 129. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to consolidate or relocate any element of a United States Air Force Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer (RED HORSE) outside of the United States until the Secretary of the Air Force (1) completes an analysis and comparison of the cost and infrastructure investment required to consolidate or relocate a RED HORSE squadron outside of the United States versus within the United States; (2) provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress (“the Committees”) a report detailing the findings of the cost analysis; and (3) certifies in writing to the Committees that the preferred site for the consolidation or relocation yields the greatest savings for the Air Force: Provided, That the term “United States” in this section does not include any territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 130. All amounts appropriated to “Department of Defense—Military Construction accounts for Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Air Force and Defense-Wide” pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in the National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2019 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act, shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, for enhancing force protection and safety at military installations, to remain available until September 30, 2023:

“Military Construction, Army”, \$50,000,000;  
 “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$50,000,000;  
 “Military Construction, Air Force”, \$50,000,000;

Provided, That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: Provided further, That not later than 30 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or his or her designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

## TITLE II

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

##### COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers’ retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106,

and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$108,530,139,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$107,119,807,000 shall become available on October 1, 2019: Provided, That not to exceed \$18,047,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2020 under this heading shall be reimbursed to “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, and “Information Technology Systems” for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the “Compensation and Pensions” appropriation: Provided further, That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to “Medical Care Collections Fund” to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

##### READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, \$14,065,282,000, to remain available until expended and to become available on October 1, 2019: Provided, That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

##### VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen’s indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21, title 38, United States Code, \$111,340,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2019, and shall remain available until expended.

##### VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That, during fiscal year 2019, within the resources available, not to exceed \$500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$200,612,000.

##### VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, \$39,000, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$2,037,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, \$396,000, which may be paid to the appropriation for “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”.

##### NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, \$1,149,000.

##### GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise

provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, \$2,922,000,000: Provided, That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: Provided further, That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

##### VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, aid to State homes as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code, \$48,747,988,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2019, and shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2018, under this heading, \$1,400,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: Provided further, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

##### MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, \$500,000,000 which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2018: and, in addition, \$14,419,786,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2019, and shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2019, under this heading, \$2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

## MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), \$7,106,150,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2019, and shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2019, under this heading, \$100,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

## MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services, \$5,276,676,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2019, and shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2019, under this heading, \$250,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021.

## MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, \$732,262,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That of the amount made available under this heading, \$27,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023.

## NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemetery expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemetery operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, \$315,836,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

## DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

## GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed \$25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, \$346,091,000, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration".

## BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, \$174,748,000, of which not

to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

## (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, \$4,105,500,000, plus reimbursements: Provided, That \$1,235,320,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That \$2,521,650,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That \$348,530,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That amounts made available for information technology systems development may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs or the Chief Information Officer of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a certification of the amounts, in parts or in full, to be obligated and expended for each development project: Provided further, That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That amounts made available for the "Information Technology Systems" account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: Provided further, That no project may be increased or decreased by more than \$1,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

## VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, \$1,207,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility: Provided further, That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office.

## OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), \$172,054,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

## CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, \$1,127,486,000, of which \$647,486,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2023; and of which \$480,000,000 shall remain available until expended, of which \$400,000,000 shall be available for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities, including for projects that would otherwise be funded by the Construction, Minor Projects, Medical Facilities or National Cemetery Administration accounts: Provided, That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and salaries and associated costs of the resident engineers who oversee those capital investments funded through this account and contracting officers who manage specific major construction projects, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2019, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2019; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2020: Provided further, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

## CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm

drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, \$649,514,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, along with unobligated balances of previous "Construction, Minor Projects" appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: Provided, That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, \$150,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, \$45,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2019 for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: Provided, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2019, in this or any other Act, under the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", "Medical Support and Compliance", and "Medical Facilities" accounts may be transferred among the accounts: Provided, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: Provided further, That any transfers among the "Medical Services", "Medical Community Care", and "Medical Support and Compliance" accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: Provided further, That any transfers to or from the "Medical Facilities" account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for

services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for "Construction, Major Projects", and "Construction, Minor Projects") shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the "Medical Services" account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for "Compensation and Pensions", "Readjustment Benefits", and "Veterans Insurance and Indemnities" shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2018.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from "Compensation and Pensions".

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the "General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: Provided, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2019 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: Provided further, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2019 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services, may be obligated during the fiscal year in which the proceeds are received.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower

Protection, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed \$48,431,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, \$4,333,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, \$17,700,000 for the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, and \$3,230,000 for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion: Provided, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: Provided further, That amounts received shall be credited to the "General Administration" and "Information Technology Systems" accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: Provided, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: Provided further, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects" accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in "Construction, Major Projects" and "Construction, Minor Projects".

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under "Medical Services" are available—

- (1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and
- (2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the "Medical Services" and "Medical Community Care" accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian tribes and tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term "rural Alaska" shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

#### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited to the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the

“Construction, Major Projects” and “Construction, Minor Projects” accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled “Quarterly reporting”, under the heading “General Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, “Medical Facilities”, “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration”, “Board of Veterans Appeals”, “General Administration”, and “National Cemetery Administration” accounts for fiscal year 2019 may be transferred to or from the “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided, That such transfers may not result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the “Information Technology Systems” account: Provided further, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2019, for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, up to \$307,609,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Such sums as may be deposited to the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 3571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110-417; 122 Stat. 4500): Provided, That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Med-

ical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Of the amounts available in this title for “Medical Services”, “Medical Community Care”, “Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Medical Facilities”, a minimum of \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD-VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 222. None of the funds available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, in this or any other Act, may be used to replace the current system by which the Veterans Integrated Service Networks select and contract for diabetes monitoring supplies and equipment.

SEC. 223. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least \$5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: Provided, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available for “Construction, Major Projects” may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 225. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: Provided, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled “Disability claims backlog”, under the heading “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114-223: Provided further, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed \$2,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the “Medical Services” account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2019 in this title (except appropriations made to the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2019, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: Provided, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: Pro-

vided further, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: Provided further, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: Provided further, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: Provided further, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2019, under the “Board of Veterans Appeals” and the “General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration” accounts may be transferred between such accounts: Provided, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed \$7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term “civil service” has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term “Executive action” includes—

(i) any Executive order, presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

SEC. 232. None of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to close Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, domiciliaries, or clinics, conduct an environmental assessment, or to diminish healthcare services at existing Veterans Health Administration medical facilities located in Veterans Integrated Service Network 23 as part of a planned realignment of VA services until the Secretary provides to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report including the following elements:

(1) a national realignment strategy that includes a detailed description of realignment plans within each Veterans Integrated Services

Network (VISN), including an updated Long Range Capital Plan to implement realignment requirements;

(2) an explanation of the process by which those plans were developed and coordinated within each VISN;

(3) a cost versus benefit analysis of each planned realignment, including the cost of replacing Veterans Health Administration services with contract care or other outsourced services;

(4) an analysis of how any such planned realignment of services will impact access to care for veterans living in rural or highly rural areas, including travel distances and transportation costs to access a VA medical facility and availability of local specialty and primary care;

(5) an inventory of VA buildings with historic designation and the methodology used to determine the buildings' condition and utilization;

(6) a description of how any realignment will be consistent with requirements under the National Historic Preservation Act; and

(7) consideration given for reuse of historic buildings within newly identified realignment requirements: Provided, That, this provision shall not apply to capital projects in VISN 23, or any other VISN, which have been authorized or approved by Congress.

SEC. 233. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018 and ending on January 1, 2024, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the "Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance" published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 234. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the "Medical Services" account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term "service-connected" has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term "covered veteran" means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term "assisted reproductive technology" means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of "Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members" issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term "adoption reimbursement" means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimburse-

ment program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141).

SEC. 235. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109-115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 236. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 237. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research using canines unless: the scientific objectives of the study can only be met by research with canines; the study has been directly approved by the Secretary; and the study is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document released on December 18, 2017: Provided, That not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a detailed report outlining under what circumstances canine research may be needed if there are no other alternatives, how often it was used during that time period, and what protocols are in place to determine both the safety and efficacy of the research.

SEC. 238. For an additional amount for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$2,000,000,000 to remain available until expended, for infrastructure improvements, including new construction, and in addition to amounts otherwise made available in this Act for such purpose, of which:

(1) \$750,000,000 shall be available for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities, including projects that would otherwise be funded by the Construction, Major Projects, the Construction, Minor Projects, Medical Facilities, or National Cemetery Administration accounts;

(2) \$100,000,000 shall be for National Cemetery Administration projects within "Department Administration - Construction, Major Projects";

(3) \$800,000,000 shall be for "Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities" to be used for non-recurring maintenance; and

(4) \$350,000,000 shall be for "Departmental Administration—Construction, Minor Projects"; Provided, That the additional amounts appropriated for the purposes of non-recurring maintenance and minor construction may be used to carry out critical life-safety projects identified in the Department's annual facility condition assessments; sustainment projects; modernization projects; infrastructure repair; renovations at existing Veterans Health Administration medical centers and outpatient clinics; and projects included in the Strategic Capital Investment Process plan: Provided further, That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing projects of the Department: Provided further, That the additional amounts appropriated under this section may not be obligated or expended until the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and such Committees approve, a de-

tailed expenditure plan, including project descriptions and costs, for any non-recurring maintenance, major construction or minor construction project being funded with the additional amounts made available in this section.

### TITLE III

#### RELATED AGENCIES

##### AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed \$42,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, \$75,100,000, to remain available until expended.

##### FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

##### UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, \$33,600,000: Provided, That \$2,580,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102-229.

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

##### CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

##### SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed \$1,000 for official reception and representation expenses, \$70,800,000, of which not to exceed \$15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the "Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies" account.

##### CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for planning and design and construction at Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, \$73,855,000, to remain available until expended, for planning and design and construction associated with the Southern Expansion project at Arlington National Cemetery.

##### ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

##### TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$64,300,000, of which \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: Provided, That of the amounts made

available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$22,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 4727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

#### TITLE IV

#### OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS

##### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Army”, \$261,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be for construction of the High Value Detention Facility, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, unless authorized in an Act authorizing appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military construction.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps”, \$227,320,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Air Force” \$345,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Military Construction, Defense-Wide”, \$87,050,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for projects outside of the United States: Provided, That such amount is designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. Each amount designated in this Act by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated for military construction projects outside the United States under this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design of any project associated with the European Deterrence Initiative until the Secretary of Defense submits to the congressional defense committees a list of all of the military construction projects associated with the European Deterrence Initiative which the Secretary anticipates will be carried out during each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

#### TITLE V

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 501. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for ob-

ligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 502. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 503. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of “E-Commerce” technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 504. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 506. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 507. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 45 days.

SEC. 508. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 509. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 510. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 511. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs to lease or purchase new light duty vehicles for any executive fleet, or for an agency's fleet inventory, except in accordance with Presidential Memorandum—Federal Fleet Performance, dated May 24, 2011.

SEC. 512. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United

States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

#### REFERENCES TO ACT

SEC. 513. Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of this division.

#### REFERENCES TO REPORT

SEC. 514. Any reference to a “report accompanying this Act” contained in this division shall be treated as a reference to House Report 115–673. The effect of such Report shall be limited to this division and shall apply for purposes of determining the allocation of funds provided by, and the implementation of, this division.

#### SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 515. The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is \$0.

This division may be cited as the “Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019”.

THE CHAIR. Are there any points of order against the bill?

#### POINT OF ORDER

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Chairman, I raise a point of order against the following provision contained in H.R. 5895 because it violates clause 2 of House rule XXI.

This provision is on page 66, line 14, through page 66, line 20, and relates to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Under clause 2(a)(1) of rule XXI, “an appropriation may not be reported in a general appropriation bill . . . for an expenditure not previously authorized by law. . . .”

Mr. Chairman, the Committee on House Administration is responsible for providing funding for House Committees, other than for the Committee on House Appropriations.

Sections 5 and 7 of H. Res. 1451 of the Commission's enabling resolution, which is carried forward through H. Res. 5, make clear the Commission is not authorized to receive a direct appropriation. The Commission's enabling resolution specifies the role of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in providing staff and resources for the Commission, as well as funding for the Commission.

In fact, consistent with H. Res. 1451, at the request of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on House Administration adopted Committee Resolution 115–9 earlier this year authorizing \$200,000 from the Committee's reserve fund to provide for support for Commission personnel.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, there is no authorization for the Commission to receive a direct appropriation of funds, and I reiterate my point of order.

I ask for a ruling of the Chair.

The CHAIR. Does any other Member wish to be heard on the point of order? If not, the Chair will rule.

The provision proposes an item of appropriation for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission. Under clause 2(a) of rule XXI, such an item of appropriation must be specifically authorized by law. The burden of establishing the authorization in law rests in this instance with the committee or other proponent of the provision.

Finding that this burden has not been carried, the point of order is sustained and the provision is stricken from the bill.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 115-711 and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

Each further amendment printed in part B of the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 918, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

□ 1630

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. COLLINS OF NEW YORK

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,200,000)."

Page 7, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,200,000)."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Chair, my amendment would increase the Army Corps investigation account by \$1.2 million.

Increased funding under this account will allow additional studies that were previously authorized in the Water Resources Development Act to be completed by the Army Corps.

One example is the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study. This study

was authorized in 1986, and, although it is a priority of the Army Corps, it has not been funded. This study pulls together Federal, State, local, and private resources to create a strategy to preserve and protect the shorelines of the Great Lakes.

Last year, my constituents in western New York felt the devastating impact of high lake levels. We saw the worst flooding we have seen in decades along Lake Ontario. The flooding destroyed homes and wreaked havoc on businesses along the shoreline. This study will create a comprehensive strategy to protect these communities so they do not suffer again.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress, as well as the Army Corps, to ensure that studies like the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study receive funding.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ZELDIN). Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I understand the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study is of great importance to my colleague from New York as well as other Members from the Great Lakes region. I would like to note that the underlying bill includes funding and authority for new studies, including a multipurpose study like the Great Lakes study.

I also remind my colleagues that the amendment increases the funding level of an account. It does not direct the funding to any particular activity. For that reason and because the amendment does not constitute a major shift in funding between accounts, I would not oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), if she has any comments to make.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of my fellow Great Lakes colleague's amendment and thank him for raising the issue.

I think the Great Lakes have finally arrived at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As the gentleman knows and as I have made clear to the Corps, our Great Lakes Members and myself are very supportive of the proposal for a Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study.

The study will take an inclusive view of how to make our coastline more resilient, with an eye toward using more sustainable, green, or natural infrastructure to reduce runoff, mitigate erosion and flooding, and protect property. This approach will ultimately save money as the Corps looks to fulfill its mission in the face of changing environmental hazards.

And I have to say, over my many years of service, we finally have at the Corps not just civil engineers, we have

environmental engineers. We have raised a new generation of Americans who understand the relationship between structures and the environment. It is a new day at the Corps, and nobody welcomes it more than this Member.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of New York. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. COLLINS).

The amendment was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. ABRAHAM

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$17,410,000)".

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$17,410,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase the Corps of Engineers construction account to address the \$96 billion backlog in construction projects across the country.

My amendment would offset this increase by reducing the Department of Energy's departmental administration and bringing it closer in line with the President's budget request.

Our water infrastructure is aging and deteriorating, and the Corps of Engineers has failed to keep up with these projects across the country because of the growing bureaucratic morass that delays construction and leads to wasteful cost overruns.

While the Corps needs reforms to expedite project delivery, we in Congress should also prioritize spending and provide more resources to water infrastructure.

Projects in Louisiana would greatly benefit from increased construction and operation and maintenance funding, especially projects like the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway, the Ouachita-Black Rivers Navigation Project, and the Madison Parish and Lake Providence Ports. These projects are critical for the economy in the Mississippi Delta.

I commend Chairman SIMPSON for his leadership in increasing water infrastructure funding since he has been chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee.

This bill provides significant increases in the additional funding pots

and maintenance. This additional funding will increase the opportunities for worthy projects to compete for limited dollars.

Although I intend to withdraw my amendment, Congress should continue to provide more funding to projects across the country that improve commerce, grow the economy, and that protect homes and businesses from flooding. I hope to work with Chairman SIMPSON and his committee to address the issue moving forward.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I want to assure my colleague that when the Appropriations Committee develops its bills it takes into consideration the requests and priorities of Members of the House. Funding levels in the underlying bill reflect those requests, including those requests from the gentleman from Louisiana.

Specifically, funding above the budget request for construction of navigation projects totals \$625 million, an increase of \$176 million above fiscal year 2018.

Additional funding for operation and maintenance of inland navigation projects is at \$50 million, an increase of \$20 million above last year's additional funding level.

While we can't specify funding for any particular project, we have worked hard to ensure significant funding for which projects not in the budget request can compete.

I would be happy to continue working with my colleague from Louisiana to ensure significant funding for the critical water resources infrastructure work of the Corps of Engineers, and I thank him for his willingness to withdraw the amendment.

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

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for his commitment to work with me on this issue, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$7,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would direct the Army Corps to consider the historic and national significance of dredging projects as the Corps makes its funding decisions.

In my area, this amendment will provide much-needed support for the completion of the Plymouth Harbor dredging project in time for the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower landing in Plymouth and Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The year 2020 will be a momentous year for our country, as we commemorate the 400th anniversary of the settlement at Plymouth by the Pilgrims, the vital contributions of the Aquinnah and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribes, and the significant events that followed, including the signing of the Mayflower Compact, the 50-year Pilgrim-Wampanoag peace treaty, and, of course, the first Thanksgiving.

For my entire time in Congress, I have worked closely with my constituents to prepare for this commemoration of Plymouth 400. The Plymouth Harbor dredging project has always been at the heart of these preparations.

The dredging project is required ahead of the return to Plymouth of the fully restored Mayflower II, a full-scale replica of the original ship that brought the Pilgrims to Cape Cod in 1620. The Mayflower II cannot return to her home in Plymouth Harbor unless much-needed dredging work is completed.

We also anticipate a maritime salute to mark the return of the Mayflower II as part of the commemoration, and the flotilla will need safe passage in the harbor.

Furthermore, an uptick in marine traffic is also expected as Americans and visitors from around the world travel to Plymouth to participate in the 2020 celebration. It is therefore critical for navigational safety concerns that this dredging occur.

This amendment will help ensure that one of the final pieces of the 2020 commemoration is completed and in place. We anticipate an exceedingly memorable year for the people of our community, for visitors across the country, and for a significant number of international visitors as well.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to the completion of this project ahead of the commemoration, which also, it is important to note, will bring in significant added revenue and jobs.

I thank the chairman, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I can certainly understand my colleague's inter-

est in this issue, and I agree that there are certain circumstances where the Corps should consider more than just commercial tonnage using a waterway when allocating funding. In fact, a report accompanying the bill directs the Corps to consider several criteria other than just tonnage.

Since the amendment does not upset the balance of priorities within the bill nor direct funds to any particular project or activity, I will not oppose the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and staff for their cooperation. And I also invite them to come to Plymouth in 2020 and enjoy what will be an amazing international celebration and a celebration of the beginning of our country as well.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, beginning on line 21, strike section 107.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks to preserve our current Clean Water Act protections over our rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Our Nation's river system and wetlands provide values that no other ecosystem can: natural water quality improvement; flood protection; shoreline erosion control; recreation; general aesthetic appreciation; and national products for our use at no cost.

Yet section 107 of this bill seeks to undermine protection of streams and wetlands and the critical balance between protecting these waters and the day-to-day operations of our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and foresters.

Under current law, farmers, ranchers, and foresters can carry out their normal operations in any water body without requiring a Clean Water Act permit. What this means is that farmers can continue to plow their fields—including potential wet areas that have been farmed for decades—plant their seeds, and harvest their crops without ever having to obtain approval under the Clean Water Act.

Any normal farming, ranching, or forestry exemption is going to include

minor limitations. For example, a farmer cannot use the current exemption to convert his farmland to a residential development without obtaining a permit; a rancher can't use this exemption to plow under a wetland to expand his grazing lands; and forestry operations can't use this exemption to change the course of a local stream to improve drainage on their growing lands.

In short, the way the Clean Water Act currently operates is to allow normal ranching, farming, and forestry operations to continue without a permit unless the activity either changes or converts the use of a water body to a new purpose or impairs the historic flow or reach of a stream or wetland. If the planned activity triggers either of these limitations, current law obviously would require that activity to obtain a permit.

Section 107 of this bill, in essence, would provide an absolute Clean Water Act exemption for impacts to any streams or wetlands that happen to be on agricultural, ranching, or forestry lands.

Mr. Chairman, this is a fundamental change to the Clean Water Act, and it is one where the impacts have never been explored. This amendment would be a significant departure from almost 40 years of implementation of the Clean Water Act by Democrats and Republicans by eliminating the existing provision requiring that the exemptions apply only to normal—as in established, ongoing—farming practices.

□ 1645

Mr. Chairman, we should not be using an appropriations bill to change Federal policy related to the protection of our Nation's rivers and streams. To the best of my knowledge, no hearings or investigations on the impacts of this provision have ever been held.

If this Congress is interested in overturning almost 40 years of Clean Water Act precedent, regular order would require hearings before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and approval by that committee before consideration on the floor.

This rider is bad policy for the protection of our environment, bad policy for the protection of human health, and bad policy for the protection of public safety.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in strong opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would allow the regulatory overreach that has been happening to the agriculture community through misuse of the Clean Water Act.

The recapture provision of the Clean Water Act was never meant to swallow

the original intent of the agricultural exemptions, the clear ag exemptions in the law. But that is exactly what has started happening, and if this amendment passes, it will only get worse.

The agriculture industry is already one of the most overregulated in the country, and there is little clarity for farmers and ranchers about what exactly those regulations are and how they apply to their operations.

This amendment provides additional uncertainty. It was never the intention of the Clean Water Act to punish farmers for conducting normal farming operations such as plowing or doing stock pond maintenance, yet that is what is happening. Without the ability to freely conduct these normal activities, farmers and ranchers are unable to do their jobs and grow the food we need as a nation.

There is a difference between filling a river, a wetland, and plowing the corner of your own field. These exemptions were constructed to address that difference.

The ongoing expansion of enforcement under the Clean Water Act has chipped away at the rights of landowners and has made it a danger to farmers to effectively utilize their own property.

This hasn't been happening for 40 years. It was never the original intent. This is a fairly recent expansion of the interpretation of the law. Indeed, it is ridiculous that a farmer has to worry about being slapped with a fine, in some cases millions of dollars. This has occurred for simply conducting normal farming activities on their land where there are clear exemptions for agriculture.

In my own district in northern California, there have already been lawsuits against residents for farming without Federal permission. Cases like these across the country cost farmers millions of dollars in legal damages, and they risk running farmers out of business.

If this amendment is not defeated, these damages to the farm community will only grow. It is not a situation we want to put upon an industry that is already, in many cases, in financial crisis.

Farmers and ranchers deserve our support, and they deserve the ability to make decisions about managing their land, whether it is going to be in a crop this year or not, and not have the Federal Government decide if it has been idle for a few years now that that is an abandonment of their land. Market conditions and a lot of different things affect what a farmer's decision is going to be; but, indeed, it is their land without having more ambiguity and aggressive enforcements over things that really clearly are exempt in the Clean Water Act. So we don't need additional red tape, and we don't need these threats.

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I find myself confused by the comments of

my distinguished friend from California. Nothing has changed in the law in 40 years. This law has been applied under Democratic and Republican Presidents and administrations.

The law is very clear that any normal farming use, forestry, agriculture or ranching is exempt already. It is only a wholesale shift from what the farm's original exemption was intended for that would require a Clean Water Act permit.

So if a farmer is, in fact, going to turn out and develop houses, a subdivision, you need a clean water permit. But there is nothing in there that says you need a clean water permit to plow, to plant, or to use the land as it has always been used.

My fear is that I don't know of any specific instances where there has been an overinterpretation of existing law, but section 107 would basically throw out the entire baby in order to fix an overinterpretation problem by one or two agents of the Department of Agriculture.

Essentially, section 107 says everything is accepted under the Clean Water Act if it is agriculture, forestry, or ranching on that land.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I would invite my friend, Mr. BEYER, to come talk to the ranchers and farmers who are being hit with these new interpretations and aggressive interpretations coming out of the divisions of northern California to see what is happening to them for simply applying farming techniques to their land.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding. Yes, it is true that this was written in 1977. The law has stayed the same since 1977. That doesn't mean that the interpretation of the law by agencies has been the same since then, and that interpretation has changed over time.

In recent years, the Corps and the EPA have changed the implementation of these provisions to significantly reduce the application of the statutory exemptions. This language in the underlying bill is intended to get us back to the original intent of the law. That is all it is meant to do is get back to the original intent of the law.

If the gentleman is correct and they are interpreting the law the same as they have for 40 years, then this wouldn't be necessary. But the fact is that is not the case. They have been changing the way they implement this law. This is meant to get us back to the original intent, and, therefore, I must oppose the amendment that would strike this language.

Mr. LAMALFA. How much time do I have remaining, Mr. Chairman?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 5 seconds remaining.

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, in closing, I respect the concern about an overinterpretation of existing law that has been on the books for 40 years. The real challenge with section 107 is it throws out the entire exemption process and makes everything legal.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, again, it has been a much more aggressive interpretation of the exemptions under the Clean Water Act that were clearly made by Congress to allow normal farming activities, the normal crop rotation that you would use.

Indeed, if these activities were applied even more aggressively, normal year-to-year crops could find themselves unable to be planted because of plowing or disking or land planing, things that are considered normal in the millions of acres we have in northern California that are under agriculture.

So the activities of the EPA and the Army Corps go above the law to impose these requirements, and they certainly expand the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act well beyond what Congress had ever intended 40-plus years ago.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to vote "no." I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 14, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000) (increased by \$2,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 5895 to provide \$2 million in additional critical funding for Bureau of Reclamation environmental restoration projects that will benefit our public health within a region such as the Salton Sea in my congressional district in southern California.

The Bureau of Reclamation is responsible for managing, developing, and restoring our Nation's waters to support the interests of the American people, and there are few interests more important than protecting the public's health.

To demonstrate why projects that support the public's health are so important, I want to talk about the

Salton Sea, the largest inland body of water in the entire State of California.

Located in Riverside and Imperial Counties, the Salton Sea was once the jewel of the southern California desert, drawing thousands of tourists, bird-watchers, and other outdoors and water sports enthusiasts.

Having grown up near the Salton Sea, I have wonderful memories of going fishing there with my father and picnicking with my family.

However, for decades now, deteriorating water quality and reduced water inflows have made the declining lake bed of the Salton Sea a public health danger to the residents in the surrounding area. If we do not take decisive action now, the sea will harm the public's health in cities all across southern California.

You see, as the sea dries and the water level recedes, the exposed lake bed releases windblown contaminants containing selenium, arsenic, and pesticides. These are in small particulate matter small enough to go through your lungs and straight into your bloodstream.

Exposure to these contaminants has been shown to increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, decrease the growth and development of lung function in school-age children, and increase the risk of cardiac disease, heart attacks, and mortality in adults.

In fact, children in this underserved area already have the highest pediatric asthma hospitalization rate in the entire State of California. So adding this insult and adding this exposure is going to be devastating for the surrounding pediatric population.

As an emergency medicine doctor, I care deeply about the health of our communities and have seen firsthand the effects of poor air quality in these underserved communities. So the public health danger to families and children from the Salton Sea is very real and must be addressed at all levels of government—local, State, and Federal—and through public-private partnerships. We are making progress.

I also appreciate the committee's strong support of the memorandum of understanding that I helped broker between the Department of the Interior and the State of California to support the State's mitigation plan by including report language in the underlying bill.

In addition to the Salton Sea, funding for the Bureau of Reclamation supports restoration projects across the Western United States that protect public health. For example, in Congressman KEN CALVERT's district which neighbors my own district, the Bureau of Reclamation helped to mitigate public health concerns and water quality issues at Lake Elsinore.

Lake Elsinore, like the Salton Sea, has faced chronic challenges relating to water level, water quality, and associated public health concerns. However, a collaboration between the city of Lake Elsinore, Elsinore Valley Mu-

nicipal Water District, Riverside County, and the Bureau of Reclamation came together to finally address these challenges. Together they built levees to contain the lake, established a supply of recycled water to help maintain water levels, and installed aerators to prevent fish die-offs by keeping oxygen levels high.

So it can work. Lake Elsinore now supports many local businesses and has a flourishing tourism industry. Most importantly, the water is now safer for residents to enjoy all the benefits the lake has to offer, including swimming and water sports.

There are countless other examples of Bureau of Reclamation restoration projects helping to protect public health. That is why I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and provide an additional \$2 million to these types of projects. That is why, if we know that this can work in other areas with pending public health crises, it can and will work in my district with the Salton Sea if they are so fortunate to receive some grant moneys and work in a collaborative way like Lake Elsinore. The health of the American people must be put above politics.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. I understand the gentleman seeks to show support for additional funding for projects such as the one important to his district and his constituents.

I would note that the underlying bill includes a total of \$379 million above the budget request for various types of projects that may have public health benefits. Since the amendment before us does not upset the balance of priorities within the bill nor direct funds to any particular project or activity, I would not oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the chairman for not opposing. I also want to thank the ranking member for yielding me the time and allowing all of this to proceed.

On behalf of those children with pediatric asthma, on behalf of our seniors with COPD, chronic bronchitis, and on behalf of the doctors who work in emergency departments, I truly want to bring this awareness to everybody here that this is a pending public health nightmare catastrophe that, if we do nothing, will cost up to \$9 billion to address the effects—the public health and the economic effects—that this will do. So putting money in the front end is going to save money in the back end, and it is going to prevent the bad health of our pediatric and our senior populations.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the leadership for both listening, understanding, and proceeding with this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM OF NEW MEXICO

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HOLDING). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 14, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$15,000,000)(increased by \$15,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, 99.9 percent of New Mexico is under drought conditions, including over 60 percent of the State which is suffering from extreme drought or worse. It is so dry that more than half the State is at significant risk for dangerous and destructive wildfires, and long stretches of the Rio Grande riverbed are already dry as a bone.

□ 1700

As I speak, there are wildfires raging across the state, including a massive fire in Ute Park, which is threatening multiple communities and hundreds of buildings.

On top of that, last winter's mountain snowpack was the second lowest on record, creating significant issues for New Mexico's agricultural industry. Farmers are leaving fields unplanted and ranchers are downsizing their herds. Many farmers and ranchers, including families who have worked their land for generations, are worried that they will not have the water to grow their crops or the hay to feed their livestock in the months and years ahead.

Extreme drought is the new normal in large parts of the American Southwest and we have to develop innovative technologies and management practices to both preserve the water resources we have and increase access to previously unusable water.

My amendment intends to prioritize \$15 million for the Bureau of Reclamation's water research and development programs. It is critical that we make new investments to develop innovative methods to recycle, reuse, and purify water for agricultural, environmental, residential, and industrial uses.

This funding also supports the Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility located in

Alamogordo, New Mexico, that develops more cost-effective and efficient ways to desalinate and purify water. This cutting-edge facility brings together researchers from a range of Federal agencies, universities, private companies, and State and local governments to work collaboratively on sustainability using billions of previously untapped brackish groundwater in New Mexico.

Mr. Chairman, if we don't develop innovative water management strategies to do more with less, we won't have the water we need to plant our fields, feed our livestock, or grow New Mexico's economy.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the gentlewoman seeks to show support for additional funding for water research and development activities that are important to her district and to the country.

I would just like to clarify that the amendment does not direct funds to any particular activities. For that reason and because it does not upset the balance within the bill, I will not oppose the amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 17, after the dollar amount insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment seeks a modest amount of dedicated funding for the repair and maintenance of existing equipment in the migrating fish screen program.

Fish screens are an important part of the water supply infrastructure of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta that help to protect fish in the delta ecosystem. These fish screens work to prevent fish from being drawn into various

locations in the Bay-Delta Watershed where our water supply takes in water. Fish screens in the delta are particularly important for protecting multiple species listed or threatened as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, including salmon, steelhead, and delta smelt.

Fish screen components operate under water and are constantly exposed to stress and damage that wears them down and makes them less effective. Without proper upkeep, debris, sediment, and changes in temperature can create gaps or holes in the screening material and damage cleaning mechanisms.

While I appreciate that in its report the Appropriations Committee has recognized the need for continued support of the fish screen program overall, it is important that we include money specifically for the maintenance and repair of existing equipment. My commonsense amendment helps us to do that, I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I understand that the gentleman seeks to show support for additional funding for fish screen projects important to his district and his constituents. I would simply note that this account is one where we historically have given the administration, Republican or Democratic, great flexibility in allocating the funds. If there is widespread interest, we should take a comprehensive look at funding levels within the program, not just adjust funding levels in one activity.

Since the amendment does not direct funds to a specific activity and because it does not upset the balance of the bill, I will not oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 8 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today to offer an amendment to increase funding for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$2 million, specifically for use in the SuperTruck II program.

The SuperTruck program was started by the Department of Energy under President Obama and former Secretary of Energy Steven Chu to improve freight and heavy-duty vehicle efficiency.

The Appropriations Committee acknowledged in the committee report the success of the SuperTruck II program, noting these funds will help SuperTruck II to continue to dramatically improve the freight efficiency of heavy-duty class 8 long-haul and regional-haul vehicles through system level improvements like the hybridization of vehicles, saving more fuel while idling—that is something I saw in a field demonstration and it is pretty amazing how they turn off at intersections with lights, et cetera—engineering high-efficiency HVAC technologies, and more.

This amendment to increase funding for the SuperTruck II program will allow the Department of Energy to better achieve its freight efficiency goals, and the amendment is fully offset by decreasing the departmental administration account.

I would like to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their hard work on this bill and for including this amendment. The Rules Committee might have done that, but I don't think they would have if there were objections from the chair and ranking member.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman

from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, my amendment seeks to provide adequate resources for the marine and hydrokinetic energy resource supported by the Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office.

Renewable power offers exciting and important security opportunities for our energy future here in the United States. My amendment would allocate resources to support these efforts, including for the development of pilot project plans, development of prototype turbines and associated undersea cables, as well as environmental impact assessments.

In my district, there is an important research already underway in marine and hydrokinetic energy technologies to tap the power of ocean waves, tides, and currents to generate electricity.

For example, the Marine Energy Renewable Collaborative of New England created the first permanent tidal power testing station in the entire United States. This state-of-the-art testing station is collecting new and valuable data every day on tidal power. Companies like MERCO in Marion, Massachusetts, and Littoral Power in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, are also pursuing this cutting-edge science in this emerging field of energy projection.

Southeastern Massachusetts is a leader in the maritime economy. The research and technologies being developed currently will enhance our energy security for the future. We must make these investments today to ensure our security, health, and economic competitiveness going forward.

The power supplied by these marine and hydrokinetic technologies is clean, predictable, and domestic. These technologies are environmentally friendly and don't rely on the importation of energy from foreign sources. They give us even more flexibility to keep our energy prices low for families and businesses. Cheaper energy means keeping business operating costs low so they can invest in more employees and on products and research.

Supporting research in these technologies also means investigating the potential positive and negative effects that they might hold. We need to know more about water quality, our cultural and historic sites, our electromagnetic devices, and our shellfish, fish stocks, marine habitats, and large mammals.

This is a very important program for my region and for the country. I thank my colleagues.

I will say, this is so technologically advanced, this is a real tongue twister as I have gone through this whole thing, but don't let that dissuade anyone going forward. This is the future. This is where economic growth is already occurring in our region. We should do everything in our power to help the development of this power.

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

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

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague's passion for research and development in the Water Power Technologies Office. He is a strong advocate in his State for research in this important work.

Although I could not support the original amendment, I would appreciate it if the gentleman would be willing to withdraw it and instead work together as we move toward conference to discuss efficient funding for the Water Power Technologies Office.

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairman SIMPSON for that opportunity to work together. I think we can work together going forward in the short term. Perhaps as this goes to conference, we can look at working together in the long-term and really investigating the importance of this new energy that can be developed here in the United States so cleanly.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. BONAMICI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer a bipartisan amendment to increase investments in research and development that support marine energy, hydropower, and pump storage.

I first want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their leadership in supporting the Water Power Technologies Office. Robust funding for the Department of Energy's Water Power Technologies Office will support investments in innovative hydropower, marine, and hydrokinetic energy technologies.

This bipartisan amendment would increase funding for the Office of Energy and Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$10 million for water power and decrease funding for departmental administrative spending to result in no additional cost.

Harnessing energy from waves, currents, and tides is an exciting frontier in the renewable energy sector. Oregon State University, the University of Washington, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks are partnering to support marine renewable energy research and development at the Pacific Marine Energy Center.

The center relies on Federal investments from the Department of Energy to establish the Nation's fully energetic on-grid wave energy test facility off the Oregon coast. This facility will be able to test wave energy converters that capture the energy of ocean waves, current, tides, and in-river resources and turn it into electricity.

Hydropower has tremendous potential to become the major source of electricity for the United States and the world, but other countries are ahead of us here. We must continue to develop clean and sustainable energy sources, and that means supporting new solutions like marine and hydrokinetic renewable energy.

We should be doing more to harness the power of water to meet our Nation's clean energy needs, create good-paying jobs, and spur economic growth in our communities.

□ 1715

Mr. Chair, I again thank the chairman and ranking member for their work on this issue and also Representatives Perry and Pingree for their bipartisan leadership on water power.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, similar to the previous amendment, I appreciate my colleague's passion for this important research and development and work done in the Water Power Technologies Office. They are each strong advocates, and I recognize their leadership in their States for this important work.

Although I could not support this amendment, I would again make the offer that, if the gentlewoman is willing to withdraw the amendment, I would work with her and others to make sure that we have sufficient funding for the Water Power Technologies Office when we go to conference.

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I appreciate that offer of the gentleman to work together on this important issue with a lot of promise for additional renewable energy jobs and sources.

So, Mr. Chairman, we do need to be making stronger investments in clean and sustainable energy sources like water power. With that offer to work together, I will withdraw this amendment but do hope that we will work together going forward to increase funding for this very important program.

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

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$15,000,000)".

Page 27, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$15,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which would protect millions of good-paying manufacturing jobs across the country, including in my home State of Connecticut. My amendment would restore \$15 million to the Advanced Manufacturing Office in fiscal year 2019.

The Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office is the only technology development office in the Federal Government that is dedicated to enhancing American manufacturing competitiveness.

Unfortunately, the appropriations bill before us here today cuts funding to the Advanced Manufacturing Office by \$45 million from the FY18 enacted levels. That is a mistake.

One of the vital programs funded through the Advanced Manufacturing Office is the Industrial Assessment Centers program. Industrial Assessment Centers are located across the United States and provide companies with the tools they need to promote energy efficiency.

A couple of years ago, I visited Forum Plastics, a plastic molding company in Waterbury, Connecticut. Forum Plastics had recently partnered with our regional Industrial Assessment Center at the University of Massachusetts to carry out an audit of Forum Plastics' energy costs and energy efficiency.

That audit showed the small company ways they could save energy, reduce waste, and see cost savings. In fact, the audit helped Forum Plastics develop more energy-efficient processes, which resulted in a cost savings of nearly \$25,000 the very next year.

For small and medium-size companies like Forum Plastics, savings like this are real. They free up budgets to hire more employees, carry out systems and equipment upgrades, and expand their facilities.

We know that much of America's innovation comes from exactly these sort

of small and medium-size companies that the Advanced Manufacturing Office is designed to help. These companies are not able to afford high-priced consultants or systems analysts but benefit greatly from the analyses that the Industrial Assessment Centers offer.

This helps create jobs in our communities, helps support American competitiveness, and ensures that taxpayer dollars support smaller manufacturers that are the backbone of so many of our communities.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate my colleague's advocacy for the Advanced Manufacturing Office within the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account.

The Advanced Manufacturing Office performs research and development to improve the productivity and energy efficiency of U.S. manufacturing. This is important work, and I recognize my colleague's leadership in highlighting the office.

While I could not support using the Nuclear Waste Disposal account as an offset for the original amendment, I would appreciate my colleague's willingness to offer to withdraw this amendment. I look forward to working with my colleague as we move forward toward conference to discuss sufficient funding for the Advanced Manufacturing Office.

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

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Chairman SIMPSON's and Ranking Member KAPTUR's support for the Advanced Manufacturing Office, and I look forward to working with both of them in the future to increase funding for these important programs for fiscal year 2019.

Therefore, I will withdraw my amendment to restore \$15 million to the Advanced Manufacturing Office in fiscal year 2019.

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

Mr. Chair, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman

from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, my amendment increases funding by \$5 million for the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for the purposes of offshore wind job training grants.

The amendment is paid for by using an equal offset from the Department's administration accounts.

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, our Nation's offshore wind energy potential is nearly double our total electricity need. It is also an energy resource available to nearly every coastline in the country, including the Great Lakes.

Offshore wind is broadly recognized as our Nation's next great energy resource, one that has the potential to create tens of thousands of new jobs in manufacturing, logistics, engineering, construction, and long-term operations and maintenance of these projects.

This potential has been acknowledged by the Trump administration. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke recently spoke at an offshore wind energy conference and said that offshore wind has more growth potential than any other energy resource.

In fact, he also published an op-ed in *The Boston Globe* in April underscoring the importance of offshore wind to the Trump administration's all-of-the-above energy strategy and announced two new proposed lease sales in Massachusetts for commercial wind development.

As he said in the op-ed—and we have it printed right here: “The Trump administration supports an all-of-the-above American energy policy, and wind energy is an important part of the energy mix. Just like the pioneers who drilled our Nation's first offshore wells in the 1890s, those men and women who construct wind turbines in American waters in the years to come will continue to set our Nation toward clean energy dominance.”

To realize the full potential of our Nation's offshore wind resources, we must make sure that a cadre of American workers are fully trained and ready to pave the way for growth and innovation in this rapidly growing industry. This amendment makes a modest investment toward this goal by specifically appropriating \$5 million for offshore wind job training grants at the Department of Energy.

Workforce development and education is one of several focus areas at the Wind Energy Technologies Office, and grants funded by this amendment would help develop curricula, apprenticeships, health and safety certification programs, and other activities that help workers transition to the offshore wind industry.

The Trump administration recently announced similar workforce training grants for solar through DOE's Solar

Energy Technologies Office, and we should be doing the same for offshore wind workforce development through DOE's Wind Energy Technologies Office.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support American energy jobs by voting “yes” on this amendment.

And I reserve the balance of my time. Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, this bill includes \$84 million for research and development on wind energy within the EERE account. That is more than \$53 million higher than the budget request—\$53 million higher than the budget request.

Research and development in the wind office was targeted to support our Nation's wind turbine testing infrastructure and advanced solutions to wind energy challenges. This is a strategic focus to lay the foundation for technological innovations that can be picked up by industry at a later stage.

While I support research and development on wind energy and recognize my colleague's advocacy for these activities, focusing funds on job training grants strays too far from the bill's strategic priorities. Therefore, I must oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, this amendment really is a very modest investment in our Nation's workforce and, therefore, worthy of increased funding devoted to this purpose.

We can't just be investing in energy technologies; we need to be investing in our people who will bring these technologies out of the lab and into our homes and businesses.

Offshore wind has the potential to create tens of thousands of jobs and make the United States a global industry leader.

The gentleman referenced some increases, but, even with this amendment, funding for the Wind Energy Technologies Office is still below last year's level.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strongly support Congresswoman TSONGAS' amendment.

In our country today, there are 12 wind projects in various stages of development, spanning 10 States off the east, west, and Texas coasts and, of course, in the Great Lakes as well. These offshore projects alone represent over 5,000 megawatts of potential offshore development. We don't have a kilowatt to waste.

These projects can create thousands of manufacturing, construction, and supply-chain jobs across our country and drive billions of dollars of local economic investment.

We know we will need workers to do these clean energy jobs. And I can

guarantee you those towers are very high. So I definitely support funding for training activities in this regard for the future.

The Department of Energy already has workforce training grants for solar, and, therefore, I would very much wish to carry over that effort as well to the Wind Power Technologies Office.

Mr. Chairman, I congratulate the gentlewoman for offering this important amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 15 seconds to my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, there are people in our country who are looking for jobs. We also have in our country jobs that are looking for people. So this matches that up.

Research and development is important, but without people to be trained to go forward it will come to no avail in our country. It is important for our region; it is important for our country.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SIMPSON for yielding me additional time. This gives me a brief time to tell how it is important in my region as well as how real it is in our region.

In my district, a major offshore wind project just got the green light to build an 800-megawatt wind farm 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. It is going to bring with it hundreds and hundreds of new, high-quality job opportunities in southeastern Massachusetts.

This requires skilled labor, and the amendment would try to connect those workers with these skills and the training they need to take advantage of these opportunities to these new jobs.

This is something that has to be done ahead of time in our country. One of the biggest weaknesses we do have, I think, economically, is that we have to prepare for the jobs that are here that we don't have people for and the jobs that will grow that we don't have enough people for. It is an opportunity to do this.

I thank the chairman again for yielding the time, and I thank the leadership of the gentlewoman from Massachusetts, Ms. TSONGAS.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman and gentlewoman's passion for this.

I have to oppose the amendment at this time but look forward to working with the gentlewoman to try to address this issue as we move forward in the future.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. TSONGAS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

□ 1730

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, my amendment would increase funding for the Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response program by \$1 million and decrease the departmental administration fund within the Department of Energy by an equal amount.

The new Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response addresses the emerging threats of tomorrow while protecting the reliable flow of energy to America's broad population today by improving energy infrastructure security and supporting the Department of Energy's national security mission.

Being prepared and ready to respond quickly and effectively to all hazards is crucial. We need to make sure we can improve the ability of energy sector stakeholders to prevent, prepare for, and respond to threats, hazards, natural disaster, and other supply disruptions. Additionally, in today's highly interconnected world, reliable energy delivery requires cyber resilient energy delivery systems.

This amendment would increase funds to focus on preparedness and response activities to natural and man-made threats, ensuring a stronger, more prosperous, and secure future for the Nation.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for his support.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. SOTO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, my amendment would increase funding for the Electric Delivery program by \$1 million and decrease the departmental administrative fund within the Department of Energy by an equal amount.

This amendment is intended to increase funding for the new Electric Delivery program's activities to accelerate discovery and innovation in electrical transmission and distribution technologies and create next generation devices, software, tools, and techniques to help modernize the electric grid.

Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for all their work in advancing high-power capacity batteries and grid restoration efforts in Puerto Rico.

First, I thank the committee for the inclusion of report language discussing the potential benefits of high-power, high-capacity batteries. These batteries could provide energy resilience in the face of extreme weather disasters. These technologies could have prevented hardships during last year's hurricane season and decrease reliance on generators during emergencies.

In Florida, Hurricane Maria caused a prolonged power outage in assisted living facilities that cost lives. This could have been prevented, and this amendment assists in that.

Second, I thank the committee for the report language that supports the Department's involvement in the grid restoration efforts in Puerto Rico. Their continued effort and support provide technical assistance as Puerto Rico works to rebuild its energy infrastructure and is essential to long-term recovery.

Again, my amendment would increase funding for the Electric Delivery program, which would advance our Nation's grid reliability and resiliency.

I thank the chairman and the committee for their support, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. WEBER OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 23, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$35,000,000)(increased by \$35,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

I want to thank the gentleman from Idaho, Representative MIKE SIMPSON, the chairman of the House Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for bringing a pro-science bill to the floor that supports nuclear energy innovation. I strongly support division A of this legislation and appreciate the chairman's work on this bill.

Over the past 4 years, the Science, Space, and Technology Committee championed legislation to provide the tools needed to develop advanced nuclear reactor technology in these United States. My bill, the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, passed the House three times last Congress and, most recently, was included in H.R. 589, the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act, that passed the House in January of last year.

A key part of this legislation authorizes DOE to construct a research reactor. This reactor, or versatile neutron source, is critical for the development of advanced reactor designs, materials, and nuclear fuels. Access to fast neutrons currently only available for civilian research in Russia is crucial for private sector development of next generation materials and fuels needed for advanced nuclear reactor technology.

The versatile neutron source will also enable the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to verify data on new fuels, materials, and designs more efficiently, expediting regulatory approval for advanced nuclear reactors.

Earlier this year, the House passed a second bill that authorizes specific funding from within the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy for the construction of that versatile neutron source. My bill, the Nuclear Energy Research Infrastructure Act, included \$100 million for this project in fiscal year 2019.

While I am pleased to see the report for this legislation direct \$65 million in funding for this facility, we must move forward on construction for the versatile neutron source as quickly as possible. My amendment is intended to increase funding for this vital project from within the Office of Nuclear Energy to match the House-passed authorization.

Modeling and simulation can accelerate R&D, but nuclear energy research must be validated through a physical source like a research reactor. Building this open-access user facility in the DOE national lab system will facilitate nuclear energy research in the United States, which otherwise simply will not take place. We cannot afford to lose the ability to develop innovative nuclear technology right here at home.

I want to again thank Chairman SIMPSON for his support of nuclear energy research and for prioritizing the research infrastructure that keeps America safe while keeping America globally competitive.

I am prepared to withdraw my amendment and to continue working with the chairman to advance the House-passed authorization levels for this important project in conference if I can get assurance from him.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague for his amendment and for his willingness to withdraw it and for the authorizer's strong support for this bill.

I recognize the House-passed authorization for the versatile neutron source is a priority of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and also of me.

I appreciate my colleague's highlighting these priorities, and I look forward to working with him as we move into conference to ensure these priorities have sufficient funding in the final legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 24, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$20,000,000) (increased by \$20,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to

increase funding to the Office of Fossil Energy's program to support solid oxide fuel cell research technology for power generation, and I want to thank my colleague from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for working on this amendment with me.

Countries around the world—China, Korea, Germany, and Japan—are already prioritizing the development of their fuel cell industries. In order for the United States to remain competitive in this global economy, we must support the research and development of new and innovative energy technologies, including fuel cells.

Robust Federal funding of technologies that are not yet commercially viable, like solid oxide fuel cells, allow the United States to remain in the forefront of cleaner energy technologies and will help grow jobs across the country to meet the entire world's demand for cleaner, cheaper energy.

In my home State of Connecticut, FuelCell Energy, a Danbury- and Torrington-based company, has become one of the world's leaders in delivering clean, efficient, and affordable fuel cell solutions. Researchers at FuelCell are developing new applications for solid oxide fuel cell technology and are making great advances in the field of stationary fuel cells.

The Department of Energy program that our amendment increases funding for supports jobs in Connecticut at FuelCell Energy, FuelCell Energy's Connecticut vendors, the University of Connecticut, which receives SECA funding through the FuelCell subcontractors, and at innovative companies and institutions across this country.

Mr. Chair, this amendment is a win-win for our economy. New innovation in fuel cell technology promotes cleaner, more sustainable energy and creates American jobs. I urge my colleagues to support funding for the Office of Fossil Energy's program to support solid oxide fuel cell research technology.

I thank the Members for their support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 24, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$28,310,000)".

Page 30, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$28,310,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) and a Mem-

ber opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, the Beyer-Eshoo-Esty amendment simply restores funding to the Advanced Research Project-Energy, ARPA-E, to the FY18 enacted level that was already approved by this Congress earlier this year.

ARPA-E was created to replicate the successful DARPA model by incentivizing researchers to develop promising research into game-changing technologies that can meet our future energy needs.

Mr. Chairman, despite the huge payoff, the private sector does not often and cannot invest efficiently in kind of high-risk, high-reward energy research. ARPA-E has already demonstrated incredible success in advancing energy technology solutions that neither the public nor the private sector has been willing or able to support in the past.

Since 2009, 136 of these projects have attracted more than \$2.6 billion in private sector follow-on funding.

And please note, the amendment does not cut fossil energy research. It simply reduces the plus-up for the account. The Fossil Energy R&D will still receive \$30 million more than last year and 50 percent more than President Trump's FY19 request level.

I urge my colleagues to support the Beyer-Eshoo-Esty amendment to make ARPA-E whole. ARPA-E is a smart bet on America's proven ability to turn creative ideas into market-creating, job-growing businesses.

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

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from West Virginia is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY).

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment, but let's just step back a second. Here is the reality.

America and the entire world will be relying on fossil energy for years to come. The Energy Information Administration estimates that, in 2040, fossil energy will still make up 78 percent of the energy used in the world.

□ 1745

Let's look at two examples of what America stands to lose if this amendment is adopted.

The fossil R&D program has put America on the cusp of producing zero carbon emissions from electric generation using the innovative and unique Allam cycle.

The innovative NET Power plant in Texas was funded by DOE in its research. It is amazing what they are doing using CO<sub>2</sub> to spin a turbine instead of as an emission.

To this end, Congress should be putting more money into this program on research, not reducing it.

Secondly, the fossil R&D program also has had tremendous success in extracting rare earth elements from coal and mine drainage. But, currently, China controls over 90 percent of the world's rare earth elements. These minerals are critical to our national defense and are used in hybrid vehicles, wind turbines, fuel cells, and portable electronics.

By adopting this amendment, we would be unnecessarily putting the environment at risk and lose a potential key supply of rare earth minerals.

Fossil fuels will be around for the foreseeable future. We should be utilizing them in the cleanest, most efficient manner through research, and all of that requires more research at the Federal level.

The House has soundly defeated a similar amendment in the past, and I urge my colleagues to do so now as well.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, there is virtually nothing my friend from West Virginia said that I disagree with, except the idea that we are somehow taking money from fossil fuel research that is untoward. Just remember, this is a \$30 million step up from last year and 50 percent more than President Trump has even asked for.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this amendment, the Beyer-Eshoo-Esty amendment, which restores funding to make it equal to the fiscal year 2018 level agreed to by Congress earlier this year for ARPA-E, which is the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy.

ARPA-E is housed within the Department of Energy and invests in emerging clean energy technologies to make our country more energy-secure, reduce costs, and increase energy efficiency. So it is smart. It is smart. That is what America has been known for, and we want to retain that reputation. The Agency specializes in high-risk, high-reward technologies that are, in many instances, too risky for the private sector but have enormous potential to change how we produce and consume energy.

ARPA-E is doing for energy development what the NIH does for medical research. It provides early-stage support for new moonshot ideas that have the potential to transform the everyday lives of Americans and our economy.

ARPA-E is a product of the 2006 Innovation Agenda and was modeled after the highly acclaimed DARPA, created 60 years ago in the Department of Defense. It is credited with launching some of the most successful technologies of our time, including GPS and the internet.

ARPA-E was created by Congress in 2007 with bipartisan support, it was

signed into law by a Republican President, and it has been a resounding success.

In its 10-year history, the agency has funded over 660 projects that have helped create 71 new companies; attracted over \$2.6 billion in private sector funding; led to the creation of 245 new patents; and fostered over 1,700 peer-reviewed articles to further our understanding of the energy ecosystem.

Mr. Chairman, the United States, I think, is really at an important crossroads in our history. We will decide whether our country is going to continue to lead the world in innovation.

Foreign competitors, such as China, are surging investments in new R&D and threaten to overtake our country in that area. We must continue our basic investments to ensure we remain the most innovative and successful economy in the world, and this amendment helps to advance this.

This has been bipartisan and overwhelmingly successful for our country. Why would we turn the pages back?

So, for all these reasons and more, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Chairman, fossil energy helped make America the great Nation it is today. West Virginia coal, for example, helped forge the steel that built skyscrapers and won world wars.

The DOE Fossil Energy account helps our Nation develop the next generation of fossil technologies. If we don't develop it, other nations will. America must continue its energy dominance and independence, and fossil fuels must play a critical role in our energy strategy.

The Fossil Energy account invests in research and development for coal, oil, and natural gas, which produce, as you have heard, more than 60 percent of our Nation's electricity.

The research being done at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, West Virginia, and other locations is paying off. We are seeing breakthroughs in coal use in energy production, as well as carbon capture and storage technology.

These breakthroughs mean the United States does not need to rely on unfriendly nations for energy anymore. Within 5 years, the United States will become the largest producer in the world of crude oil, bigger than Russia or Saudi Arabia.

Investing in fossil energy programs will fuel the next generation of innovation and do so responsibly. Cutting this funding will only set America back. We have abundant, reliable, domestic energy resources, and abandoning this research will put our energy future in severe jeopardy.

President Trump, just last week, took action to strengthen our Nation's coal-fired power plants to protect our national security and grid reliability.

Cutting this funding is irresponsible and jeopardizes our energy independ-

ence. Therefore, I urge Members to vote against this amendment, which would impose significant cuts to R&D funding for fossil energy technology.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Ranking Member LOWEY, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to point out that, if one looks at the fine print in our bill, the account, actually, for fossil is increased by over \$50 million over the current year. That is a pretty healthy increase.

We are not really cutting anything in that bill if we take the funds that you are offering here. Fossil will still see a \$30 million increase over this year. It isn't being cut to the bones or anything like that. In fact, we are adding flesh to the bones of the fossil accounts.

I think it is important to support the Beyer-Eshoo-Esty proposal here in this amendment because we are creating the future with ARPA-E. Nobody knows what ARPA-E means in the average neighborhood of our country. It really is not just the moonshot; it is the Mars-shot. It is the highest level of energy research we do.

When I saw Members from Massachusetts down on the floor here a little earlier, I thought to myself: When I saw the Russian tanker come in last year with natural gas because parts of the East Coast couldn't heat their homes in the wintertime, I have to tell you, I am worried. Every American should be worried.

We should be developing energy on many fronts. An all-of-the-above strategy is exactly what this country should be doing. We shouldn't be peeling away funds for the highest level of research that we do in our Nation.

Truly, ARPA-E helps us become a global leader. It is transformational in what it does. It is a model for others to imitate. It is smart, it is agile, it is fast-acting, it is nonbureaucratic, and it is bold—qualities that both Republicans and Democrats like.

Last year, actually, many Republican officials and business leaders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said ARPA-E is a blueprint for smart Federal investments that boost our global competitiveness. And surely it does, because I can remember a time when America was not running its way to energy independence. It was, in fact, completely dependent on imported sources of energy.

ARPA-E has been nothing short of remarkable. One hundred and thirty-six projects have attracted over \$2.6 billion in private sector follow-on funding. I repeat: private sector.

While I do support fossil—and Ohio is a State right now where we have a lot of coal, we have a lot of natural gas. We even have some oil being brought up with the natural gas. I support all that. But we know one thing about

that: it is finite. It is not going to be there for future generations.

ARPA-E leads us into a new future, and this amendment moves us in the proper direction.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the Beyer-Eshoo-Esty amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I simply add that we are not cutting the fossil fuel research and development, which we do believe in. This is a plus-up from last year of at least \$30 million and 50 percent more than President Trump has requested.

All we are simply doing is trying to appropriate to ARPA-E what was enacted by this Congress and, also, to point out that ARPA-E does not exclude fossil fuel research.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$126,800,000) (increased by \$126,800,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment to H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

I first want to thank the gentleman from Idaho, Congressman MIKE SIMPSON, the chairman of the House Appropriations Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, for working with us to develop a strong, pro-science appropriations bill.

I strongly support division A of this legislation, and I appreciate the chairman's initiative in basic science research.

This amendment provides for critical facility upgrades and construction of basic research infrastructure that are within the core mission of the Department of Energy and will lead to sci-

entific discoveries that will maintain U.S. leadership in innovation and technology.

In February, the House unanimously passed three bipartisan House Science, Space, and Technology Committee research infrastructure bills: H.R. 4376, the Department of Energy Research Infrastructure Act; H.R. 4377, the Accelerating American Leadership in Science Act; and H.R. 4378, the Nuclear Energy Research Infrastructure Act. These bills authorized full funding for upgrades in construction of several high-priority user facilities at DOE National Labs.

This amendment provides \$76.8 million from within funds appropriated to the Office of Science to meet the House-passed authorization levels for four of the infrastructure projects included in these bills, including the LINAC Coherent Light Source high energy upgrade, the proton power upgrade to the Spallation Neutron Source, the construction of the Spallation Neutron Source Second Target Station, and the construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

My amendment also fully supports basic research in fusion energy science, a field that could lead to a revolutionary new energy source. Specifically, it provides \$50 million from within the funds appropriated to the Office of Science for the direct U.S. commitment for fiscal year 2019 to the construction of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, or ITER, project.

While I am pleased that division A of this legislation provides \$163 million for the agreed-to hardware and other in-kind contributions, cash contributions to ITER are not designated in the bill. My amendment is intended to address this issue and fully fund the U.S. commitment in fiscal year 2019.

I want to also draw attention to another shared priority with the chairman, reinstating the Low Dose Radiation Research Program at DOE. This program is essential to understanding the health impact of low doses of radiation.

There is a broad consensus within the radiobiology community that more research is necessary for Federal agencies, physicians, and related experts to make better-informed decisions regarding low-dose radiation.

□ 1800

Earlier this year, the House passed H.R. 4675, the Low Dose Radiation Research Act, which authorizes \$20 million in fiscal year 2019. I hope we can work together to provide this funding for low dose radiation research.

Mr. Chair, I again thank Chairman SIMPSON for his long-standing support of basic research and investments in DOE's best-in-the-world science facilities.

I greatly appreciate the effort the chairman has made to prioritize fundamental science and our long-standing partnership to responsibly fund DOE.

Mr. Chair, I am prepared to withdraw my amendment and to continue working with the chairman to advance the House-passed authorization levels for these important projects in conference.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman of the Science Committee for his amendment and for the authorizers' strong support for this bill. I recognize the House-passed authorizations for DOE research, infrastructure construction and facilities upgrades, and the low dose radiation research are priorities of the Science Committee.

I appreciate the chairman highlighting these priorities and I look forward to working with him as we move to conference to ensure these projects receive sufficient funding.

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

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Chair, I appreciate Chairman SIMPSON's commitment and support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, my amendment allocates resources for additional research into innovative technologies and processes for safe and secure storage, treatment, transportation, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear reactors.

Five nuclear power plants have retired since 2013. Six more across the country, including the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in my district, are slated to retire just in the next few years.

This is also timely, because just last month, this House passed, by a margin of 340-72, a bill to improve nuclear waste storage.

Reactors can shut down, but that doesn't mean there is a safe, secure plan for spent fuel stored onsite.

Pilgrim has been operating for over 45 years in Massachusetts, and its spent fuel has been stored there ever since.

The Pilgrim Plant is slated to retire in 2019, almost exactly 1 year from today. The spent fuel there needs to be addressed. My community in Plymouth and those around the country are asking legitimate questions on how the safety and security of these materials can be increased.

We have an opportunity to dig deeper into these questions and find better answers for my constituents and for people around the country who have a nuclear power plant nearby.

New advanced research should examine how the safety and security of spent fuel pools can be improved.

Additionally, the safe transfer of materials to dry casks deserves to be reexamined, as does the design and long-term integrity of dry casks. Furthermore, research into the transportation and ultimate disposal of spent fuel is crucial in identifying the best and safest long-term solutions. They too need to be examined and improved.

My amendment supports further research into these areas so that when nuclear energy is part of our communities, we are able to ensure, as best we can, that spent nuclear fuel is secure and not posing unnecessary threats.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this amendment and urge their support.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise to support my good colleague, Congressman KEATING, and his amendment dealing with spent nuclear fuel.

We need a solution all across our country to spent nuclear fuel stored on dozens and dozens of sites across our country.

We thought we had a solution. \$14 billion has been invested in the Yucca Mountain facility, and yet because of opposition from those who were not consulted in Nevada before that site was constructed, our Nation has been at a standstill. So I want to compliment the gentleman from Massachusetts for bringing up this issue.

Northern Ohio, a vast region that I and other Ohio Members represent, has more than one nuclear power plant that is faced with spent nuclear fuel onsite.

We know that the Department of Energy is doing tremendous work in this arena, very fine work, but we simply can't continue to just keep talking about this. We actually have to begin to store fuel in a much safer way.

This amendment would build on the work that DOE has been doing to continue to invest in such a critically im-

portant area as spent nuclear fuel and its permanent storage.

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

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment today to direct \$3 million to the Office of Science within the Department of Energy for important nuclear fusion science work being done across the country.

Specifically, these funds would support divertor test tokamak research and development. The fusion community has identified the need for a tokamak specifically designed for divertor testing as a necessary research facility to drive divertor innovation.

Fusion science, Mr. Chairman, is the future of energy production, offering unique and substantial advantages compared to other approaches. Fusion power is a safe, clean, and sustainable energy source that could provide the United States with energy independence and a nearly limitless energy supply. The future is closer than we think. Sustainable fusion energy production is a very real possibility within the next 10 years.

However, there are outstanding technical issues that must be solved before we can harness fusion as a practical energy source. Among them is dealing with extreme temperatures generated through the process, over a million degrees. A tokamak designed with divertor tests in mind could test potential solutions to this problem.

These funds support the immediate need of design conceptualization, which will help keep the United States as a world leader in this area. We must seize this opportunity and vigorously pursue this research and development work.

This work may also have critical national security implications. The

House Report accompanying H.R. 5515, the fiscal year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act that recently passed the House, contains language asking the Department of Defense to explore this technology and its potential use towards our national security objectives.

History has shown, Mr. Chairman, that research funding fosters innovative ideas and new technologies that can produce order-of-magnitude improvements over those presently employed. The current fusion science research program suggests promising advancements in plasma and material science, which could readily support defense initiatives. To ensure this critical work continues and that we capitalize on its findings, Congress must act to fund this important work.

Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for taking my request into consideration. This investment is critical in providing for our collective national and energy security, and I respectfully urge its adoption.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for the consideration of this amendment. I think it is important to try and meet the future energy needs and national security needs of our country, and I again urge its adoption.

Mr. Chair, I yield back of balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. KIHUEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 27, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$190,000,000)".

Page 64, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$190,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, I come to the floor to discuss the State of Nevada's fierce opposition to using Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste dump.

While I appreciate having the opportunity to speak to you today, I am extremely frustrated with the recent actions Congress has taken to revive this project.

Mr. Chairman, Yucca Mountain lies in my congressional district. In the 30 years since Congress passed the "Screw Nevada" bill, Congress has wasted \$3.7 billion of taxpayers' money on a project that Nevada has repeatedly said will not happen.

And now, this Congress wants to continue to egregiously spend money on this failed project in fiscal year 2019 appropriations.

So once again, I am here to fight to prevent nuclear waste from ever coming to my home State of Nevada. That is why I have introduced an amendment to H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

My amendment, Mr. Chairman, would strike \$190 million for the licensing of the nuclear waste depository at Yucca Mountain.

I routinely hear from my Republican colleagues on the need to reduce our deficit and debt. I fully agree with the sentiment. Congress should not waste another \$190 million of taxpayer money on a project that will not come to fruition.

But you should support my amendment not just on the fiscal basis. Mr. Chairman, my home State of Nevada, which has no nuclear energy-producing facilities, should not be the dumping ground for the rest of the country's nuclear waste.

And this is not just an issue facing Nevadans. It is an issue that impacts constituents from 329 congressional districts in 44 States and Washington, D.C.

Putting a nuclear repository in Nevada's backyard means that this high level nuclear waste must travel through your backyards first as well.

Your constituents will see high level nuclear waste transported through their communities on rail and by truck. A simple car crash or train derailment will leave your constituents at risk and cost our taxpayers more money to clean up the mess.

It is clear that reopening Yucca Mountain is fiscally unsound, presents threats to people across the country, and is unwanted by the people of Nevada. That is why I encourage you to support my amendment to prevent nuclear waste from ever coming to Nevada.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), my colleague.

□ 1815

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of our amendment, which would strike funding for the Yucca Mountain project.

Like the vast majority of Nevadans, I firmly oppose any attempt to turn my State into the Nation's nuclear waste dump. Dumping nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain wouldn't only endanger the health and safety of my constituents, who live just 90 miles away in the Las Vegas Valley, it would threaten millions of Americans in 44 States.

This ill-conceived plan would mean transporting tens of thousands of metric tons of radioactive waste across this country. Those shipments of hazardous material would travel on our highways and railways to Nevada

through over 329 congressional districts on a weekly basis for more than 50 years.

Finally, reviving Yucca Mountain would jeopardize military testing and training at our defense facilities.

Our amendment would strike \$190 million for the licensing for this administration's plan to turn Nevada into a dumping ground. That is the bulk of the funding for this dangerous failure of a project. We shouldn't waste another dime of taxpayer money on failed efforts to try to send nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain.

It is time to move on from this reckless and costly project, so I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to remove this licensing funding and, instead, work with us on alternative solutions that repurpose Yucca Mountain into something that can create jobs and keep our families safe.

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

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, let me be clear what this amendment does.

This is 1,000 pages of the safety and evaluation report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission—5 volumes. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is our independent safety agency on all things nuclear.

What my colleague from Nevada's amendment does is strip the money for what they keep telling me they want. They want to prove the science. They want to say it is not safe. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says it is safe for a million years.

Now, if my colleagues from Nevada want to debate the science, then they can do that, per the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, through the licensing project. But, no, they don't want to put their science up against our independent nuclear safety agency. They want to adjudicate this in the court of public opinion and deprive the money to have that final science debate.

So this amendment is really an anti-science amendment to not debate the NRC's finding, because we know that in their conclusion they say storing nuclear waste in a long-term geological repository—and this is the world consensus—in a deep geological repository is what the world's scientists say is the safest way to store spent nuclear fuel and defense waste.

That is not just the United States. That is France. That is Norway. That is Great Britain. That is many of our allies and friends and their scientists. Again, 1,000 pages, 5 volumes, public record.

This amendment takes that money away so we don't have a debate on the science. It is either in the desert underneath a mountain, 1,000 feet above the ground table, 1,000 feet below the top of the mountain, or it is on the Pacific Ocean. Those are the choices that we had debated in H.R. 3053.

And not only that, the Chamber as a whole, in a bipartisan manner, said—340 Members—actually, more Democrats supported H.R. 3053 than opposed it—340-72. Why? Because we have a national problem which requires a national solution. We have to keep our promises.

These are the operating commercial and nuclear reactors. This doesn't even talk about the defense issue. The national media from around the country is on our side as far as moving forward if the science is found to be reliable.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission says a million years. The State of Nevada says: Not so. Let's have the debate. Let's not strip the money away to have that final debate. That is why I ask my colleagues to reject this amendment.

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

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I am glad this amendment came, because our job now is to educate, not only the State of Nevada, but it is also to educate our colleagues from across the country that the science debate, the final decision needs to be through the licensing.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, our independent Federal nuclear safety agency, says it will be safe for a million years. Nevada says: Not so. Let's have the debate. Let's not strip the money.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) assumed the chair.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

S. 2377. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

S. 2734. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). It is now in order to

consider amendment No. 24 printed in part B of House Report 115–711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 30, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$325,000,000)”.

Page 30, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$29,250,000)”.

Page 64, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$325,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, the ARPA-E program first began receiving funding through the 2009 Obama stimulus and is currently unauthorized.

ARPA-E grew out of those years’ overly optimistic perception of the Federal Government’s ability to lead in areas of commercially viable energy research and technology, particularly in renewables.

The obvious problem with this premise is that the government, unlike our Nation’s industries and corporations, has never been in the business of cost-benefit maximization, as other blunders from that period, like the Solyndra scandal, demonstrated.

This is because the Federal Government is competent and accomplished in the areas of basic, early-stage scientific research but poorly positioned to move research from concept to market. And ARPA-E provides even further demonstration of that. The Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies defunded the program in their FY18 draft passed bill.

The administration and the Republican Study Committee have both advocated eliminating this stimulus-era program and have continually indicated that the proper role of government in energy research is at the level of basic research taking place in existent, well-funded programs like the Office of Science and the applied energy research and development program.

Those DOE programs that they point to are more worthy recipients of Federal dollars, are effective, and produce results because they focus on the right goals.

For this reason, the administration is also strongly opposed to continued funding for the ARPA-E program. The White House stated in its fiscal year 2019 budget proposal:

Appropriations for ARPA-E were only authorized through 2013 under the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. In addition, there has been concern about the potential for ARPA-E’s efforts to overlap with research and development being carried out, or which should be carried out, by the private sector.

No new appropriations are requested in 2019. The Department would request re-

programming of prior-year unobligated balances for program closeout activities to ensure full closure of ARPA-E by mid-2020. Any remaining contract closeout and award monitoring activities would be transferred elsewhere within DOE.

This proposed elimination reflects both a streamlining of Federal activities and a refocusing on the proper Federal role in energy research and development.

In a May 15 view letter to House Appropriations on the Energy and Water bill, the White House stated: “The Administration is disappointed that the bill does not eliminate ARPA-E. The Committee is encouraged to explore options to incorporate certain ARPA-E attributes, such as cross-cutting research coordination and enhanced flexibility, into the Department of Energy’s primary research efforts within the Office of Science and Applied Energy Research Programs rather than maintain a separate program through ARPA-E.”

In a June 5 Statement of Administration Policy, the White House stated: “The Administration believes that the continued funding of ARPA-E makes little strategic sense given the existence of applied energy research elsewhere within the Department. The Congress is urged to eliminate ARPA-E and incorporate its more successful elements, such as coordination with industry and cross-cutting research, into the Department’s applied energy programs.”

The innovations ARPA-E supporters crow about must come from the market or from academic research institutions, because the Federal Government’s track record of responding to commercial incentives in a cost-beneficial way to the taxpayer is absolutely poor.

The proper Federal nexus for research is the early-stage work being done at the existing Office of Science and the applied energy research program, not projects foisted onto the government that weren’t compelling enough to receive private funding.

Heritage Action, Freedomworks, Club for Growth, and the National Taxpayers Union are key-voting this amendment. The amendment is also endorsed by the Americans for Limited Government and Taxpayers for Common Sense.

I urge adoption of this amendment that supports President Trump’s agenda.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. Ross). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

My colleague’s amendment would eliminate the Advanced Research Project Agency—Energy, otherwise known as ARPA-E.

ARPA-E’s mission is to fund projects that are not yet addressed by the pri-

vate sector but that can bring transformational shifts in current energy technologies. From reducing the energy involved in producing aluminum to creating new battery storage technologies, these are projects that have impacts in almost every industry.

Since 2009, ARPA-E has provided funding for more than 660 projects. As of this year, ARPA-E projects have produced 245 patents, formed 71 new companies, and have raised more than \$2.9 billion in follow-on funding from the private sector to bring technologies to market.

These are successes, and successes help ensure our Nation’s energy security and create a manufacturing edge in the energy sector. These are energy technology goals all Members can support.

I would remind my friend from Arizona, our job is not to be lemmings for the administration. It is to make our own independent judgment.

While I appreciate and look at the reason that they would like to eliminate ARPA-E, I disagree with them. So do a majority of the Members of Congress, as they have demonstrated in the past.

So we must exercise our independent judgment on what is best. While we respect the administration’s position, we just disagree with it.

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

□ 1830

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, any program that receives this much funding has individual successes proponents can point to. The problem with this program is that the ratio of successes to the failures is far lower with this one than comparable Federal research programs.

It also targets an area of research that is inappropriate for Federal research. Basic early-stage research is a profit avenue for Federal dollars to go, not late-stage research on projects approaching commercialization. If a concept or technology is nearing commercialization, that is the right nexus for private industry to get involved.

Our country’s major companies in tech, engineering, and energy are flush with cash, and projects that they think are commercially viable are getting more funding than ever before. Failure by the government to salvage a project means that the projects, on the whole, aren’t worth being salvaged by government, industry, or anyone.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and rise to strongly oppose the Gosar amendment to completely eliminate the ARPA-E advanced energy research program, which helps propel our Nation forward as a global leader.

I could just say to the gentleman from Arizona, for some of the firms

that have contacted me, the Chinese are hacking into their intellectual property every week as they struggle to maintain a global lead in new energy technologies.

Yes, ARPA-E is a pioneering program. It was designed to be that way. Yes, it is high risk. Yes, it is high end, so much so that the private sector won't do what ARPA-E is conducting. The research is so high in science that most companies in this country can't even touch it. And, frankly, I don't want the Chinese designing our future.

They are actually doing research before the private market can drive it forward with a commercial product.

I would like to point out that, in 2011, an American Enterprise Institute-Brookings Institution breakthrough study called for ARPA-E to be funded at \$1.5 billion, annually, because of other countries around the world beginning to do research in a way that was competing with our own.

The American Energy Innovation Council, a panel of many of the Nation's top business leaders, including Bill Gates, have called for ARPA-E to be funded at \$1 billion a year. And last year, Republican officials—oil and energy executives, business leaders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce—told Congress, ARPA-E is a blueprint “... that boost our competitiveness by keeping America at the forefront of global energy technology research.”

These are some of the best people in our country. We ought to be listening to them. We are their representatives. As the program focused on new possibilities, new patents, ARPA-E has been nothing short of remarkable, with 136 projects attracting nearly \$3 billion in private sector follow-on funding.

They won't do the research, but they will take what we have invested and really do something in the marketplace with it; but beyond just the marketplace, something that might have something to do with our defense, for example, something to do with our national security—inventing the future.

And yet we have come to expect this administration, they want to eliminate funding, and some of their allies here in the Congress want to eliminate funding. You eliminate the future if you do that. You really do eliminate the future.

So I rise and strongly oppose this amendment. Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to vote “no” on the Gosar amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, once again, this is an unauthorized program and it treads on existing jurisdictions at the Department of Energy, specifically, the Office of Science and Applied Energy Research program. It is a program in search of justification.

Let's take, for example, Solyndra. That is a wonderful success. Really? Private sector couldn't do that? They could do it a ton better than that type of application.

I ask my colleagues to vote for this amendment. This is sound.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. SIMPSON and Ms. KAPTUR for working to try to put forward a bill and to recognize the unfortunate addition of riders, which we would hope that we could pass these kinds of bills in the appropriate manner. But I thank them for their work, and I thank the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

This is an important part of the Energy and Water legislation in Appropriations, and that is the Department of Energy's departmental work that it does with environmental justice.

My amendment would ask for an additional \$1 million to be placed in that program under the administrative office's responsibilities, and to do so because it is an essential tool in the effort to improve the lives of low-income and minority communities as well as the environment at large.

Many of my Members here have worked on this issue, in particular, JIM CLYBURN and the Congressional Black Caucus, over the years. I add to their work by making sure that this is a focus of the Department of Energy.

Maintaining funds for environmental justice that go to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, minority-serving institutions, Tribal colleges, and other organizations is imperative to protecting sustainability and growth of the community and environment. In particular, those individuals who study this issue in those particular institutions of higher learning go out to communities and are a source

of research and aid to communities that suffer from the lack of environmental justice, for example, in Flint, Michigan. It is clear that that is a place where there was an infusion of experts on how to deal with unclear water.

I worked with Dr. Hotez, one of the renown infectious disease physicians in Houston, Texas, when the Zika virus began to take over in the summer in, particularly, minority communities.

DOE's Environmental Justice Program provides dollars to be awarded to an important cause of increasing youth involvement in STEM and promoting clean energy, weatherization, cleanup, and asset revitalization.

Weatherization is extremely important. The housing stock in my congressional district, as in rural communities, is extremely old and sometimes weak and subjected to the whims of bad winter weather and the whims of very hot summers. These dollars can assist in these kinds of programs.

The Community Leadership Institute is another vital component of the Environmental Justice Program, and it promotes environmental sustainability. It brings important factors, including public health and economic development. It is an important program that helps Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.

So I hope that my colleagues can support the Jackson Lee amendment because it deals with an expanse and an emphasis on the importance of a quality of life that can deal with a good environment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, since the amendment does not change funding levels in the bill, I will not oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, with that in mind, what we are glad to say is that we emphasize and ask for that amount of dollars within the administrative account to be increased on the Environmental Justice Program.

We are grateful for the statement of the chairman, and with that in mind, we want to remind our colleagues that STEM programs, the program that helps in leadership, in particular, that will help young people learn more about environmental justice, the issues that we see in communities with clean water, clean air, the Zika virus, and other elements that impact on minority communities, the Environmental Justice Program can be very helpful and very useful. I would ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk; No. 25.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment increases funding for DOE departmental administration by \$1,000,000 which should be used to enhance the Department's Environmental Justice program activities.

Mr. Chair, the Environmental Justice Program is an essential tool in the effort to improve the lives of low income and minority communities as well as the environment at large.

Twenty-four years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

A healthy environment sustains a productive and healthy community which fosters personal and economic growth.

Maintaining funds for environmental justice that go to Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges, and other organizations is imperative to protecting sustainability and growth of the community and environment.

The funding of these programs is vital to ensuring that minority groups are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environment and the continued preservation of their homes.

The crisis in Flint, Michigan teaches us how important it is that minority groups and low-income communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to environment threats and hazards like lead in drinking water or nesting areas for mosquitos carrying the Zika virus.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Funds that would be awarded to this important cause would increase youth involvement in STEM fields and also promote clean energy, weatherization, clean-up, and asset revitalization. These improvements would provide protection to our most vulnerable groups.

This program provides better access to technology for underserved communities.

Together, the Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture have distributed over 5,000 computers to low income populations.

The Community Leaders Institute is another vital component of the Environmental Justice Program. It ensures that those in leadership positions understand what is happening in their communities and can therefore make informed decisions in regards to their communities.

In addition to promoting environmental sustainability, CLI also brings important factors including public health and economic development into the discussion for community leaders.

The CLI program has been expanded to better serve Native Americans and Alaska Natives, which is a prime example of how various other minority groups can be assisted as well.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefitted by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

Since 2002, the Tribal Energy Program has also funded 175 energy projects amounting to over \$41.8 million in order to help tribes invest in renewable sources of energy.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

We must help our low income and minority communities and ensure equality for those who are most vulnerable in our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support the Jackson Lee Amendment for the Environmental Justice Program.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MS. LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 26 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk. It is Lee amendment No. 26.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$65,000,000)".

Page 34, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$65,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank our Rules Committee chair, Mr. SESSIONS, also our ranking member, Mr. MCGOVERN, as well as all of the members of the committee for making this amendment in order.

My amendment is very straightforward. It would cut the \$65 million included in this bill for low-yield nuclear weapons and transfer it to the defense nuclear nonproliferation account. My amendment strikes one of the most harmful and controversial recommendations of the Trump Nuclear Posture Review.

Mr. Chairman, funding this warhead would set a dangerous precedent. The last thing we should do is arm our submarines with a low-yield ballistic missile. We have never done this before in the many decades of nuclear deter-

rence, and there is absolutely no reason to start now.

What is worse, this warhead lowers the threshold for nuclear weapons use and puts us on a dangerous path to war. At a time when we should be reducing the threat of nuclear war, we are doing just the opposite.

While the Trump administration claims that another low-yield warhead would help deter Russia from using these weapons first, that is far from the truth. In fact, funding this nuclear weapon could only provoke Russia and heighten the risk of nuclear war.

Let me be clear: This additional funding is both unnecessary, and it is dangerous. Our Nation already processes hundreds of low-yield warheads. In the coming decades, we will invest another \$150 billion despite the fact that we already have the capacity really to destroy the world many times over.

This is a waste of money and a danger to our national security. Instead of provoking another nuclear arms race with Russia, we should be investing in diplomacy and disarmament. The \$65 million would be better spent at the DOE's nuclear nonproliferation program which secures nuclear material both here at home and globally.

It is hard to think of a more vital national security issue than protecting and securing nuclear material, and yet Republicans have cut funding for that important program by \$97 million from fiscal year 2018. This is dangerous and, again, does nothing for our national security.

Rather than fund another low-yield nuclear weapon that we don't need, we should use the \$65 million to increase nuclear nonproliferation accounts and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. That is exactly why my amendment is so important, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Assuring funding for the modernization of our nuclear weapons stockpile is a critical national security priority of this bill. The bill provides necessary funding to extend the life of our Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile and to address the continued deterioration of infrastructure at the NNSA sites.

The amendment targets a new proposal to modify a limited number of W76 warheads that are currently undergoing refurbishment in order to provide for a low-level variant of the warhead. They will either be refurbished with a high-yield warhead or a low-yield warhead.

This modification does not provide the U.S. with any new nuclear capabilities. The U.S. has the capability and will continue to maintain that capability to deliver warheads at this yield

with the Air Force's B61 bomb and the air-launched cruise missile.

These lower level warheads are necessary to provide a credible deterrent against the use of warheads of similar yields that exist in large numbers by other nuclear weapons states.

Specifically, possessing a warhead at this yield shows any aggressor that the U.S. has the capability to provide a proportional response to the use of a nonstrategic or tactical nuclear weapon against the U.S. or its allies. That is why the U.S. nuclear strategy under both the Obama administration and this administration advocated maintaining and modernizing both the B61 bomb and the nuclear-tipped cruise missile.

Given that the U.S. has possessed this same capability for many years, I disagree with the idea that this modification will serve to destabilize relations with other nuclear weapons states. Rather, the intent of this warhead modification is to improve stability to demonstrate that the U.S. has the ability to deliver this capability on platforms that are not vulnerable to air defenses.

□ 1845

It is intended to improve the credibility of our nuclear deterrent and show that the U.S. has the resolve to respond to nuclear threats. Credibility is the most basic requirement for nuclear deterrence to work.

The amendment would also reduce the size of the current W76 stockpile because the funding supports not only the low-yield modification but also the refurbishment work that is needed to extend the life of these warheads.

Mr. Chairman, I support the modification. I urge all Members to vote "no" on this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy and her focusing on this.

I agree wholeheartedly; we don't need to go down this path again. The Republican Congress in 2005 looked at a similar proposal and eliminated it from a spending bill.

The notion that we have low-yield weapons that are going to enable us to advance forward from the submarine launch is troubling. This actually will make the submarine exposed for being able to know where it is and attack it.

And the "low-yield" terminology is a little disquieting. Think of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. These are amazingly destructive. Being able to have gradations of response and buy into that notion I think is deeply troubling and is, in fact, destabilizing.

The \$1.6 trillion episode that we are embarked upon in terms of modernization and enhancement could be well spent in other ways, especially not in this direction.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas

(Mr. THORNBERRY), who is the chairman of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Chairman, we voted on a similar amendment on this topic a week before last in the National Defense Authorization Act. It was defeated then, and it should be defeated now.

Mr. Chairman, I think there must be some misunderstanding. We are not talking about a new weapons system. What we are talking about is taking an existing weapon and taking some of the fissile material out so that it results in a lower yield.

As the chairman from Idaho pointed out, we have similar low-yield weapons that are air-delivered. The only difference here is a different delivery system through the submarines.

Now, by the way, submarines already have the higher yield delivery system. We are multiplying, though, with a low yield two different delivery systems to complicate adversaries' calculations.

Now, why would we want to do that? Well, it turns out the Russians have hundreds and hundreds of these lower yield weapons. And not only that, they write and speak openly about using them, even in conventional sorts of conflict.

So the point of the Nuclear Posture Review is we need the full range of nuclear capability, from higher yield to lower yield, to make it clear that our nuclear deterrent is credible at every level. Whatever they may think they can get away with they cannot get away with.

As Secretary Mattis has written to Leader McCONNELL on June 3, 2018, this "warhead is meant to reinforce the credibility of our response, which strengthens deterrence by denying potential adversaries the advantages they appear to believe they could realize from nuclear first use."

It seems to me that that should be the thing that all of us come together on in national security. It is having a credible nuclear deterrent to ensure that no adversary—Russia, North Korea, no one—believes that they can get away with using these weapons. That is the reason this is so important.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California has 1½ minutes remaining.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, which would strike \$65 million for the development of the W76-2, or low-yield, nuclear warhead and move that funding to the nuclear nonproliferation account.

The development of these warheads is based on the fallacy that nuclear war can be small and contained using smaller, lower yield weaponry. The idea that a nuclear war can be contained or minimized is dubious at best and terrifyingly dangerous at worst.

Former Secretary of State George Schultz has affirmed this, saying that "nuclear weapons are nuclear weapons" and that the only logical path of a nuclear strike is escalation to higher yield weapons.

This sentiment was recently reiterated in a letter signed by Secretary Schultz and nearly three dozen other current and former national security experts and officials, including former Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar and former Secretary of Defense William Perry, opposing the development of these types of warheads.

Further development of these types of weapons creates a greater possibility for a nuclear confrontation that will be impossible to contain. Instead of making us safer, it will only increase the chances that countless lives could be wiped out in an instant.

This is an excellent amendment. It will make America safer.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support the excellent amendment by the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Ranking Member LOWEY, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congresswoman LEE, my colleague on the Appropriations Committee, for offering this very important amendment, and I rise in support of it.

Please let me remind my colleagues who may not agree with our position that if this particular proposal for developing a low-yield nuclear weapon were so important, why was it not included in the administration's initial budget submission to us?

The process by which this has been handled for a nuclear weapon—if this were a conventional, then maybe there is a little room there for maneuver. But in terms of a nuclear weapon, it has many consequences beyond the weapon itself, including the understanding of our allies and including many of the treaties that are currently in place.

I was actually shocked when the Secretary of Energy and many people from the Department of Energy came before our committee and they could not answer any questions on this. The nuclear security agency, when they came up before our committee, at that point this had not been proposed. It came in late; it was thrown over the transom. And I think the manner in which this has been handled is actually terrible.

We have the most capable and sophisticated nuclear arsenal in the world. It is credible enough to deter and respond to any threat right now. We have what we need.

But if we are to alter the combination of weapons that we have in our arsenal, then, for heaven's sake, why not come up under regular order?

We owe it to the American people and to our allies to have a full discussion and debate and assess how others will react to what we are doing and what we need to respond to. This may not be the most perfect response. And we don't want to wander down a path to a variety of nuclear weapons without the kind of debate on deterrence, on security, on cost, on schedule, and on relation to existing systems that we have in place in our own country or others.

So I really think the manner in which this was handled was absolutely awful. For something that deals with nuclear weapons, this Congress deserves more respect, the American people deserve more respect, and the world community deserves more respect. We are not saying we will never support this, but this is not the time to support this.

I think the Congresswoman has proposed the proper amendment, and that is to strike the low-yield missile at this point.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment.

I also want to compliment my colleagues on the other side of this argument: the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee; I see our friend from Colorado and others here. All of us have the same goal, and that is to assure that the United States, and indeed the world, is safe from a nuclear war. We use deterrence as the way of accomplishing that.

Every President since Ronald Reagan has strived to achieve a safer world by reducing the number of nuclear weapons. However, in recent years, beginning with President Obama and being carried on today, we are now involved in a new nuclear arms race.

Not only are we going to build new nuclear weapons—bombs, if you will—such as this 762, presumed to be low-yield, which is still extraordinarily devastating, we are also creating new delivery systems, new land-based missiles in the Upper Midwest, new submarines and new rockets and new stealth bombers—all of that costing more than \$1 trillion.

At the same time, we are developing new sensing devices and new ways in which we might protect those sensing devices and communications.

All of this is creating an extremely dangerous world for our future, not a safer world. We are going in the absolutely wrong direction of increasing the likelihood of a mistake.

I don't think anybody on any side would ever want to initiate, but this particular bomb presents the opportunity for an escalation, a tit for tat. Russia escalates to deescalate, we escalate to deescalate, and they escalate,

and we escalate, and pretty soon it is all gone.

I would just ask all of us to step back and ponder for a moment why it was that Reagan and George H.W. Bush and Clinton and George W. Bush and Obama all went the other direction, to reduce the number of nuclear weapons.

But here we are in the midst of a new nuclear arms race—\$1.7 trillion. And all of us know that there are numerous needs that we have.

So I would ask us just to pause for a second and to accept this amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, is all the time expired on that side?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 15 seconds of her original 5 minutes remaining.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, let me just say a couple of things.

Our country should not expand the number of scenarios under which the United States might consider the use of nuclear weapons. We should never be in a position that the U.S. is using nuclear weapons first, which would lead us to a catastrophic war.

I think Members on both sides of the aisle can agree to this, and I urge my colleagues to support this critical amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, is all of the time expired on my side from the original 5 minutes?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Idaho has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, let me just say in this 30 seconds, first of all, addressing the gentlewoman from Ohio's concern, the administration waited until the Nuclear Posture Review was done before they could submit their request for this funding.

The budget request had been being worked on from clear last September before that, and they came up within days of each other, but the administration was waiting for the NPR to be finished before they submitted.

We might not have liked the way that turned out, but that is just the reality. I don't think it was anybody's intent to try to misguide Congress or anything like that, while I understand her concern.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, before I yield to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN), let me say the impression here is that we are increasing the number of nuclear weapons. We are not. We are doing refurbishment of the current weapons.

And 50 of them would not be high-level; they would be low-level, low-yield nuclear weapons. It doesn't increase the numbers.

All of this is compliant with all of our nuclear treaties—compliant with all of our nuclear treaties.

When I first heard about this, I actually had the same concerns I am hearing from the other side of the aisle: How does this increase our safety? Doesn't it make it more likely it would be used if it was a low-yield rather than high-yield?

Then I went to some briefings and talked to some people, people who wrote the NPR and a few things like that, and what I found out was that Russia already has hundreds and hundreds—as the chairman of the committee said, has hundreds and hundreds of low-yield nuclear warheads.

Why are they doing that? Would they possibly do that? Because they think it will give them a strategic advantage in a traditional war.

If our only response to their use of a low-yield nuclear weapon is Armageddon, then their bet is that we are not going to go to that level. For deterrence to work, it has to be credible. They have to understand that if they even use a low-yield nuclear weapon we will respond and that we have the capability to do it in proportion without destroying the world.

But you also have to understand we are not talking about first use by us. This is meant to decrease the likelihood of a nuclear exchange.

□ 1900

I have come to the conclusion that if we don't do this, we are going to increase the likelihood of a nuclear exchange. Otherwise, why are they creating hundreds and hundreds—and China and North Korea are looking at it also—why are they creating nuclear low-yield weapons? Why is that in their interest?

Stop and think about it a minute.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Idaho, and I appreciate his remarks. I also thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee from Texas.

Let me point out that in the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, Secretary James Mattis conducted a very clear-eyed assessment of nuclear threats. He said: "We must look reality in the eye and see the world as it is, not as we wish it to be."

As has been pointed out, Russia has hundreds and hundreds—actually, thousands—of low-yield nuclear weapons, including nuclear artillery shells, nuclear land mines, nuclear torpedoes, and others that they have announced. Russia regularly trains with its "escalate-to-deescalate" doctrine, which they believe will force the U.S. to surrender early in a conflict.

Under James Mattis, the Nuclear Posture Review rightly says: "Correcting this mistaken Russian perception is a strategic imperative."

Also, dozens of current and former defense officials and military officers

have confirmed that this lower-yield weapon is necessary to enhance deterrence.

Here is President Obama's last Secretary of Defense, Ashton Carter: "My views are reflected in the latest NPR," Nuclear Posture Review, where he agrees with this doctrine.

So that is the last two Secretaries of Defense from two different political parties and from two different administrations—very different administrations, I might add—and they are in full agreement that we need to do this for U.S. capability to stop Russian potential aggression.

The amendment should be rejected. The agenda behind the amendment is totally outside the bipartisan mainstream of serious national security leaders like Secretary James Mattis and Secretary Ashton Carter.

As has been said, I would remind my colleagues that this House has already debated this issue in the fiscal year 2019 NDAA we passed 2 weeks ago by a vote of 351–66—about a six-to-one ratio—and we rejected similar amendments at that time.

So I would urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in part B of House Report 115–711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$97,219,000)".

Page 34, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$97,219,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

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

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program by \$97 million. To offset this increase, my amendment funds the nuclear weapons activities program at \$460 million above its FY 2018 appropriation. That is right, Mr. Chairman.

This amendment returns the nonproliferation account to its FY 2018 enacted level of funding, and still provides the nuclear weapons activities program nearly a half a billion-dollar increase.

I would say this amendment is a simple trade off: support for nuclear proliferation at the expense of nuclear clear weapons. But the numbers reveal this amendment offers us not so much as a tradeoff as it does a win-win solution by making nonproliferation whole again while sacrificing relatively little in terms of nuclear weapons spending. That is because this underlying bill includes more than \$180 million above what the President is requesting for nuclear weapons activities in FY 2019 and \$557 million above the FY 2018 appropriation. That makes this a win-win amendment, Mr. Chairman.

Both of these accounts fund nonproliferation and stockpile reduction programs that I think we can all support. But I fear we are underfunding nonproliferation in a manner inconsistent with our stated security priorities.

In the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review, the administration stated: "Nuclear terrorism remains among the most significant threats to the security of the United States, our allies, and partners."

The National Nuclear Security Administration's Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program works globally to prevent state and non-state actors from developing nuclear weapons or acquiring weapons-usable nuclear or radiological materials, equipment, technology, and expertise. This includes programs for nuclear material removal, international nuclear security, nuclear smuggling detection deterrence, international nuclear safeguards, and nuclear detonation detection. It also includes the Nuclear Counterterrorism and Incident Response program. However, the administration's rhetorical concern for nuclear terrorism is, sadly, not matched by its budget request or the funding level provided in this bill.

Additionally, I am concerned that the current funding level does not help us lay the groundwork for the immense nonproliferation challenge now posed by a possible denuclearization agreement all of us hope will occur on the Korean Peninsula.

The administration's Nuclear Posture Review declared, "North Korea's illicit nuclear program must be completely, verifiably, and irreversibly eliminated." I share that goal. If you want to ensure that inspectors for the International Atomic Energy Agency have the training and expertise they need to implement a complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization program for North Korea, then you must support the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation program and you do not want to see it cut by \$97 million.

Additionally, there are nuclear weapons programs funded in this bill that

are unnecessary, such as funding for the development of low-yield nuclear weapons and an uncertain plan for the expansion of plutonium pit production. Eliminating both of these programs would help return the nonproliferation program to its 2018 level.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to my friend from Virginia's amendment. This bill shows strong support for the nonproliferation programs of the National Nuclear Security Administration, something that I support.

Funding for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation is \$1.9 billion, it is \$39 million above the budget request. That includes increases above the request for research and development activities for which we received Member requests.

I have also supported increases in the past for these activities. The \$2 billion amount that this amendment seeks to achieve is the result of an increase of \$206 million above the fiscal year 2018 request.

The NNSA's nonproliferation account has significant unexpended balances that are the result of slow progress on international nonproliferation agreements and the infusion of additional funding added by Congress in prior years.

It is not enough to just say we support nonproliferation and we support it by increasing the budget. That is how much we support it. It has to go towards something. You have to have agreements with international partners for nonproliferation activities.

In May, the NNSA reported that it had \$2.6 billion in available funds to carry out its nonproliferation mission, of which more than \$733 million is left over from prior years. You have \$733 million left over from prior years, and you want to add to that.

Given the increasing amounts of unexpended balances, it is not clear that the NNSA will be able to expend additional funding in a timely manner.

Not only would the amendment continue to add to programs beyond which the agency has said it can accomplish, it would do so at the expense of funding necessary to sustain our nuclear weapons stockpile, refurbish aging infrastructure, secure facilities where U.S. nuclear weapons are stored, and support a science-based stockpile certification strategy without nuclear testing. That is why I oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time is left on my side.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman CONNOLLY for yielding me his last minute and rise in support of this very important amendment to move \$97 million to the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account.

Without question, we are going to undergo modernization of our entire nuclear stockpile in this country. We are going to spend well over a trillion dollars.

In addition to that, we have had discussions this afternoon and debate about this new low-yield nuclear weapon, which many people have misgivings about in view of the way it has been handled in committee here.

There is no more important time in terms of the world, when we look at many unstable regimes that hold nuclear weapons within their stock, for us to have the most capable people with the most technical expertise to advise, not just people here in the United States, but our friends and allies abroad and international organizations concerned about nuclear proliferation.

So the gentleman's amendment increases our ability, doesn't harm our ability, to monitor and verify arms control agreements and prevent other countries from acquiring nuclear weapons.

I support the amendment. I think it makes sense with what we are doing with our own arsenal and what is happening globally. It makes ultimate sense that we should never cut these accounts.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, the only thing I would ask the gentlewoman from Ohio and the gentleman from Virginia is: What are they going to do with the additional \$97 million? What are you going to do with it?

You have got \$733 million sitting there right now that they can't spend. We have to have agreements with foreign countries to do nonproliferation work. Where are they going to spend it?

I have been complaining—not complaining, but arguing, I guess—with Members for the last several years that want to put money in to show their support for nonproliferation: Why don't you just put more money into it? I ask them: What do you want to do with it? They can't tell you.

By saying we increase the nonproliferation account, it shows we support nonproliferation. But you have got to have something you are going to do with it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield to the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I do have a list of projects totalling between \$100 million and \$190 million that could be funded with this \$97 million.

I would also just add, and then I will yield back, given the fact that the President ripped up the Iran nuclear agreement that was working, we are going to have to spend a lot more money in Iran. And given the fact that we are having a summit with North Korea, hopefully, we are going to have to spend a lot more money in North Korea.

Mr. SIMPSON. Reclaiming my time, I guess you have got an agreement there with Iran to do nonproliferation work?

The reason we have some excess money is because the agreements with Russia, when things got a little cold between our two countries, some of those agreements kind of went by the wayside.

I would like to know what the projects are. If there is something that somebody has come up with, if there are agreements to do those types of things. You can't say: I want to spend another \$97 million on top of the \$733 million.

If that is accurate at \$190 million, we've got \$733 million to do it right now. So why throw another \$97 million on top of it? It just doesn't make sense to me.

Mr. Chairman, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY O'HALLERAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 36, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 1915

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chair, I rise to bring attention to a matter of critical importance to the health and safety of my constituents and citizens across the country.

We need to act swiftly to clean up abandoned uranium mines in the Southwestern United States. On the

Navajo Nation alone, there are over 500 abandoned mine sites that remain unaddressed and pose a danger to area residents.

Many of these mines provided uranium to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission for defense activities between 1947 and 1970, putting them in the purview of the Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program. While this program is working to inventory and assess sites, we must begin planning to clean these sites up.

This past week, I was in Cameron, Arizona, a community on the Navajo Nation which has been impacted by uranium mining. The town sits right above the Little Colorado River, and the mine sites are not far from the river, whose water eventually flows into the Grand Canyon.

In Cameron, I heard stories about how these sites have gone decades without the necessary cleanup. At this same meeting, I heard from community members and Tribal leaders that sites like this are a growing concern across the Navajo Nation. These communities need us now, Mr. Chair.

Across northern Arizona, uranium mining has a toxic legacy, and many of my constituents continue to fight the cancers and diseases that were caused by radiation exposure decades ago. This exposure was so severe that Congress went so far as to pass the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

Today we understand these health risks, and we know that unaddressed sites pose a danger to public health and will continue to pose risks until they are remediated or reclaimed.

In some communities, abandoned mines are near water, near schools, or are places where livestock graze. The potential contamination of these areas that are so critical to our communities and our food and water resources is a serious issue that we have put off for too long. We must step up now and clean these sites.

My amendment simply designates funding to expedite cleanup of sites through the Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program. This amendment will ensure that we are doing our part to improve public health for long-neglected communities in Arizona and the Southwest.

It is past time to turn the page on the Federal Government's disgraceful failure to address this issue for the families affected spanning decades. I urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment on behalf of these families and their communities.

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague's support for the DOE's efforts to take action on the defense-related uranium mines that are a

legacy of the Cold War. The amendment does not change funding levels within the bill, and I do not oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 40, after line 24, insert the following:

WAPA ADMINISTRATOR SALARY

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The salary of Mark Gabriel, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration, shall be reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that utilizes the Holman rule to hold WAPA Administrator Mark Gabriel accountable.

On Gabriel's watch, millions of taxpayer and customer dollars were flushed down the drain on fraudulent and improper transactions while a culture of fear from the highest echelons of the agency enforced silence as to the true nature and scope of these misdeeds.

Wasteful and fraudulent expenditures by WAPA in recent years include things like ammunition; specialized weapons, including numerous purchases of \$1,200 rifle scopes; an unauthorized ATV at a cost of \$14,000; a John Deere lawn tractor; personal clothing; prohibited purchases of \$349,000 to accessorize personal cars; \$271,000 at book stores; \$102,000 to deck out motorcycles from shops and dealers; and questionable expenditures from one employee to the tune of \$50,000 per month.

Now, in response, the Western Area Power Administration slow-walked investigations, covered up the fraud, and intimidated anyone bold enough to call it out.

A 14-year Federal employee who once worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office told reporters: "Instead of aggressively going after corruption, WAPA's bosses slow-walked the investigation, retaliated against those who uncovered fraud, and failed to protect them from threats."

Unfortunately, this employee is not alone. A former WAPA vice president for procurement went on record to

state that, during his 30 years of Federal service, he had never seen anything like this and certainly had never felt unsafe at work until he worked at WAPA on a daily basis.

Disturbingly, 20 complaints of violence in the workplace occurred over the last 3-year period. The mismanagement, corruption, and culture is so bad at WAPA that an independent consultant did a violence assessment in late 2015 and found: "Multiple employees reported having been threatened directly or heard others being threatened regarding the current investigations. . . . Several indicated they had not bothered to report the incidents for reasons of fear and/or the belief upper management would not act. Because of past failures to address these issues more seriously, it is very likely the incidents will increase in number and severity."

Assessors also reported: "Employees mentioned bosses who actively seek to intimidate employees, especially women, and who tolerate and perhaps promote a culture of unacceptable behavior in their teams."

Equally troubling, Administrator Gabriel is routinely and publicly insubordinate as an agency head. At an April 12, 2018, budget hearing, Mr. Gabriel took a public position contrary to that of the current administration, advocating for tip funding even though the budget proposal proposed to eliminate such funding.

This commonsense amendment seeks to hold this rogue bureaucrat accountable to the American people and the victims who have suffered under his tenure.

I am pleased to have the support of FreedomWorks, who is key voting this amendment; Club for Growth, who is key voting the amendment; the Tea Party Patriots; Americans for Limited Government; Texas' Michael Q. Sullivan; the Grand Canyon State Electric Cooperative Association; the Mohave Electric Cooperative; the Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative; Arizona Pork Producers; New Mexico Cattle Growers Association; New Mexico Wool Growers; Sulphur Up North Jobs, Incorporated.

Numerous customers and Federal employees no longer want Mr. Gabriel in charge, having understandably lost faith in his leadership. It is far past time that the Department of Energy clean house and show this Obama administration holdover the door.

Mr. Chair, I commend the chairman and the committee for their efforts on this legislation. I urge support of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I recognize my colleague's concerns about certain actions and practices of the Western Area Power Administration. I applaud his dedication to im-

proving the functionality of the agency for the benefit of his constituents. In fact, he has worked with this committee to make improvements related to appropriations, and I would encourage him to continue to engage with us on appropriate oversight measures.

This amendment, though, will not improve the effectiveness and transparency of this agency. Rather, it is simply a punitive one toward one individual, and I cannot support such an effort. That is why I opposed the Holman rule that was adopted by the rules package, I guess—what?—last year or something like that, the year before last.

The problem is you have got an individual here, and there have been claims about his behavior or his inability to do his job, and we are going to debate whether he is going to have a salary or not or whether you are going to essentially fire him, reduce his salary to \$1, in a 10-minute debate on the floor.

Is that really fair? Is that right? I don't think you should do that.

If the activities that have been suggested by the gentleman from Arizona have occurred, why isn't the Government Oversight Committee looking at this? Why aren't they calling him in, having a hearing on it? Why isn't the Energy and Commerce Committee doing the same?

That is the appropriate way to do that when you have got someone who has misbehaved as an Administrator, not to come on the floor with a 10-minute debate, make charges which may or may not be true—I just don't know—but then ask us to essentially fire somebody. I just don't think that is right.

For these reasons, I must urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have left.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, the current application of the Holman rule authorizes three specific uses in an appropriation bill: the reduction of amounts of money in the bill, the reduction of the number and salary of officers of the United States, or the reduction of the compensation of any person paid out in the treasury of the United States.

Let's go back through this. Look at this fraud. Look at these 20 complaints of violence.

I have to tell you: Are you sure you want to defend this guy? Inconceivable. Inconceivable that we are going to allow this. We owe it to the Federal employees under this gentleman to have an employment environment to be well taken care of.

Mr. Chair, I ask for the Members to vote on behalf of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, nobody is defending this individual. What he has presented is 20 accusations. I think he ought to be able to have his day in a proper hearing before the proper committee to decide whether it is the right

thing to do, not sit here and say, "I agree with these accusations." I don't know if they are true or not. Nobody on this floor knows whether they are true or not.

Mr. Chair, I yield the balance of my time to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for yielding, and I rise in opposition to this amendment, not completely understanding what it is the gentleman is objecting to.

I know that you have an individual about whom you are upset. The gentleman is from the State of Arizona.

Am I correct?

Mr. GOSAR. Yes.

Ms. KAPTUR. The State of the gentleman is under this Western Area Power Authority. We don't have that sort of power umbrella in our region of the country. I have read all about the fights in the West among all these Western States, a dozen and a half Western States: Arizona fights with California; California fights with Washington; Washington fights—it is unbelievable. So I am a little reluctant as a non-Westerner to believe anybody until we get a proper tribunal to assess whether what you are saying is correct or not. For all I know, this man put some power in another State that hurt Arizona. I don't know.

I look at the controversies out there, and I just think that this amendment targets one person and reduces their salary to one dollar without any trial, without any tribunal. It sort of reminds me of the way in which the gentleman's side of the aisle handled the firing of the chaplain and then, because we finally tried to get some justice here, he was brought on.

Mr. Chair, you don't do this to people. We have a judicial process in this country, and you have to go through the proper channels. I think we have to focus on fair ways in which to adjudicate if, in fact, there is something going on out there. I really question whether what is really going on here is a fight between Arizona and adjoining States.

Mr. GOSAR. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SHIMKUS). The time of the gentleman has expired. The gentleman from Idaho may yield to you, if he so desires.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, has my time expired?

The Acting CHAIR. No. The gentleman from Idaho controls the time. The gentlewoman from Ohio cannot yield.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, this isn't a jurisdictional aspect of power across the West. This is fraud. This is workplace violence—20. This has nothing to do with jurisdictional application of water or power. This is an unsafe appli-

cation within the workplace. This is a bully in an agency who is weighing in and doing unwanted things.

We have an obligation, an absolute obligation, to rein somebody in like this. That is what is wrong here. If we can't do this to a swamp creature of this magnitude, then what can we do.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

□ 1930

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. KEATING

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 55, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Chairman, my amendment seeks to ensure adequate resources for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the NRC, to provide for safe and effective decommissioning of nuclear power plants.

In 2016, Entergy Corporation, the owner and operator of the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts, announced that the plant would be decommissioned by 2019 after facing severe losses in revenue and plagued by safety concerns.

Since coming to Congress, I have been concerned by the safety of Pilgrim's day-to-day operations as well as the security of its spent fuel storage. Following Entergy's announcement, I have worked with State and local representatives to prioritize the safety of the decommissioning process, security of the plant's spent fuel, and the displacement of over 600 workers who are employed at the site.

The NRC has previously issued reports revealing that Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station comes up short on critical systems maintenance, and it is currently the worst performing reactor in the entire country.

While this infraction ultimately falls on the responsibility of Entergy, it is equally important that the NRC has

the necessary resources to address concerns as they arise, including through cooperation with local communities.

As we have often cited, decommissioning of nuclear power plants has an enormous economic and financial impact on host communities. We have urged that decommissioning funds be used for the safe removal of spent fuel to dry cask storage, to restoration, to remediation of the site and maintaining emergency preparedness and security resources throughout the entire process.

Finally, it is my hope that the NRC prioritizes worker protections as it oversees decommissioning both in my district and around the entire country. As the number of decommissioned plants increases, the potential exodus of highly skilled experienced workers presents a serious threat to our safety. The people in my community rely on the workers in Plymouth to keep them safe, and we hope the NRC will facilitate workforce continuity throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this amendment and urge their support. Again, I would like to thank the chairman from Idaho.

We started the day working on issues from the Pilgrims to the Mayflower, too, to things the Pilgrims never envisioned, like decommissioned nuclear power plants. So rest assured that when we celebrate the 2020 400th anniversary in the town of Plymouth, America's hometown, that he will be very welcomed, and I will give him a personal tour of the awe-inspiring view of Plymouth Rock.

Thank you again for your help, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. SMUCKER). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 31 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I rise as the designee of Mr. BEYER to offer an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 62, beginning on line 16, strike section 505.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, this amendment preserves the National Ocean Policy. The National Ocean Policy is a commonsense way to facilitate multistakeholder collaboration on complex ocean issues, and it promotes economic opportunity, national security, and environmental protection.

I think we can all agree that we want thriving ocean and coastal ecosystems that promote the economic vitality of our communities. The National Ocean Policy is doing exactly that with the Northeastern region having completed its plan and the West Coast and other regions well on their way.

Prohibiting the allocation of funds to this important program will stifle collaboration among stakeholders on complex issues relating to environmental protection, national security, economic opportunity, and ocean policy.

I represent a coastal district in southern California, and I know firsthand that we can have a thriving ocean economy and at the same time protect and conserve our precious ocean resources.

Off the coast of my district, there are marine-protected areas, State waters, Federal waters, and Department of Defense installations. We are a marine life hotspot. Some of the best blue whale watching happens just a few miles from our shore. We have a booming recreational fishing section. We have a large shellfish aquaculture ranch that is now operating. We have beautiful beaches. We also have oil and gas activity with some rigs right near our shore. My district is also home to the Port of Long Beach, which is the second busiest port in North America.

With so much activity happening, it simply makes sense to have the Navy at the table when NOAA is working on siting of new aquaculture installations. It makes sense to have the Fishery Management Council weigh in when oil rigs are being decommissioned, and it is a no-brainer that NOAA, the Coast Guard, and the ports all work together to get these massive ships in and out of our port safely.

So as we move forward, the need for an overarching policy only grows. Issues like sea level rise and ocean acidification are too big and too serious for any one community or agency to tackle alone. Increased aquaculture development and new technologies for clean, local energy are creating economic opportunities, but they must be thoughtfully implemented.

The National Ocean Policy is the tool we have right now to promote smart shared use of our ocean resources. All of our districts benefit from our oceans, whether we represent coastal districts or not. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, on July 19, 2010, President Obama signed Executive Order 13547 and sought to implement a new National Ocean Policy. According to the House Committee on Natural Resources: "In this unilateral action, he established a top-down

Washington, D.C.-based approval process that will hinder rather than promote ocean and inland activities and cost American jobs. . . . This has the potential to inflict damage across a spectrum of sectors, including agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, mining, oil and natural gas, renewable energy, and marine commerce, among others. . . . Over 80 national and local organizations representing agriculture, forestry, energy, fishing, boating, mining, transportation, and construction wrote to then Appropriations Committee Chairman HAL ROGERS requesting a prohibition on funding for the implementation of the President's National Ocean Policy."

Our oceans are home to a variety of industries, and it is critical that we maintain our offshore environments and promote a robust offshore economy. The National Ocean Policy represents the previous administration's heavyhanded, top-down approach to Federal land and water management and does not reflect the realities of our working oceans and coastal communities.

Our offshore assets contribute billions to the U.S. economy, and the National Ocean Policy's vague directive sharply discouraged the development of American energy, sustainable fisheries, and our coastal economies. Policies like this cause industries to turn outside of the U.S. to do their business.

Adding duplicative layers of permitting and consultation to our already highly regulated ocean industries and subject all parties to virtually unlimited legal exposure, we are seeing this firsthand in the Northeast, where direct conflict in the ocean user groups has resulted in litigation. This is the exact thing that this policy is supposed to alleviate. Years into implementation, this policy is incapable of achieving its stated goal.

U.S. oceans industries are major global players, and we need to keep our industries competitive. The National Ocean Policy does the opposite. As such, I strongly oppose this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Here is the bottom line. Ocean planning works, and I can assure you that this is not a top-down approach. Ocean plans are regionally led initiatives where stakeholders and researchers collect data and then come to the table to voice their concerns and work out their differences.

With ocean planning, we can use our waters wisely and sustainably. In the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, we have already finished our plans.

Now, for some reason, many of my colleagues across the aisle don't believe in this open discussion among stakeholders, but we have seen what

happens when oceans are brought to the brink. Species have been pushed to the edge of extinction undermining the livelihoods of our fishermen and destroying the vibrant ocean ecosystem.

It baffles me that we continue debating this. Ocean planning is the way to ensure local and regional voices are heard and that we sustainably pass our waters on to the next generation.

So I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment, which I thank Mr. BEYER for leading.

I also want to recognize and commend my colleague in the other Chamber, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, for his extraordinary work in combating climate change and fighting for a sustainable ocean policy.

This is the right thing to do, again, regionally led, definitely not a top-down approach.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. Chairman, although I am supportive of the stated goals of the National Ocean Policy, such as more interagency coordination and decision-making, there are many troubling aspects here.

This amendment seeks to strip underlying language that prevents Federal agencies from using ambiguous authorities in the National Ocean Policy to encroach on a wide variety of ocean and inland activities.

I have heard from farmers and irrigators from throughout the Pacific Northwest concerned that ill-defined terms such as "ecosystem-based management" give broad authority to Federal agencies to adversely impact terrestrial agriculture that is hundreds of miles from the Pacific Coast in the name of ocean management.

Before imposing these burdens on farmers who feed our Nation, it is necessary for Congress to evaluate such a policy to ensure that all affected stakeholders have a seat at the table. I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment, and I thank my colleague from California for yielding me this time.

Now, every year, we have this battle. It is a battle to simply recognize the importance of our oceans and ocean planning. We have already learned about the fact that ocean planning works, and it is working already in New England and the mid-Atlantic; and instead of arguing hypotheticals about things that could happen, might happen, we should talk about the story of what actually happens in regions like mine where we live and work on the ocean.

The story of National Ocean Policy isn't national at all. It is about local control, local stakeholders, local input, and local decisionmaking.

In Maine, we have some great success stories of fishermen, lobstermen, Native American Tribes, local communities, and other stakeholders developing voluntary regional ocean plans. It is a great story of coordination among varied interests, all with the same goal of better understanding our oceans, protecting them, and working with them and in them.

□ 1945

By including those who work on and near the ocean, we are coordinating ocean activities for efficiency and coordination.

But the language in today's underlying bill would make it even more difficult for Federal agencies, for State agencies, and for local communities to work together on the future of our ocean resources.

Mr. Chairman, this rider has no place in this bill, and I urge my colleagues to strike it.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me first state that Idaho is not next to an ocean, although we do have the furthest inland port of any State in the country.

The point of this is that you all make great arguments—arguments that ought to be held and debated in the authorizing committee.

The point is that the ocean policy here was put in effect without ever going through Congress. It has never been authorized. It is not that it has been authorized and the expiration dates just expired, like many programs, far too many programs. This has never been authorized by Congress.

I might agree with you in the end, but it ought to go through the proper process instead of just doing an executive order.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Chairman, I ask for a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment which would remove the provision in this bill which prohibits funding from being used to implement National Ocean Policy.

This provision represents yet another in a long line of attempts by House Republicans to weaken an effective, common sense policy that protects our nation's oceans.

National Ocean Policy allows federal agencies to coordinate implementation of more than 100 ocean laws, and allows state and local governments to have a say in the ocean planning process.

In my home state of Rhode Island, the Ocean State, a strong National Ocean Policy is vital to our economy.

Rhode Island's ocean economy generates more than \$2 billion annually, including more than \$1.4 billion from the travel and tourism industries, and nearly \$94 million from the commercial fishing industry.

On top of this, Rhode Island's Ocean economy supports more than 41,000 jobs.

My state, as well as all coastal states, depends on clean, viable oceans to support these industries, which is why it is such a terrible idea to undermine the development of a strong National Ocean Policy.

National Ocean Policy does not create any new regulations, supersede existing regulations, rather, it helps coordinate the implementation of and compliance with existing regulations in order to ensure a more efficient and effective decision making process.

The funding prohibition in this bill would undermine good, effective policy, and would undermine effective stewardship of our nation's oceans and coastlines.

I strongly support this amendment to remove the provision, and encourage its adoption.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. KIHUEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 63, beginning on line 7, strike section 508.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment to H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2019.

This amendment, Mr. Chairman, is very simple. It would strike language that would prohibit the closure of Yucca Mountain.

This site sits in my congressional district, less than 100 miles away from Las Vegas, a city that sees 42 million visitors each year, with many of these visitors coming from your districts. Nevada depends on these visitors. Nevada's economy depends on these visitors.

Putting a nuclear repository this close to millions of Americans is simply irresponsible. And I have grave concerns with the transportation of nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain should this project move forward against the will of Nevadans.

Mr. Chairman, Nevada has no nuclear-energy-producing facilities, and it should not be the dumping ground for the rest of the country's nuclear

waste. The bottom line is this: If your State generates nuclear waste, then you should keep it in your backyard.

Or if any of my colleagues are okay with sending nuclear waste to my State, then maybe they should consider keeping it in their own State. I will be more than happy to work with them on an amendment.

So, again, Mr. Chairman, the people in Nevada do not want this nuclear waste stored in their backyard. Yucca Mountain needs to close, and that is why I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS), my colleague from the First Congressional District.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chairman, I thank Congressman KIHUEN for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

Earlier this evening, we heard from the distinguished Member from Illinois, who continues to push the "Yucca or bust" policy of the last 36 years.

He claimed that the Nevada delegation is trying to circumvent the adjudication process to determine if Nevada should be the dumping ground for the Nation's highly radioactive nuclear waste.

He said Congress should reject another amendment to save \$190 million from being thrown away on this failed proposal because we should let the licensing process play out without some preconceived outcome.

Well, I am sorry, but that is just more BS. If he really believed that, he would be joining us in support of amendment No. 32, which strips the unnecessary policy rider that prohibits closing down the already-shuttered Yucca Mountain.

It predetermines that Yucca Mountain will be the Nation's nuclear waste dump and handcuffs the administration from choosing another site regardless of what any studies show.

If we are serious about solving this problem, we should change direction and allow consent-based siting. We could start that process today and right now by supporting this amendment.

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

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

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleagues from Nevada for allowing us to have this debate once again.

Two weeks ago, we had this debate on the floor of the House. We had a pretty good vote, a bipartisan vote: 340 of our colleagues supported continuing to move forward; 72 disagreed with that position.

Part of this debate allows me to just lay out the true facts, and the facts are that this body and this Nation decided 30-plus years ago to address a national

problem with a national solution. So we have been moving forward as a Nation for 30 years—30 years, \$15 billion, the most studied piece of ground on the planet. Fortunately, it is in the State of Nevada, and Nevada can claim that they have the safest location for a geological repository.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, in exhaustive research—and I was wrong. It wasn't 1,000 pages; it is 1,928 pages. This is one of five volumes.

And, yes, the previous amendment was to say: Let's don't adjudicate the difference. My colleagues from Nevada keep saying it is not safe. I trust our independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission that says it is safe for a million years. The only way you resolve this is to follow the law and go through adjudication of the complaints.

Now, the State of Nevada doesn't want to go through the adjudication because I believe that, once the science is debated, the decision will be in line with the independent Nuclear Regulatory Commission and their exhaustive research.

Now, let's talk about this current amendment. What this current amendment does is just says: Let's disregard the will of 49 States and our territories and 30 years of law to respond to the State of Nevada's opposition, not even scientifically based.

So what does that mean? What it means is that spent nuclear fuel in a place in California—this is San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. It is between Las Vegas and San Diego. It is right on the Pacific Ocean. What it means is that it stays right there.

What it means for my colleague DAN NEWHOUSE from Washington State is that the defense liability of Hanford, right on the Columbia River, stays right there.

What it means for my friends in Chicago is that the Zion Nuclear Power Generating Station, right on Lake Michigan, stays right there.

What about the Savannah River Site? Well, it stays right next to Savannah River versus 90 miles away in the desert, underneath a mountain, on Federal property.

So when the local concern is addressed about the local issue, the local consensus is really the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy. That Federal land is larger than the State of Connecticut. That is the local concern that we are dealing with and we are addressing here.

This is all of the operating commercial nuclear power plants. That is why there are 31 States and 121 locations. And that is why this debate is important. Because more and more, as we are able to lay out the facts, the consensus by the national media is that it is time to move forward and finish the project, whether that is The Washington Post, The San Diego Union-Tribune, the Aiken Standard, the Los Angeles Times, or the Chicago Tribune.

So I say to my colleagues, I understand the "not in my backyard," but

there is more nuclear spent fuel in Chicago, Illinois, in Chicagoland—in Chicagoland, not 90 miles away. And Chicago has 55 million visitors, not 33 million—more than Las Vegas. It is not going to hurt their tourism. Actually, it is going to help diversify the economy.

I understand the argument and debate. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for letting me address this again in this Chamber so that I can fully not only educate our colleagues but move the Nation forward.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. KIHUEN).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 33 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to sell the transmission assets of the Bonneville Power Administration, the Southwestern Power Administration, the Western Area Power Administration, or the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer an amendment on a critical matter for the Bonneville Power Administration and our Nation's other power marketing administrations, or PMAs, including the Southwestern Power Administration and the Western Area Power Administration, as well as the Tennessee Valley Authority, or the TVA.

The President's fiscal year 2019 budget request, released earlier this year, included a misguided proposal to sell the transmission assets of these entities. It is unfortunate this proposal was offered once again, as the matter was met with resounding rejection by Congress last year when it was offered in the fiscal year 2018 budget request.

The sale of these assets would result in the Federal Government abandoning a successful and efficient solution for providing affordable power to rural, urban, and tribal communities across the country.

This one-time Federal debt reduction proposal would create energy production and delivery issues for my constituents, as costs would inevitably rise.

Mr. Chairman, this ill-advised proposal is once again a Federal attempt to fix something that is not broken.

I fully support efforts to improve energy infrastructure across the Nation. However, I do not believe that this goal should come at the expense of existing infrastructure—infrastructure that successfully fills a need where market-based pricing would not be sustainable.

My constituents, especially in rural communities, depend on the Bonneville Power Administration to provide stable and affordable electricity service. Divesting BPA's assets would create needless uncertainty for regional energy markets and ratepayers in central Washington.

In a climate where BPA continues to face unnecessary challenges, whether from the imprudent Federal proposal to move to market-based rates or the incessant use of litigation brought forward by radical environmentalists for the past three decades, I offer this amendment which simply prohibits any funds from being used to sell the transmission assets of the three PMAs and the TVA.

□ 2000

Mr. Chairman, I come before the House today as a champion for the Bonneville Power Administration, an advocate for public power, and a steadfast representative for ratepayers across central Washington State, the greater Pacific Northwest, and the entire Nation. I encourage the administration to listen to this resounding bipartisan message that I bring along with my colleagues today: we reject this proposal and prohibit the divestment of these assets.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for the amendment.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is something that is important to us and to the nearly 10 million Tennessee Valley ratepayers that they serve each and every single day. As the gentleman said, something is not broken, so it does not need the Federal Government to come in and try to fix it.

Mr. Chair, I stand with the gentleman supporting the PMA's, the TVA, and those that are utilizers of this service.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chairman, I am proud my amendment is cosponsored by at least 18 bipartisan colleagues, and I would humbly urge the rest of my colleagues to support and vote "yes" on this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Each amount appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act that is not required to be appropriated or otherwise made available by a provision of law is hereby reduced by 1 percent.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, this is an amendment that I propose each and every year because I think this is something that is worthy of discussion.

We are facing \$21 trillion in debt in this Nation. We have annual deficits that continue to climb. We have to look at how you are going to grow your way and cut your way out of this Nation's debt.

Now, we know that this appropriations bill is something that is at \$44.75 billion. A lot of hard work by the members of the Appropriations Committee has gone into this. We appreciate that they have made an effort to keep the spending down, even some years they have been below the level that was actually enacted the previous year. This year that is not the case. They are a little bit above, but they are working diligently, and I am grateful for that.

I think we need to work a little bit harder, and that is why I bring this, a penny out of a dollar, one penny, making that type rescission in what we are spending, making certain that we are engaging rank-and-file Federal employees after they receive their appropriated funds, saying: "Let's go back to the drawing board. Let's take one penny out of every dollar we spend." We are doing it for our children and our grandchildren, facing the fact that our Nation has a climbing debt.

Now, Admiral Mullen said July 6, 2010: "The greatest threat to our Nation's security is our Nation's debt."

This is an issue that deserves a better effort. We have given it good efforts. Let's give it a better effort and give it our best effort to get this spending under control.

The reason, with these discretionary funds, we say let's do it with across-the-board cuts is because across-the-board spending reductions work. It has been proven by many of our States, where Democratic and Republican Governors have made across-the-board reductions in order to get budgets in balance. It is done by cities; it is done by counties; it is done by the private sector; it is done by families.

It is time for us to engage the bureaucracy and say to them: "Find one penny out of a dollar and help us preserve our freedom for future generations."

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, this would not be an appropriation bill if we didn't have this amendment before us. Every year, this amendment has been offered, and the gentlewoman from Tennessee and I have debated this many times in the past.

While I commend my colleague for her consistent work to protect the taxpayers' dollars, this is not the approach that I would endorse nor can I support.

The bill in its current form balances many of the needs. The bill prioritizes funding for national security and critical infrastructure, yet the gentlewoman's amendment proposes an across-the-board cut on every one of these programs, including increases in funding that are sorely needed to modernize our nuclear weapons stockpile and to protect our Nation's electrical grid from emerging cyber threats.

Across-the-board cuts make no distinction between where we need to be spending or investing in our infrastructure, promoting jobs, and meeting our national security needs and where we need to limit spending to meet our deficit reduction goals. That is what we actually do when we write a bill in the Appropriations Committee and have the hearings and so forth.

The main reason this bill is \$1.5 billion above last year and the reason that the chairman gave this allocation to the Energy and Water Subcommittee is because there was a need in rebuilding our nuclear security infrastructure. That is where the majority of that money went.

The next major portion of it went to the Army Corps of Engineers to build the waterways and infrastructure that need to be replaced. There is something like a trillion dollars—I know it is not the exact number, and I don't know if that is the correct number, but it is pretty close—of backlog, of needs within the Army Corps of Engineers, with an aging infrastructure: locks and dams, harbors that need to be maintained for our economy, that need to be dredged. That is where the majority of that money went. That is why the Appropriations Committee put the additional \$1.5 billion into this.

Yes, reducing the deficit and addressing our debt are critical things that need to get done, too, but everyone here, including the gentlewoman from Tennessee, who is my good friend, knows that it is not the discretionary spending that is driving this debt and deficit each year; it is the huge increases in mandatory spending. Those are primarily Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, interest on the debt. That is what is driving the debt.

If you look back 40 or 50 years ago, out of the entire Federal budget, 70 percent of it was discretionary spend-

ing. That is what we spend money on that everybody thinks as government when they think of government. About 30 percent of it was the mandatory programs.

It has reversed. Now a little over 70 percent of the Federal Government is mandatory. It is on autopilot. Unless we change the law underneath it and have the courage to do that, it continues to grow.

If you look at our budget today on the discretionary side, we spend less today than we did in 2010. That is 8 years later. We spend less today on discretionary spending than we did in 2010. That is the reality.

So while I appreciate the effort to address the debt and the deficit, this is not the way to do it. It is not addressing the main problem that is driving our debt.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. Kaptur).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

I would just say, you know, there used to be an old expression. They asked Jesse James, "Why do you rob banks." He said, "That is where the money is."

So I think about the situation we face in our country today. I am not willing to take the money out of this budget, which I consider critical to America's security at home and abroad, and meanwhile, in other fora, to give trillions of dollars to the top 1 percent in this country who aren't really interested in what we are doing here much, don't appreciate it sometimes. I am not willing to leave off the hook the Wall Street bankers that took us into the 2008 recession, not a single one went to jail.

It is interesting where the gentlewoman is looking for money. One of the reasons I chose to be on this subcommittee is I am sick of going to war for energy. Too many people from my region have died.

I think part of America's solution is becoming energy independent and being able to conduct war where we have to. This bill allows us to do that for the sake of the Republic.

I think the gentlewoman has a good intention to try to balance the budget. I think she is looking at the wrong end of the telescope.

Mr. SIMPSON. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, when you talk about where you are looking for money, it is coming out of the hardworking taxpayers' pocket. And what they say is, "Do something about the debt," because they are the ones who are footing the bill.

Now, it is easy for us to say, yes, the mandatory spending eats up most of the budget. That is very true. The chairman is correct on that. But is that a reason to not do something about discretionary? Absolutely not.

Should we continue to exercise the ability to find efficiencies, to try to do more with less? Absolutely, we should.

Should we make government more effective, more efficient, and more responsive? Should we utilize new technologies? Absolutely, we should, because every penny that we appropriate in this Chamber comes from the taxpayers of this Nation, who are working hard. They know government never runs out of an appetite for their money. They know that government is always going to ask for more. They are looking at the \$21 trillion in debt.

Let's take these steps. Let's cut a penny out of a dollar and do it because we know this debt is going to land on the heads of our children and our grandchildren.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for "Corps of Engineers-Civil-Investigations", and increasing the amount made available for the same account, by \$3,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, all over the Nation, we face a series of disasters that come in many different forms: fires, volcanoes, and heavy rain.

My amendment deals with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the important aspect of its investigatory work by redirecting \$3 million for increased funding for postdisaster watershed assessment studies that are typical across the Gulf region and even up the East Coast, where we know Hurricane Sandy was devastating just a few years ago.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding of the most critical of the Nation's infrastructure.

□ 2015

My amendment would address the question of pre-preparedness. As we were facing the disaster of Hurricane Harvey, so many wondered how much more we should have pre-prepared.

Many were aware of the fact that we flooded in 500-year and 1,000-year flood areas. We are aware of the devastation in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Army Corps of Engineers can be very instrumental in assessing ahead of time the potential impact of flood and storm damage and, through the investigations, can reduce this and create savings.

I am optimistic, as we go forward, and hopeful that we will receive in the Gulf region a regional watershed assessment flood risk management feasibility study.

But I think it is important to note that we are probably not out from under the weather of future disasters. On April 15, 2016, 240 billion gallons of water fell in the Houston area over a 12-hour period and, as well, 2016, another major flood causing major damage.

And, finally, this is not atypical, it seems, as we watched the hurricane season of last year all over the Gulf region and we found Hurricane Harvey dropped 21 trillion gallons and 300,000 homes were lost.

So the investigatory part of the Army Corps of Engineers is an important tool for the whole Nation when it comes to dealing with pre-preparedness and assessing how we can do better in natural disasters.

Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk; it is number 35 on the roster.

Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to floor and for their commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

My amendment speaks to the need for robust funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Investigations" account by redirecting \$3 million for increased funding for post-disaster watershed assessment studies, like the one that is being contemplated for the Houston/Harris County metropolitan area.

As the federal agency that collects and studies basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and conducts detailed studies, plans, and specifications for river and harbor, and flood and storm damage reduction, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plays a critical role in the building, maintaining, and expanding the most critical of the nation's infrastructure.

We understand this very well in my home state of Texas and the Eighteenth Congressional District that I represent.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been working with the Harris County Flood Control District since 1937 to reduce the risk of flooding within Harris County.

Current projects include 6 federal flood risk management projects:

1. Sims Bayou

2. Greens Bayou
3. Brays Bayou
4. White Oak Bayou
5. Hunting Bayou, and
6. Clear Creek

In addition to these ongoing projects, the Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains the Addicks and Barker (A&B) Detention Dams in northwest Harris County.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased that the bill provides that the Secretary of the Army may initiate up to six new study starts during fiscal year 2018, and that five of those studies are to consist studies where the majority of the benefits are derived from flood and storm damage reduction or from navigation transportation savings.

I am optimistic that one of those new study starts will be the Houston Regional Watershed Assessment Flood Risk Management Feasibility study.

Such a study is certainly needed given the frequency and severity of historic-level flood events in recent years in and around the Houston metropolitan area.

On April 15, 2016, an estimated 240 billion gallons of water fell in the Houston area over a 12 hour period, which resulted in several areas exceeding the 100 to 500 year flood event record.

Some of the areas that experienced these historic rain falls were west of I-45, north of I-10, and Greens Bayou.

Additionally, an estimated 140 billion gallons of water fell over the Cypress Creek, Spring Creek, and Addicks watershed in just 14 hours.

The purpose of the Houston Regional Watershed Assessment is to identify risk reduction measures and optimize performance from a multi-objective systems performance perspective of the regional network of nested and intermingled watersheds, reservoir dams, flood flow conveyance channels, storm water detention basins, and related Flood Risk Management (FRM) infrastructure.

Special emphasis of the study, which covers 22 primary watersheds within Harris County's 1,735 square miles, will be placed on extreme flood events that exceed the system capacity resulting in impacts to asset conditions/functions and loss of life.

Mr. Chair, during the May 2015 Houston flood, 3,015 homes were flooded and 8 persons died; during the April 2016 Houston flood, 5,400 homes were flooded and 8 deaths recorded.

The economic damage caused by the 2015 Houston flood is estimated at \$3 billion; the 2016 estimate is being compiled and is estimated to be well above \$2 billion.

Mr. Chair, minimizing the risk of flood damage to the Houston and Harris County metropolitan area, the nation's 4th largest, is a matter of national significance because the region is one of the nation's major technology, energy, finance, export and medical centers:

1. The Port of Houston is the largest bulk port in the world;

2. Texas Medical Center is a world renowned teaching, research and treatment center;

3. Houston is home to the largest conglomeration of foreign bank representation and second only to New York City as home to the most Fortune 500 companies; and

4. The Houston Watershed Assessment study area sits within major Hurricane Evacuation arteries for the larger Galveston Gulf Coast region.

The Jackson Lee Amendment No. 35 is particularly important in light of the devastation of Hurricane Harvey and its aftermath.

At its peak on September 1, 2017, one-third of Houston was underwater due to Hurricane Harvey flooding.

There was over 41,500 square miles of land mass impacted by Hurricane Harvey and the subsequent flooding that covered an area larger than the States of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont combined.

Hurricane Harvey dropped 21 trillion gallons of rainfall on Texas and Louisiana, most of it on the Houston Metroplex.

In September 2017, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported that Hurricane Harvey's rainfall created 275 trillion pounds of water, which caused the crust in and around Houston to deform and sink nearly 1 inch because of the weight.

Over 300,000 structures flooded in southeastern Texas, where extreme rainfall hit many areas that are densely populated.

Hurricane Harvey is the largest housing disaster to strike the U.S. in our nation's history.

Hurricane Harvey damaged 203,000 homes, of which 12,700 were destroyed.

Texas flood control districts are still struggling to recover from this record breaking flood event.

Nineteen trillion gallons of flood waters poured into the Houston Ship Channel from area rivers and bayous on the way to the Gulf of Mexico.

As a consequence, tens of millions of tons of sediment and debris flowed through the biggest waterway in the nation.

Today, the Port of Houston is operating with draft restrictions that may last a year or longer.

Draft restrictions are adding costs to oil and gas and Petrochemical operations, which are passed on to wholesalers, who pass these costs to consumers at the pump.

The Port of Houston produces 27 percent of the nation's gasoline and about 60 percent of the U.S. aviation fuel.

Investments in all aspects of our nation's water infrastructure pays dividends in the form of economic activity.

The Houston Ship Channel generates \$617 billion in the U.S. with \$265 billion of that in Texas representing 16 percent of the state of Texas's GDP.

The Port of Houston sustains 2.7 million jobs nationally with 1.2 million of them within the state of Texas.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 35.

I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their work in shepherding this bill to the floor.

I am asking my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

First, let me assure my colleague that I understand her interest in ad-

ressing flood risks in her district. In fact, the Appropriations Committee has worked very hard to prioritize these activities, including significant funding in the supplemental bill earlier this year, in the fiscal year 2018 appropriations act, and this fiscal year 2019 bill before us today.

Since the amendment does not change funding levels within the bill, I will not oppose the amendment, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, let me thank the chairman of the committee for what has been ongoing support of our efforts. And I hope he sees that these are efforts for across the Nation as well.

To be clear, I am glad that we do not alter the account but we redirect and focus moneys on this important investigatory area. I thank him for his support.

I would be happy to yield to the ranking member, who, likewise, has helped me over the years to address this question of flooding.

But I want to make the point that what we saw in the last hurricane season is that it reaches across the Gulf region, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and, of course, Puerto Rico.

I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished ranking member.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to thank Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for yielding and for the incredible work she does representing the Gulf region in its fullness.

I understand, through her and through my own studies, the damage done by Hurricane Harvey and the need for studies such as these to advance flood control projects to mitigate future damage. I think she has been such an articulate spokeswoman, reminding us that times are changing and we have to pay attention to coastal communities.

I have to also mention that there are funds in the supplemental bill we passed earlier this year for purposes such as these, and we have plussed up the Army Corps budget in this particular bill. So I think that will serve Texas very well.

And the gentlewoman mentioned the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. We are all deeply concerned.

So I thank my colleague for offering this amendment. I thank her for her great leadership and urge all of our colleagues to support her amendment.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me take this moment again to acknowledge the funds that have been put into this bill that focuses on what we experienced in the last year. And I would indicate that the investigatory account, which will see this focus, is

important. The dollars that we have received from this Congress I do appreciate.

And the final word I would say in closing is that we work and hope to work with the administration for those funds to get to the local jurisdictions. We are right in the middle of trying to get those dollars down from Washington into our local jurisdictions.

With that, I thank the manager and the chairman and the manager who is ranking member again and ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act for "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science" may be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, this is an educational amendment, if you will. It is to emphasize the importance of the Department of Energy's program that deals with the emphasizing of educating minority students across America with STEM. Now we have moved and advanced to STEAM. That includes arts.

But the Office of Minority Impact that is in the DOE has as its major focus—and we are still behind in the numbers—to ramp up the numbers of men and women and minorities in the STEM effort. Women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students but only 45 percent of undergraduate STEM degree holders.

If we are to be a 21st century and 22nd century country—and as I was sitting in some meetings today—competing with countries on the question of cybersecurity—I know that we are in the Energy and Water approps, but if we are to reach beyond the boundaries of research that help in energy and water, I think it is important that we continue to try and do outreach to increase the numbers of women and minorities to go into the STEM fields.

The energy and science education programs funded in part by this bill

will help ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environmental sustainability, preservation, and health. The larger point is that we need more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify for those positions.

Mr. Chairman, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved, and perhaps one of these days a minority engineer or biologist will add to the others and will come up with some of the major solutions in our time.

I would offer to say that education efforts with teachers and students under this program are extremely important because the students of today, teachers who are teaching the students of today, are the scientists and problem-solvers of tomorrow.

So I again want to emphasize to my fellow Texan, Secretary Perry, who is Secretary of the Department of Energy, to focus and to grow the department that deals with educating young people in the science, technology, engineering, and math. We are waiting for them. We need them, and the Nation needs them.

I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment, and I conclude by saying: Let's provide more opportunity for these students.

I want to emphasize the Energy Institute High School in Houston and, as well, to cite high schools across the Nation that are working to provide these students with this kind of training. And I hope these dollars will help them do so.

I ask for the support of my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk, No. 36.

I want to thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR for shepherding this legislation to the floor and for its commitment to preserving America's great natural environment and resources so that they can serve and be enjoyed by generations to come.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 36 simply provides that:

"None of the funds made available by this Act for 'Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science' may be used in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.)."

This amendment was approved and adopted in identical form on April 29, 2015, during the 114th Congress as an amendment to H.R. 2028, the Energy and Water Resources Appropriations Act of 2016 and on July 7, 2017, during this Congress as an amendment to H.R. 3219, the Energy and Water Resources Appropriations Act of 2018.

Mr. Chair, twenty years ago, on February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, directing federal agencies to identify and address the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their actions on minority and low-income populations.

The Department of Energy seeks to provide equal access in these opportunities for underrepresented groups in STEM, including minorities, Native Americans, and women.

Mr. Chair, women and minorities make up 70 percent of college students, but only 45 percent of undergraduate STEM degree holders.

This large pool of untapped talent is a great potential source of STEM professionals.

As the nation's demographics are shifting and now most children under the age of one are minorities, it is critical that we close the gap in the number of minorities who seek STEM opportunities.

I encourage Energy Secretary Perry to surpass the commitment of his predecessors' toward increasing the nation's economic competitiveness and enabling more of our people to realize their full potential.

Mr. Chair, there are still a great many scientific riddles left to be solved—and perhaps one of these days a minority engineer or biologist will come up with some of the solutions.

The larger point is that we need more STEM educators and more minorities to qualify for them.

The energy and science education programs funded in part by this bill will help ensure that members of underrepresented communities are not placed at a disadvantage when it comes to the environmental sustainability, preservation, and health.

Through education about the importance of environmental sustainability, we can promote a broader understanding of science and how citizens can improve their surroundings.

Through community education efforts, teachers and students have also benefitted by learning about radiation, radioactive waste management, and other related subjects.

The Department of Energy places interns and volunteers from minority institutions into energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

The DOE also works to increase low income and minority access to STEM fields and help students attain graduate degrees as well as find employment.

With the continuation of this kind of funding, we can increase diversity, provide clean energy options to our most underserved communities, and help improve their environments, which will yield better health outcomes and greater public awareness.

But most importantly businesses will have more consumers to whom they may engage in related commercial activities.

My amendment will help ensure that underrepresented communities are able to participate and contribute equitably in the energy and scientific future.

I ask my colleagues to join me and support Jackson Lee Amendment No. 36.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. DESANTIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to purchase heavy water from Iran.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is a simple limitation amendment. No funds made available by this act may be used to purchase heavy water from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Why are we doing this? Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, fomenting discord all across the Middle East, funding Hamas in the Gaza Strip and Hezbollah in Lebanon while supporting the Houthis in Yemen.

Iran provided deadly, military-grade explosives to militias in Iraq, killing hundreds of American servicemembers during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Iran has never been held accountable for that. They still have major control over portions of Iraq, and the Shiite militias they back are running rampant.

Furthermore, we know that Iran is working to be the key outside player in Syria in an effort to expand control from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea.

As you know, the JCPOA was effectively an Obama executive agreement, never ratified by Congress or enacted into law. It was sold using lies and propaganda, and it provided Iran with an economic lifeline. It provided Iran with \$150 billion in sanctions relief and even airlifted \$1.7 billion in cold, hard cash to Tehran.

Just yesterday, we learned that the Obama administration secretly granted a license authorizing the conversion of Iranian assets worth billions of U.S. dollars using the U.S. financial system despite repeated assurances to the public and Congress that Iran would not be granted access to the U.S. financial system.

The Obama administration continually offered gratuitous concessions to Iran that went beyond even the unilateral concessions contained in the Iran deal.

And that is where this heavy water limitation amendment comes in. The Obama administration was using tax dollars to purchase heavy water from Iran. That is money over and above what the Iran deal provided. And that damage has been significant.

Now, President Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the JCPOA. My amendment, though, is simple. We just should not use tax dollars to subsidize Iran's nuclear activities through the purchase of heavy water.

I don't think the President would want to do that, but I think it is important that we continue with this in

law, which we have had now for over a year. I think it will ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment, though I think he intends it well.

I want to inform him that the Department of Energy has said it does not have plans to purchase additional heavy water from Iran. So I think this amendment is really irrelevant.

Frankly, I would rather that the United States take whatever Iran has rather than letting them sell it to Russia or somebody else. But the Department of Energy has clearly said they don't have plans to purchase additional heavy water from Iran.

And so the gentleman's amendment is unnecessary, and I urge my colleagues to oppose it.

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

Mr. DESANTIS. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close.

I just urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the amendment. It has been in law before. We have passed it out of this House 2 years in a row. We should do it again.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DESANTIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2030

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 115-711.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The total amount of appropriations made available by this Act is hereby reduced by \$1,500,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 918, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chairman, with the passage of the bipartisan budget agreement back in February, Congress essentially gave themselves a blank check to spend billions and billions more of taxpayers' dollars over the next two fiscal years.

Our national debt stands at over \$21 trillion and we decided to spend more. How does that make any sense? People back home continuously ask me why our government keeps spending and spending. You know what I tell them?

I have no idea. I have no idea why Members of Congress willingly go along with this abysmal continued spending. I have no idea why we would cut taxes for millions of Americans, grow our economy exponentially, and then decide to spend more.

If anything, now is the time to get spending under control. Now is the time to rein in reckless spending habits. My amendment should not even be controversial. It simply cuts spending back to what they were last year. \$1.5 billion is a drop in the bucket compared to our national debt. We need to start somewhere.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. TENNEY). The gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. While I agree with my colleague that we need to be finding savings where possible, this amendment is not the approach that I can support.

The bill in its current form takes a balanced approach to meet a number of needs, not just wants or wishes or anything else, but actual needs. The bill prioritizes funding for national security and critical infrastructure and reduces funding for certain activities that did not need sustained funding at prior year levels to accomplish their mission in fiscal year 2019.

These tradeoffs were carefully weighed for their respective impacts, and the increases proposed are responsible and, in some cases, are absolutely essential.

Approximately half of the funding in this bill is for national defense activities. This bill includes \$15.3 billion for the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons security program which provides funding to maintain our Nation's nuclear weapons stockpile and for the Navy's nuclear propulsion programs that supports our Navy's fleet of submarines and aircraft carriers and for nonproliferation activities that are reducing global nuclear threats.

In February, the administration released a Nuclear Posture Review that described a sobering view of the current global nuclear threat situation.

Russia is modernizing its full range of nuclear systems.

China is modernizing and expanding its already considerable nuclear forces, pursuing entirely new capabilities.

North Korea's nuclear provocations threaten regional and global peace.

Iran's nuclear ambitions remain an unresolved concern.

Global nuclear terrorism remains a tangible threat. This amendment would slash funding for the activities in this bill that are an integral part of the United States' national security strategy to address these nuclear threats.

For that and many other reasons, I would oppose the gentleman's amend-

ment and suggest that maybe we ought to look at what is causing the debt to go up, and that is the mandatory spending and not the discretionary spending that we have. I would urge my colleagues to vote against the amendment.

Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chairwoman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I just wanted to say, the gentleman who is offering this amendment, I oppose the amendment, and you and I view the world very differently.

I view the Government of the United States as a bulwark for social and economic stability in this country. If I look at why we have a deficit going back, one of the reasons is oil wars.

This department is one of the most important departments in the country to lead us to energy independence as a country. I don't think we should do what you are asking us to do here. If we look at our trade deficit, we haven't had balanced trade accounts since the mid-1970s.

Adding trillions of dollars to our trade deficit every year is making it harder to fund Social Security and Medicare, programs that are essential to social stability in this country. If we look at the 2008 crash and the trillions of dollars that cost us as a country, nobody on Wall Street went to jail.

It is interesting to me where people want to pick away, pick away, pick away when you look at the big money, the moneys for war, the money for paying for imported goods as opposed to producing here at home, the causes of what happened in 2008, and there was no justice that was given to the Republic.

So, to me, energy independence is critical, if you look at the trillions we have added to the deficit because of war. So we look at the country through different ends of the telescope, I think, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

I really think the result of your amendment will be less investment in the Republic, less investment in water resource infrastructure and energy development, and less investments that create good jobs and have substantial returns on investments such as modernizing our ports and all of the infrastructure that helps us to achieve social and economic stability in this country, which isn't easy to do.

So I thank my colleagues for listening, and I would urge opposition to this amendment.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) having assumed the chair, Ms. TENNEY, 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. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the consideration of H.R. 5895, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 923 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. 5895.

Will the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY) kindly resume the chair.

□ 2039

##### 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. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with Ms. TENNEY (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 pursuant to House Resolution 918, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 115-711 offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) had been postponed.

Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the further amendment printed in part A of House Report 115-712 shall be considered as adopted.

The text of the further amendment printed in part A of House Report 115-712 is as follows:

Page 165, after line 14, insert the following:  
SEC. 239. For an additional amount for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$1,138,000,000

for the programs and activities authorized in the VA MISSION Act of 2018 and the amendments made by such Act, which shall be in addition to amounts otherwise made available in this Act for such purpose, of which—

(1) \$600,000,000 shall become available for the Veterans Community Care Program under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by the VA MISSION Act of 2018, on the effective date specified in section 101(b) of such Act; and

(2) \$253,000,000 shall be available for the Family Caregivers Program under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, as amended by such Act:

*Provided*, That amounts made available under this section shall remain available until September 30, 2020.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report and available pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 918.

Each further amendment printed in part B of the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 918, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

##### AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. NOLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 7, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,030,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. NOLAN. Madam Chair, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR. I wish the whole country could be here to watch how hard you have worked, not just tonight, but throughout the year to bring this important legislation before us. It would give them great hope and faith in the process, and I commend both of you, your committee members, and your staff for the work that you are doing here.

Madam Chair, I will be brief. My amendment would add \$1 million to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' aquatic nuisance control program. In effect, it would double the annual funding to \$2 million for the important and critical research that is needed to combat some

1,500 terribly destructive invasive species in our lakes and waterways, including six new invasive species of foreign zooplankton that were just discovered in Lake Superior. I am not sure where it came from and what kind of damage it will do.

A little quick history here: I am only going to take a couple of minutes. My amendment to the 2014 water resources bill added fish and other aquatic creatures to the official definition of invasive species, a definition that had been previously reserved only to plants. So that opened the door for us to have a way to combat these aquatic species.

And in so doing, the Congress gave the Army Corps the authority to do the research to eradicate invasive species like Asian carp, zebra mussels, and so many hundreds of others that are causing so much damage to sport and commercial fishing, to shipping, navigation, and to harbor maintenance.

The aquatic nuisance control program is supposed to be leading the way with cutting-edge research, and it is doing a good job. But the fact is, it is terribly underfunded, leaving little resources to address the influx of the aquatic species.

As a result, the aquatic invasives like zebra mussels have infested more than 130 lakes in my own State and thousands of lakes across the country. To give you an idea of how fast these zebra mussels, for example, spread, a female zebra mussel can produce a half a million offspring each year.

And the simple truth is, the zebra mussels are just choking off all kinds of snails and clam and other native fishes—even bird species. In fact, they killed over 10,000 loons in Lake Erie alone because they ate something that had zebra mussels in them, and the zebra mussels had a botulism that killed 10,000 loons. That is how devastating these things can be.

□ 2045

For outdoor recreation, our people are getting their feet cut and getting all kinds of injuries by stepping on these zebra mussels. Thousands of good jobs and slowdowns of our economy are caused, delaying ships as they are painstakingly having to remove these zebra mussels. They are just one of more than 1,500 invasive species.

So I urge my colleagues to approve this amendment so the Army Corps can get to work cleaning up our lakes and waterways and putting an end to the invasive species that are causing so much costly damage and destruction to our lakes and waterways.

Madam Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) for yielding me the time.

Talk about working hard, you are here at 9 o'clock in Washington and the day started very early.

I thank the gentleman for being here and defending the Great Lakes. I support his amendment. I personally represent about 200 miles of Lake Erie's

coast, the shallowest and most abundant of the Great Lakes. We know what zebra mussels are and quagga mussels. We also know about aquatic plants like phragmites that are just invading and causing all kinds of problems along our shores.

The Aquatic Nuisance Species Research Program works on other species in other parts of the country, so I thank the gentleman for being a champion of the Great Lakes and a champion of so many important causes.

We know that in our Great Lakes we have about a \$6 billion fishery that we are trying to protect, but these quagga and zebra mussels are spreading rapidly. The gentleman is right. It is just an explosion. There is no other way to explain it. They came in in ballast water. We tried to adopt ballast water regulations so it has to be dumped when it is further up the Saint Lawrence Seaway before those ships come down. It didn't happen, so now we have this to contend with.

We are trying to keep these invasive species out of our lakes. We are threatened by the Asian carp. We are trying to fish those out temporarily while we try to find a more genetically impactful solution.

I want to thank the gentleman for transferring \$1 million from the Corps' operation and maintenance account to increase the Corps' Aquatic Nuisance Species Research Program. I commend the gentleman for that and thank him for working so late into the night.

Your constituents are lucky Congressman NOLAN is here.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) having assumed the chair, Ms. TENNEY, 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. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 206, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 243]

YEAS—210

Abraham	Gibbs	Mullin
Aderholt	Gohmert	Newhouse
Allen	Goodlatte	Norman
Amash	Gosar	Nunes
Amodei	Gowdy	Olson
Arrington	Granger	Palmer
Babin	Graves (GA)	Paulsen
Bacon	Graves (LA)	Pearce
Banks (IN)	Graves (MO)	Perry
Barletta	Griffith	Pittenger
Barr	Grothman	Poe (TX)
Barton	Guthrie	Poliquin
Bergman	Handel	Posey
Biggs	Harper	Ratcliffe
Bilirakis	Harris	Reed
Bishop (MI)	Hartzler	Reichert
Bishop (UT)	Hensarling	Renacci
Black	Herrera Beutler	Rice (SC)
Blackburn	Hice, Jody B.	Roby
Blum	Higgins (LA)	Roe (TN)
Bost	Hill	Rogers (AL)
Brady (TX)	Holding	Rogers (KY)
Brat	Hollingsworth	Rohrabacher
Brooks (AL)	Hudson	Rokita
Brooks (IN)	Huizenga	Rooney, Francis
Buck	Hultgren	Rooney, Thomas J.
Bucshon	Hunter	Ross
Budd	Issa	Rouzer
Burgess	Jenkins (KS)	Royce (CA)
Byrne	Jenkins (WV)	Russell
Calvert	Johnson (LA)	Rutherford
Carter (GA)	Johnson (OH)	Sanford
Carter (TX)	Johnson, Sam	Scalise
Chabot	Jones	Schweikert
Cheney	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Coffman	Joyce (OH)	Sensenbrenner
Cole	Kelly (MS)	Sessions
Collins (GA)	King (IA)	Simpson
Collins (NY)	King (NY)	Smith (MO)
Comer	Kinzinger	Smith (NE)
Costock	Knight	Smith (NJ)
Conaway	Kustoff (TN)	Smith (TX)
Cook	Labrador	Smucker
Costello (PA)	LaHood	Stewart
Cramer	LaMalfa	Stivers
Crawford	Lamborn	Taylor
Culberson	Latta	Tenney
Curtis	Lesko	Thompson (PA)
Davidson	Lewis (MN)	Thornberry
Davis, Rodney	LoBiondo	Tipton
Denham	Long	Trott
DeSantis	Loudermillk	Valadao
DesJarlais	Love	Wagner
Donovan	Lucas	Walberg
Duffy	Luetkemeyer	Walden
Duncan (SC)	Marchant	Walker
Duncan (TN)	Marino	Weber (TX)
Dunn	Marshall	Webster (FL)
Emmer	Massie	Wenstrup
Estes (KS)	McCarthy	Westerman
Faso	McCaul	Williams
Ferguson	McClintock	Wilson (SC)
Fleischmann	McHenry	Wittman
Flores	McMorris	Womack
Fortenberry	Rodgers	Woodall
Fox	McSally	Yoho
Frelinghuysen	Meadows	Young (AK)
Gaetz	Messer	Young (IA)
Gallagher	Mitchell	Zeldin
Garrett	Moolenaar	
Gianforte	Mooney (WV)	

NAYS—206

Adams	Bustos	Connolly
Aguilar	Butterfield	Cooper
Barragán	Capuano	Correa
Bass	Cárdenas	Costa
Bera	Carson (IN)	Courtney
Beyer	Cartwright	Crist
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Crowley
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Blunt Rochester	Chu, Judy	Cummings
Bonamici	Cicilline	Curbelo (FL)
Boyle, Brendan F.	Clark (MA)	Davis (CA)
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	Davis, Danny
Brown (MD)	Clay	DeFazio
Brownley (CA)	Cleaver	DeGette
Buchanan	Clyburn	Delaney
	Cohen	DeLauro

DelBene	Lamb	Raskin
Demings	Lance	Rice (NY)
DeSaulnier	Langevin	Richmond
Deutch	Larsen (WA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Diaz-Balart	Larson (CT)	Rosen
Dingell	Lawrence	Roskam
Doggett	Lawson (FL)	Rothfus
Doyle, Michael F.	Lee	Roybal-Allard
Ellison	Levin	Ruiz
Engel	Lewis (GA)	Ruppersberger
Eshoo	Lieu, Ted	Rush
Espallat	Lipinski	Ryan (OH)
Esty (CT)	Loebsock	Sánchez
Evans	Loifgren	Sarbanes
Fitzpatrick	Lowenthal	Schakowsky
Foster	Lowe	Schiff
Frankel (FL)	Lujan Grisham, M.	Schneider
Fudge	Luján, Ben Ray	Schrader
Gabbard	Lynch	Scott (VA)
Gallego	MacArthur	Scott, David
Garamendi	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Serrano
Gomez	Maloney, Sean	Shea-Porter
Gonzalez (TX)	Mast	Sherman
Gottheimer	Matsui	Sinema
Green, Al	McCollum	Sires
Green, Gene	McEachin	Smith (WA)
Grijalva	McGovern	Soto
Gutierrez	McKinley	Speier
Hanabusa	McNerney	Stefanik
Hastings	Meeks	Suozi
Heck	Meng	Swalwell (CA)
Higgins (NY)	Moore	Takano
Himes	Moulton	Thompson (CA)
Hoyer	Murphy (FL)	Thompson (MS)
Huffman	Nadler	Titus
Hurd	Napolitano	Tonko
Jackson Lee	Neal	Torres
Jayapal	Nolan	Tsongas
Jeffries	Norcross	Turner
Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran	Upton
Johnson, E. B.	O'Rourke	Veasey
Kaptur	Pallone	Vela
Katko	Panetta	Velázquez
Keating	Pascrell	Visclosky
Kelly (IL)	Payne	Walorski
Kelly (PA)	Pelosi	Wasserman
Kennedy	Perlmutter	Schultz
Khanna	Peters	Waters, Maxine
Kihuen	Peterson	Watson Coleman
Kildee	Pingree	Welch
Kilmer	Pocan	Wilson (FL)
Kind	Price (NC)	Yarmuth
Krishnamoorthi	Quigley	Yoder
Kuster (NH)		

NOT VOTING—11

Beatty	Pollis	Vargas
Carbajal	Sewell (AL)	Walters, Mimi
Noem	Shimkus	Walz
Palazzo	Shuster	

□ 2117

Messrs. LANCE, SCHNEIDER, CROWLEY, PAYNE, and DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mrs. HANDEL, Messrs. CRAMER and YOUNG of Alaska changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## SPENDING CUTS TO EXPIRED AND UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 3) to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

Adams	Bustos	Connolly
Aguilar	Butterfield	Cooper
Barragán	Capuano	Correa
Bass	Cárdenas	Costa
Bera	Carson (IN)	Courtney
Beyer	Cartwright	Crist
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Crowley
Blumenauer	Castro (TX)	Cuellar
Blunt Rochester	Chu, Judy	Cummings
Bonamici	Cicilline	Curbelo (FL)
Boyle, Brendan F.	Clark (MA)	Davis (CA)
Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)	Davis, Danny
Brown (MD)	Clay	DeFazio
Brownley (CA)	Cleaver	DeGette
Buchanan	Clyburn	Delaney
	Cohen	DeLauro

## ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Pursuant to House Resolution 918 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. 5895.

Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) kindly take the chair.

□ 2119

## 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. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with Mr. NORMAN (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 pursuant to House Resolution 918, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 39 printed in part B of House Report 115-711 offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) had been postponed.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 115-711 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 13 by Ms. TSONGAS of Massachusetts;

Amendment No. 18 by Mr. BEYER of Virginia;

Amendment No. 24 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona;

Amendment No. 26 by Ms. LEE of California;

Amendment No. 27 by Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia;

Amendment No. 29 by Mr. GOSAR of Arizona;

Amendment No. 31 by Mr. LOWENTHAL of California;

Amendment No. 34 by Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee;

Amendment No. 39 by Mr. NORMAN of South Carolina.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the time for any electronic vote in this series.

## AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. TSONGAS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. TSONGAS) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 201, noes 217, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 244]

AYES—201

Adams	Bera	Bonamici
Aguilar	Beyer	Brown (MD)
Bacon	Bishop (GA)	Brownley (CA)
Barragán	Blumenauer	Bustos
Bass	Blunt Rochester	Butterfield

Capuano	Higgins (NY)	Panetta
Cárdenas	Himes	Pascarell
Carson (IN)	Hollingsworth	Payne
Cartwright	Hoyer	Pelosi
Castor (FL)	Huffman	Perlmutter
Castro (TX)	Jackson Lee	Peters
Chu, Judy	Jayapal	Peterson
Ciulline	Jeffries	Pingree
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Pocan
Clarke (NY)	Johnson, E. B.	Poliquin
Clay	Jones	Price (NC)
Cleaver	Kaptur	Quigley
Clyburn	Katko	Raskin
Cohen	Keating	Reed
Connolly	Kelly (IL)	Reichert
Cooper	Kennedy	Rice (NY)
Correa	Khanna	Richmond
Costa	Kihuen	Ros-Lehtinen
Costello (PA)	Kildeer	Rosen
Courtney	Kind	Roybal-Allard
Crist	King (IA)	Ruiz
Crowley	Krishnamoorthi	Ruppersberger
Cuellar	Kuster (NH)	Rush
Cummings	Lamb	Sánchez
Curbelo (FL)	Lance	Sarbanes
Davis (CA)	Langevin	Schakowsky
Davis, Danny	Larsen (WA)	Schiff
DeFazio	Larson (CT)	Schneider
DeGette	Lawrence	Schrader
Delaney	Lawson (FL)	Scott (VA)
DeLauro	Lee	Scott, David
DelBene	Levin	Serrano
Demings	Lewis (GA)	Shea-Porter
DeSaulnier	Lieu, Ted	Sherman
Deutch	Lipinski	Sinema
Dingell	LoBiondo	Smith (NJ)
Doggett	Loeb sack	Smith (WA)
Donovan	Loftgren	Soto
Doyle, Michael	Lowenthal	Speier
F.	Lowe	Stefanik
Ellison	Lujan Grisham,	Suozzi
Engel	M.	Swalwell (CA)
Eshoo	Luján, Ben Ray	Takano
Españat	Lynch	Thompson (CA)
Esty (CT)	MacArthur	Thompson (MS)
Evans	Maloney,	Titus
Faso	Carolyn B.	Tonko
Fitzpatrick	Maloney, Sean	Torres
Foster	Matsui	Tsongas
Frankel (FL)	McCollum	Upton
Gabbard	McEachin	Veasey
Gallego	McGovern	Vela
Garamendi	McNerney	Velázquez
Gomez	Meeks	Visclosky
Gonzalez (TX)	Meng	Walden
Graves (LA)	Moore	Wasserman
Green, Al	Moulton	Schultz
Green, Gene	Nadler	Waters, Maxine
Griffith	Napolitano	Watson Coleman
Grijalva	Neal	Welch
Gutiérrez	Nolan	Wilson (FL)
Hanabusa	O'Halleran	Yarmuth
Hastings	O'Rourke	
Heck		

## NOES—217

Abraham	Calvert	Fox
Aderholt	Carter (GA)	Frelinghuysen
Allen	Carter (TX)	Fudge
Amash	Chabot	Gaetz
Amodei	Cheney	Gallagher
Arrington	Coffman	Garrett
Babin	Cole	Gianforte
Banks (IN)	Collins (GA)	Gibbs
Barletta	Collins (NY)	Gohmert
Barr	Comer	Goodlatte
Barton	Comstock	Gosar
Bergman	Conaway	Gottheimer
Biggs	Cook	Gowdy
Bilirakis	Cramer	Granger
Bishop (MI)	Crawford	Graves (GA)
Bishop (UT)	Culberson	Graves (MO)
Black	Curtis	Grothman
Blackburn	Davidson	Guthrie
Blum	Davis, Rodney	Handel
Bost	Denham	Harper
Boyle, Brendan	DeSantis	Harris
F.	DesJarlais	Hartzler
Brady (PA)	Diaz-Balart	Hensarling
Brady (TX)	Duffy	Herrera Beutler
Brat	Duncan (SC)	Hice, Jody B.
Brooks (AL)	Duncan (TN)	Higgins (LA)
Brooks (IN)	Dunn	Hill
Buchanan	Emmer	Holding
Buck	Estes (KS)	Hudson
Bucshon	Ferguson	Huizenga
Budd	Fleischmann	Hultgren
Burgess	Flores	Hunter
Byrne	Fortenberry	Hurd

Issa	Mitchell	Scott, Austin
Jenkins (KS)	Moolenaar	Sensenbrenner
Jenkins (WV)	Mooney (WV)	Sessions
Johnson (LA)	Mullin	Shimkus
Johnson (OH)	Murphy (FL)	Shuster
Johnson, Sam	Newhouse	Simpson
Jordan	Norcross	Sires
Joyce (OH)	Norman	Smith (MO)
Kelly (MS)	Nunes	Smith (NE)
Kelly (PA)	Olson	Smith (TX)
King (NY)	Pallone	Smucker
Kinzinger	Palmer	Stewart
Knight	Paulsen	Stivers
Kustoff (TN)	Pearce	Taylor
Labrador	Perry	Tenney
LaHood	Pittenger	Thompson (PA)
LaMalfa	Poe (TX)	Thornberry
Lamborn	Posey	Tipton
Latta	Ratcliffe	Trott
Lesko	Renacci	Turner
Lewis (MN)	Rice (SC)	Valadao
Long	Roby	Wagner
Loudermilk	Roe (TN)	Walberg
Love	Rogers (AL)	Walker
Lucas	Rogers (KY)	Walorski
Luetkemeyer	Rohrabacher	Weber (TX)
Marchant	Rokita	Webster (FL)
Marino	Rooney, Francis	Wenstrup
Marshall	Rooney, Thomas	Westerman
Massie	J.	Williams
Mast	Roskam	Wilson (SC)
McCarthy	Ross	Wittman
McCaul	Rothfus	Womack
McClintock	Rouzer	Woodall
McHenry	Royce (CA)	Yoder
McKinley	Russell	Yoho
McMorris	Rutherford	Young (AK)
Rodgers	Ryan (OH)	Young (IA)
McSally	Sanford	Zeldin
Meadows	Scalise	
Messer	Schweikert	

## NOT VOTING—9

Beatty	Palazzo	Vargas
Carbajal	Polis	Walters, Mimi
Noem	Sewell (AL)	Walz

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 2123

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. BEYER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 204, noes 214, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 245]

AYES—204

Adams	Boyle, Brendan	Castor (FL)
Aguilar	F.	Castro (TX)
Barragán	Brady (PA)	Chu, Judy
Bass	Brown (MD)	Ciulline
Bera	Brownley (CA)	Clark (MA)
Beyer	Bustos	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Butterfield	Clay
Blumenauer	Capuano	Cleaver
Blunt Rochester	Cárdenas	Clyburn
Bonamici	Carson (IN)	Coffman
	Cartwright	Cohen

Connolly	Keating	Pelosi	LaHood	Palmer	Sinema	Hudson	Massie	Rouzer
Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter	LaMalfa	Pearce	Smith (MO)	Huizenga	McClintock	Russell
Courtney	Kennedy	Peters	Lamb	Perry	Smith (NE)	Hunter	McHenry	Sanford
Crist	Khanna	Pingree	Lamborn	Peterson	Smith (NJ)	Issa	Meadows	Scalise
Crowley	Kihuen	Pocan	Latta	Pittenger	Smith (TX)	Jenkins (KS)	Messer	Schweikert
Cummings	Kildee	Price (NC)	Lesko	Poe (TX)	Smucker	Johnson (LA)	Mooney (WV)	Sensenbrenner
Curbelo (FL)	Kilmer	Quigley	Lewis (MN)	Poliquin	Stewart	Johnson (OH)	Newhouse	Sessions
Davis, Danny	Kind	Raskin	Long	Posey	Stivers	Johnson, Sam	Norman	Shuster
DeFazio	King (NY)	Reed	Loudermilk	Ratcliffe	Taylor	Jones	Nunes	Stewart
DeGette	Kininger	Reichert	Lucas	Renacci	Tenney	Jordan	Olson	Taylor
Delaney	Krishnamoorthi	Rice (NY)	Luetkemeyer	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)	Kelly (MS)	Palmer	Tenney
DeLauro	Kuster (NH)	Richmond	MacArthur	Roby	Thornberry	Knight	Pearce	Wagner
DelBene	Lance	Rohrabacher	Marchant	Roe (TN)	Tipton	Kustoff (TN)	Perry	Walberg
Demings	Langevin	Ros-Lehtinen	Marino	Rogers (AL)	Trott	Labrador	Pittenger	Walker
DeSaulnier	Larsen (WA)	Rosen	Marshall	Rogers (KY)	Turner	LaHood	Poe (TX)	Walorski
Deutch	Larson (CT)	Roskam	Massie	Rokita	Upton	Lamborn	Posey	Webster (FL)
Dingell	Lawrence	Roybal-Allard	McCarthy	Rooney, Francis	Valadao	Latta	Ratcliffe	Westrup
Doggett	Lawson (FL)	Ruiz	McCaul	Rooney, Thomas J.	Wagner	Lesko	Rice (SC)	Westerman
Donovan	Lee	Ruppersberger	McClintock	Ross	Walberg	Lewis (MN)	Rogers (AL)	Williams
Doyle, Michael F.	Levin	Rush	McHenry	Rothfus	Walden	Long	Rokita	Wittman
Ellison	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (OH)	McKinley	Rouzer	Walker	Loudermilk	Rooney, Francis	Yoder
Engel	Lieu, Ted	Sánchez	McMorris	Royce (CA)	Walorski	Luetkemeyer	Rothfus	Yoho
Eshoo	Lipinski	Sarbanes	Rodgers	Russell	Weber (TX)			
Eshoo	LoBiondo	Schakowsky	McSally	Rutherford	Webster (FL)			
Espallat	Loeb	Schiff	Meadows	Sanford	Wenstrup	Adams	Deutch	Larsen (WA)
Esty (CT)	Lofgren	Schneider	Messer	Scalise	Westernman	Aguilar	Diaz-Balart	Larson (CT)
Evans	Love	Schrader	Mitchell	Moolenaar	Williams	Amodel	Dingell	Lawrence
Faso	Lowenthal	Scott (VA)	Scott, David	Sensenbrenner	Wilson (SC)	Babin	Doggett	Lawson (FL)
Fitzpatrick	Lujan Grisham, M.	Serrano	Shea-Porter	Newhouse	Wittman	Bacon	Donovan	Lee
Fortenberry	Luján, Ben Ray	Sherman	Sires	Norman	Womack	Barletta	Doyle, Michael F.	Levin
Foster	Lynch	Smith (WA)	Speier	Nunes	Woodall	Barragán	Ellison	Lewis (GA)
Frankel (FL)	Maloney, Carolyn B.	Soto	Stefanik	Olson	Yoder	Barton	Engel	Lieu, Ted
Fudge	Maloney, Sean	Stefanik	Stefanik	Beatty	Yoho	Bass	Eshoo	Lipinski
Gabbard	Maloney, Sean	Stefanik	Stefanik	Carbaljal	Young (AK)	Bera	Espallat	LoBiondo
Gallo	Maloney, Sean	Stefanik	Stefanik	Noem		Bergman	Esty (CT)	Loeb
Garamendi	Mast	Stefanik	Stefanik			Beyer	Evans	Lofgren
Gomez	Matsui	Stefanik	Stefanik			Bishop (GA)	Faso	Love
Gonzalez (TX)	McCollum	Stefanik	Stefanik			Black	Ferguson	Lowenthal
Gottheimer	McEachin	Stefanik	Stefanik			Blackburn	Fitzpatrick	Lowe
Green, Al	McGovern	Stefanik	Stefanik			Blumenauer	Fleischmann	Lucas
Green, Gene	McNerney	Stefanik	Stefanik			Blunt Rochester	Flores	Lujan Grisham, M.
Grijalva	Meeks	Stefanik	Stefanik			Bonamici	Fortenberry	Luján, Ben Ray
Gutiérrez	Meng	Stefanik	Stefanik			Bost	Foster	Lynch
Hanabusa	Moore	Stefanik	Stefanik			Boyle, Brendan F.	Frankel (FL)	MacArthur
Hastings	Moulton	Stefanik	Stefanik			Brady (PA)	Frelinghuysen	Maloney, Carolyn B.
Heck	Murphy (FL)	Stefanik	Stefanik			Brady (TX)	Fudge	Maloney, Sean
Herrera Beutler	Nadler	Stefanik	Stefanik			Brooks (IN)	Gabbard	Marchant
Higgins (NY)	Napolitano	Stefanik	Stefanik			Brown (MD)	Gaetz	Marino
Himes	Neal	Stefanik	Stefanik			Brownley (CA)	Gallo	Marshall
Hoyer	Nolan	Stefanik	Stefanik			Buchanan	Garamendi	Mast
Huffman	Norcross	Stefanik	Stefanik			Bustos	Gomez	Matsui
Jackson Lee	O'Halleran	Stefanik	Stefanik			Butterfield	Gonzalez (TX)	McCarthy
Jayapal	O'Rourke	Stefanik	Stefanik			Calvert	Gottheimer	McCaul
Jeffries	Pallone	Stefanik	Stefanik			Capuano	Gowdy	McCollum
Johnson (GA)	Panetta	Stefanik	Stefanik			Cárdenas	Granger	McEachin
Johnson, E. B.	Pascarella	Stefanik	Stefanik			Carson (IN)	Green, Al	McGovern
Jones	Paulsen	Stefanik	Stefanik			Carter (TX)	Green, Gene	McKinley
Kaptur	Payne	Stefanik	Stefanik			Cartwright	Grijalva	McMorris
Katko		Stefanik	Stefanik			Castor (FL)	Gutiérrez	Rodgers
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	McNerney
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Chu, Judy	Harper	McSally
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Ciicilline	Hastings	Meeks
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Clark (MA)	Heck	Meng
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Clarke (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Mitchell
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Clay	Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cleaver	Hill	Moore
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Clyburn	Himes	Moulton
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Coffman	Hoyer	Mullin
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cohen	Huffman	Murphy (FL)
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cole	Hultgren	Nadler
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Collins (NY)	Hurd	Napolitano
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Comstock	Jackson Lee	Neal
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Conaway	Jayapal	Nolan
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Connolly	Jeffries	Norcross
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cooper	Jenkins (WV)	O'Halleran
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Correa	Johnson (GA)	O'Rourke
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Costa	Johnson, E. B.	Pallone
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Costello (PA)	Joyce (OH)	Panetta
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Courtney	Kaptur	Pascarella
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cramer	Katko	Paulsen
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Crawford	Keating	Payne
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Crist	Kelly (IL)	Pelosi
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Crowley	Kelly (PA)	Perlmutter
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cuellar	Kennedy	Peters
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Culberson	Khanna	Peterson
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Cummings	Kihuen	Pingree
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Curbelo (FL)	Kildee	Pocan
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Davis (CA)	Kilmer	Price (NC)
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Davis, Danny	Kind	Quigley
		Stefanik	Stefanik			DeFazio	King (IA)	Raskin
		Stefanik	Stefanik			DeGette	King (NY)	Reed
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Delaney	Kininger	Reichert
		Stefanik	Stefanik			DeLauro	Krishnamoorthi	Renacci
		Stefanik	Stefanik			DelBene	Kuster (NH)	Rice (NY)
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Demings	LaMalfa	Richmond
		Stefanik	Stefanik			Denham	Lamb	Roby
		Stefanik	Stefanik			DeSaulnier	Lance	
		Stefanik	Stefanik			DesJarlais	Langevin	

## NOES—295

Adams	Deutch	Larsen (WA)
Aguilar	Diaz-Balart	Larson (CT)
Amodel	Dingell	Lawrence
Babin	Doggett	Lawson (FL)
Bacon	Donovan	Lee
Barletta	Doyle, Michael F.	Levin
Barragán	Ellison	Lewis (GA)
Barton	Engel	Lieu, Ted
Bass	Eshoo	Lipinski
Bera	Eshoo	LoBiondo
Bergman	Espallat	Loeb
Beyer	Esty (CT)	Lofgren
Bishop (GA)	Evans	Love
Black	Faso	Lowenthal
Blackburn	Ferguson	Lowe
Blumenauer	Fitzpatrick	Lucas
Blunt Rochester	Fleischmann	Lujan Grisham, M.
Bonamici	Flores	Luján, Ben Ray
Bost	Fortenberry	Lynch
Boyle, Brendan F.	Foster	MacArthur
Brady (PA)	Frankel (FL)	Maloney, Carolyn B.
Brady (TX)	Frelinghuysen	Maloney, Sean
Brooks (IN)	Fudge	Marchant
Brown (MD)	Gabbard	Marino
Brownley (CA)	Gaetz	Marshall
Buchanan	Gallo	Mast
Bustos	Garamendi	Matsui
Butterfield	Gomez	McCarthy
Calvert	Gonzalez (TX)	McCaul
Capuano	Gottheimer	McCollum
Cárdenas	Gowdy	McEachin
Carson (IN)	Granger	McGovern
Carter (TX)	Green, Al	McKinley
Carter (TX)	Green, Gene	McMorris
Cartwright	Grijalva	Rodgers
Castor (FL)	Gutiérrez	McNerney
Castro (TX)	Hanabusa	McSally
Chu, Judy	Harper	Meeks
Ciicilline	Hastings	Meng
Clark (MA)	Heck	Mitchell
Clarke (NY)	Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar
Clay	Higgins (NY)	Moore
Cleaver	Hill	Hoyer
Clyburn	Himes	Huffman
Coffman	Moore	Mullin
Cohen	Hoyer	Murphy (FL)
Cole	Huffman	Nadler
Collins (NY)	Hultgren	Napolitano
Comstock	Hurd	Neal
Conaway	Jackson Lee	Nolan
Connolly	Jayapal	Norcross
Cooper	Jeffries	O'Halleran
Correa	Jenkins (WV)	O'Rourke
Costa	Johnson (GA)	Pallone
Costello (PA)	Johnson, E. B.	Panetta
Courtney	Joyce (OH)	Pascarella
Cramer	Kaptur	Paulsen
Crawford	Katko	Payne
Crist	Keating	Pelosi
Crowley	Kelly (IL)	Perlmutter
Cuellar	Kelly (PA)	Peters
Culberson	Kennedy	Peterson
Cummings	Khanna	Pingree
Curbelo (FL)	Kihuen	Pocan
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Price (NC)
Davis, Danny	Kilmer	Quigley
DeFazio	Kind	Raskin
DeGette	King (IA)	Reed
Delaney	King (NY)	Reichert
DeLauro	Kininger	Renacci
DelBene	Krishnamoorthi	Rice (NY)
Demings	Kuster (NH)	Richmond
Denham	LaMalfa	Roby
DeSaulnier	Lamb	
DesJarlais	Lance	
	Langevin	

## NOES—214

Abraham	Collins (NY)	Gosar
Aderholt	Comer	Gowdy
Allen	Comstock	Granger
Amash	Conaway	Graves (GA)
Amodel	Cook	Graves (LA)
Arrington	Correa	Graves (MO)
Babin	Costa	Griffith
Bacon	Costello (PA)	Grothman
Banks (IN)	Cramer	Guthrie
Barletta	Crawford	Handel
Barr	Cuellar	Harper
Barton	Culberson	Harris
Bergman	Curtis	Hartzler
Biggs	Davidson	Hensarling
Billirakis	Davis (CA)	Hice, Jody B.
Bishop (MI)	Davis, Rodney	Higgins (LA)
Bishop (UT)	Denham	Hill
Black	DeSantis	Holding
Blackburn	DesJarlais	Hollingsworth
Blum	Diaz-Balart	Hudson
Bost	Duffy	Huizenga
Brady (TX)	Duncan (SC)	Hultgren
Brat	Duncan (TN)	Hunter
Brooks (AL)	Dunn	Hurd
Brooks (IN)	Emmer	Issa
Buchanan	Estes (KS)	Jenkins (KS)
Buck	Ferguson	Jenkins (WV)
Bucshon	Fleischmann	Johnson (LA)
Budd	Flores	Johnson (OH)
Burgess	Fox	Johnson, Sam
Byrne	Frelinghuysen	Jordan
Calvert	Gaetz	Joyce (OH)
Carter (GA)	Gallagher	Kelly (MS)
Carter (TX)	Garrett	Kelly (PA)
Chabot	Gianforte	King (IA)
Cheney	Gibbs	Knight
Cole	Gohmert	Kustoff (TN)
Collins (GA)	Goodlatte	Labrador

## NOT VOTING—9

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2127

So the amendment was rejected.  
The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on the amendment offered by the  
gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR)  
on which further proceedings were  
postponed and on which the noes pre-  
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 123, noes 295,  
not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 246]

## AYES—123

Abraham	Carter (GA)	Gianforte
Aderholt	Chabot	Gibbs
Allen	Cheney	Gohmert
Amash	Collins (GA)	Goodlatte
Arrington	Comer	Gosar
Banks (IN)	Cook	Graves (GA)
Barr	Curtis	Graves (LA)
Biggs	Davidson	Graves (MO)
Billirakis	Davis, Rodney	Griffith
Bishop (MI)	DeSantis	Grothman
Bishop (UT)	Duffy	Guthrie
Blum	Duncan (SC)	Handel
Brat	Duncan (TN)	Harris
Brooks (AL)	Dunn	Hartzler
Buck	Emmer	Hensarling
Bucshon	Estes (KS)	Hice, Jody B.
Budd	Fox	Higgins (LA)
Burgess	Gallagher	Holding
Byrne	Garrett	Hollingsworth

Roe (TN)           Shea-Porter       Torres  
 Rogers (KY)       Sherman           Trott  
 Rohrabacher       Shimkus           Tsongas  
 Rooney, Thomas   Simpson           Turner  
   J.               Sinema            Upton  
 Ros-Lehtinen      Sires             Valadao  
 Rosen             Smith (MO)       Veasey  
 Roskam            Smith (NE)       Vela  
 Ross             Smith (NJ)       Velázquez  
 Roybal-Allard     Smith (TX)       Visclosky  
 Royce (CA)       Smith (WA)       Walden  
 Ruiz             Smucker          Wasserman  
 Ruppertsberger   Soto             Schultz  
 Rush             Speier           Waters, Maxine  
 Rutherford       Stefanik          Watson Coleman  
 Ryan (OH)       Stivers           Weber (TX)  
 Sánchez          Suozzi  
 Sarbanes         Swalwell (CA)   Welch  
 Schakowsky       Takano           Wilson (FL)  
 Schiff            Thompson (CA)   Wilson (SC)  
 Schneider        Thompson (MS)   Womack  
 Schrader         Thompson (PA)   Woodall  
 Scott (VA)       Thornberry       Yarmuth  
 Scott, Austin     Tipton           Young (AK)  
 Scott, David      Titus            Young (IA)  
 Serrano          Tonko            Zeldin

## NOT VOTING—9

Beatty           Palazzo  
 Carbajal        Polis  
 Noem            Sewell (AL)      Walters, Mimi  
                   Walz

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 2130

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced  
 as above recorded.

## AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MS. LEE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
 business is the demand for a recorded  
 vote on the amendment offered by the  
 gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE)  
 on which further proceedings were  
 postponed and on which the noes pre-  
 vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
 ment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-  
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
 vice, and there were—ayes 177, noes 241,  
 not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 247]

## AYES—177

Adams           Clay             Engel  
 Aguilar        Cleaver          Eshoo  
 Amash          Clyburn         Español  
 Barragán       Cohen           Esty (CT)  
 Bass           Connolly        Evans  
 Bera           Correa          Foster  
 Beyer          Costa           Frankel (FL)  
 Blumenauer    Courtney        Fudge  
 Blunt Rochester   Crist           Gabbard  
 Bonamici       Crowley         Gallego  
 Boyle, Brendan   Cummings       Garamendi  
   F.            Davis (CA)      Gomez  
 Brady (PA)      Davis, Danny   Gonzalez (TX)  
 Brown (MD)     DeFazio         Grijalva  
 Brownley (CA)   DeGette         Gutiérrez  
 Bustos          Delaney         Hanabusa  
 Butterfield     DeLauro        Hastings  
 Capuano        DelBene         Heck  
 Cárdenas       Demings         Higgins (NY)  
 Carson (IN)     DeSaulnier      Himes  
 Cartwright      Deutch          Hoyer  
 Castor (FL)     Dingell         Huffman  
 Castro (TX)     Doggett         Jackson Lee  
 Chu, Judy       Doyle, Michael   Jayapal  
 Cicilline       F.               Jeffries  
 Clark (MA)      Duncan (TN)     Johnson (GA)  
 Clarke (NY)     Ellison          Johnson, E. B.

Jones           McEachin        Schakowsky  
 Kaptur          McGovern        Schiff  
 Keating         McNerney        Schneider  
 Kelly (IL)       Meeks            Schrader  
 Khanna          Meng            Scott (VA)  
 Kihuen          Moore           Scott, David  
 Kildee          Moulton         Serrano  
 Kilmer          Murphy (FL)     Shea-Porter  
 Kind            Nadler           Sherman  
 Krishnamoorthi   Napolitano      Sires  
 Kuster (NH)     Neal            Smith (WA)  
 Lamb            Nolan           Soto  
 Langevin        O'Rourke        Speier  
 Larsen (WA)     Pallone          Suozzi  
 Larson (CT)     Panetta          Swalwell (CA)  
 Lawrence        Pascarell        Takano  
 Lawson (FL)     Payne           Thompson (CA)  
 Lee             Pelosi           Thompson (MS)  
 Levin           Perlmutter  
 Lewis (GA)      Pingree  
 Lieu, Ted       Pocan  
 Lipinski        Price (NC)  
 Loeb sack       Quigley  
 Lofgren         Raskin  
 Lowenthal      Rice (NY)  
 Lowey          Richmond  
 Lujan Grisham,   Rohrabacher  
   M.             Rosen  
 Luján, Ben Ray   Roybal-Allard  
 Lynch           Ruiz  
 Maloney,        Rush  
   Carolyn B.  
 Matsui          Sánchez  
 McCollum       Sanford  
                  Sarbanes

## NOES—241

Abraham        Estes (KS)  
 Aderholt       Faso  
 Allen           Ferguson  
 Amodei         Fitzpatrick  
 Arrington      Fleischmann  
 Babin           Flores  
 Bacon           Fortenberry  
 Banks (IN)     Foxy  
 Barletta       Frelinghuysen  
 Barr           Gaetz  
 Barton         Gallagher  
 Bergman        Garrett  
 Biggs           Gianforte  
 Bilirakis      Gibbs  
 Bishop (GA)    Gohmert  
 Bishop (MI)    Goodlatte  
 Bishop (UT)   Gosar  
 Black           Gottheimer  
 Blackburn      Gowdy  
 Blum           Granger  
 Bost           Graves (GA)  
 Brady (TX)     Graves (LA)  
 Brat           Graves (MO)  
 Brooks (AL)    Green, Al  
 Brooks (IN)    Green, Gene  
 Buchanan       Griffith  
 Buck           Grothman  
 Bucshon        Guthrie  
 Budd           Handel  
 Burgess        Harper  
 Byrne          Harris  
 Calvert        Hartzler  
 Carter (GA)    Hensarling  
 Carter (TX)   Herrera Beutler  
 Chabot         Hice, Jody B.  
 Cheney         Higgins (LA)  
 Coffman        Hill  
 Cole           Holding  
 Collins (GA)   Hollingsworth  
 Collins (NY)   Hudson  
 Comer          Huizenga  
 Comstock      Hultgren  
 Conaway       Hunter  
 Cook           Hurd  
 Cooper         Issa  
 Costello (PA)   Jenkins (KS)  
 Cramer         Jenkins (WV)  
 Crawford       Johnson (LA)  
 Cuellar        Johnson (OH)  
 Culberson      Johnson, Sam  
 Curbelo (FL)   Jordan  
 Curtis          Joyce (OH)  
 Davidson       Katko  
 Davis, Rodney   Kelly (MS)  
 Denham         Kelly (PA)  
 DesSantis      Kennedy  
 DesJarlais     King (IA)  
 Diaz-Balart    King (NY)  
 Donovan        Kinzinger  
 Duffy          Knight  
 Duncan (SC)   Kustoff (TN)  
 Dunn           Labrador  
 Emmer          LaHood

LaMalfa  
 Lamborn  
 Lance  
 Latta  
 Lesko  
 Lewis (MN)  
 LoBiondo  
 Long  
 Loudermilk  
 Love  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 MacArthur  
 Maloney, Sean  
 Marchant  
 Marino  
 Marshall  
 Massie  
 Mast  
 McCarthy  
 McCaul  
 McClintock  
 McHenry  
 McKinley  
 McMorris  
 Rodgers  
 McSally  
 Meadows  
 Guthrie  
 Messer  
 Mitchell  
 Moolenaar  
 Mooney (WV)  
 Mullin  
 Newhouse  
 Norcross  
 Norman  
 Nunes  
 O'Halleran  
 Olson  
 Palmer  
 Paulsen  
 Pearce  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Peterson  
 Pittenger  
 Poe (TX)  
 Poliquin  
 Posey  
 Ratcliffe  
 Reed  
 Reichert  
 Renacci  
 Rice (SC)  
 Roby  
 Roe (TN)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rokita  
 Rooney, Francis  
 Rooney, Thomas  
   J.  
 Ros-Lehtinen

Roskam          Smith (MO)  
 Ross            Smith (NE)  
 Rothfus         Smith (NJ)  
 Rouzer          Smith (TX)  
 Royce (CA)      Smucker  
 Ruppertsberger   Stefanik  
 Russell          Stewart  
 Rutherford      Stivers  
 Ryan (OH)       Taylor  
 Scalise          Tenney  
 Schweikert      Thompson (PA)  
 Scott, Austin   Thornberry  
 Sensenbrenner   Tipton  
 Sessions        Trott  
 Shimkus         Turner  
 Shuster          Upton  
 Simpson          Valadao  
 Sinema          Wagner

## NOT VOTING—9

Beatty           Palazzo  
 Carbajal        Polis  
 Noem            Sewell (AL)      Vargas  
                   Walters, Mimi  
                   Walz

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 2133

Mr. SWALWELL of California  
 changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”  
 So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced  
 as above recorded.

## AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. CONNOLLY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
 business is the demand for a recorded  
 vote on the amendment offered by the  
 gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CON-  
 NOLLY) on which further proceedings  
 were postponed and on which the noes  
 prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
 ment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-  
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
 vice, and there were—ayes 179, noes 239,  
 not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 248]

## AYES—179

Adams           Costa            Gomez  
 Aguilar        Costello (PA)   Gonzalez (TX)  
 Amash          Courtney        Green, Al  
 Barragán       Crist           Green, Gene  
 Bass           Crowley         Grijalva  
 Bera           Cummings       Gutiérrez  
 Beyer          Davis (CA)      Hanabusa  
 Blumenauer    Davis, Danny   Hastings  
 Blunt Rochester   DeGette        Heck  
 Bonamici       Delaney         Higgins (NY)  
 Boyle, Brendan   DeLauro        Himes  
   F.            DelBene         Hoyer  
 Brady (PA)     Demings         Huffman  
 Brown (MD)     DeSaulnier      Jackson Lee  
 Brownley (CA)   Deutch          Jayapal  
 Bustos          Dingell         Jeffries  
 Butterfield     Doggett         Johnson (GA)  
 Capuano        Doyle, Michael   Johnson, E. B.  
 Cárdenas       F.               Jones  
 Carson (IN)     Duncan (TN)     Kaptur  
 Cartwright      Ellison          Keating  
 Castor (FL)     Engel           Kelly (IL)  
 Castro (TX)     Eshoo           Kennedy  
 Chu, Judy       Español         Khanna  
 Cicilline       Esty (CT)       Kihuen  
 Clark (MA)      Evans           Kildee  
 Clarke (NY)     Foster          Kilmer  
 Clay            Frankel (FL)    Krishnamoorthi  
 Cleaver         Fudge           Kuster (NH)  
 Clyburn        Gabbard         Lamb  
 Cohen           Gallego          Langevin  
 Connolly       Garamendi

Larsen (WA)	Neal	Scott, David	Shimkus	Thompson (PA)	Wenstrup	Rouzer	Smucker	Webster (FL)
Larson (CT)	Nolan	Serrano	Shuster	Thornberry	Westerman	Sanford	Stewart	Westerman
Lawrence	O'Halleran	Shea-Porter	Simpson	Tipton	Williams	Scalise	Taylor	Wilson (SC)
Lawson (FL)	O'Rourke	Sherman	Sinema	Trott	Wilson (SC)	Schweikert	Tipton	Wittman
Lee	Pallone	Sires	Smith (MO)	Turner	Wittman	Scott, Austin	Wagner	Yoder
Levin	Panetta	Smith (WA)	Smith (NE)	Upton	Womack	Sensenbrenner	Walberg	Yoho
Lewis (GA)	Pascrell	Soto	Smith (NJ)	Valadao	Woodall	Sessions	Walden	Young (AK)
Lieu, Ted	Payne	Speier	Smith (TX)	Wagner	Yoder	Smith (MO)	Walker	Young (IA)
Loeb sack	Pelosi	Suo zzi	Smucker	Walberg	Yoho	Smith (NE)	Walorski	Zeldin
Lofgren	Perlmutter	Swalwell (CA)	Stefanik	Walden	Young (AK)	Smith (TX)	Weber (TX)	
Lowenthal	Peters	Takano	Stewart	Walker	Young (IA)			
Lowey	Peterson	Thompson (CA)	Stivers	Walorski	Zeldin			
Lujan Grisham, M.	Pingree	Thompson (MS)	Taylor	Weber (TX)				
Lujan, Ben Ray	Pocan	Titus	Tenney	Webster (FL)				
Lynch	Price (NC)	Tonko						
Maloney, Carolyn B.	Quigley	Torres	Beatty	NOT VOTING—9				
Matsui	Raskin	Tsongas	Carbajal	Palazzo	Vargas	Adams	Foster	McGovern
McCollum	Rice (NY)	Veasey	Noem	Polis	Walters, Mimi	Aguilar	Fox	McHenry
McEachin	Richmond	Vela		Sewell (AL)	Walz	Barletta	Frankel (FL)	McNerney
McGovern	Rohrabacher	Velázquez				Barr	Frelinghuysen	Meeks
McNerney	Roybal-Allard	Visclosky				Barragán	Fudge	Meng
Meeks	Ruiz	Wasserman				Bass	Gabbard	Mitchell
Meng	Rush	Schultz				Bera	Gallego	Moore
Moore	Sánchez	Waters, Maxine				Bergman	Garamendi	Moulton
Moulton	Sarbanes	Watson Coleman				Beyer	Gomez	Murphy (FL)
Murphy (FL)	Schakowsky	Welch				Bishop (GA)	Gonzalez (TX)	Nadler
Nadler	Schiff	Wilson (FL)				Bishop (MI)	Goodlatte	Napolitano
Napolitano	Schneider	Yarmuth				Bishop (UT)	Gottheimer	Neal
	Scott (VA)					Black	Granger	Nolan
						Blackburn	Graves (GA)	Norcross
						Blumenauer	Graves (LA)	Nunes
						Blunt Rochester	Graves (MO)	O'Halleran
						Bonamici	Green, Al	O'Rourke
						Bost	Green, Gene	Pallone
						Boyle, Brendan F.	Grijalva	Panetta
						Brady (PA)	Gutiérrez	Pascrell
						Brady (TX)	Hanabusa	Paulsen
						Brooks (IN)	Harper	Payne
						Brown (MD)	Hartzler	Pelosi
						Brownley (CA)	Hastings	Perlmutter
						Buchanan	Heck	Peters
						Bustos	Higgins (NY)	Peterson
						Butterfield	Hill	Pingree
						Calvert	Himes	Pittenger
						Capuano	Hoyer	Pocan
						Cárdenas	Huffman	Poliquin
						Carson (IN)	Hurd	Price (NC)
						Carter (TX)	Issa	Quigley
						Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Raskin
						Castor (FL)	Jayapal	Reed
						Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Reichert
						Chu, Judy	Jenkins (WV)	Renacci
						Ciilline	Johnson (GA)	Rice (NY)
						Clark (MA)	Johnson, E. B.	Richmond
						Clarke (NY)	Joyce (OH)	Roby
						Clay	Kaptur	Roe (TN)
						Cleaver	Katko	Rogers (AL)
						Clyburn	Keating	Rogers (KY)
						Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Ros-Lehtinen
						Cole	Kelly (PA)	Rosen
						Collins (NY)	Kennedy	Roskam
						Comstock	Khanna	Ross
						Conaway	Kihuen	Roybal-Allard
						Connolly	Kildee	Royce (CA)
						Cooper	Kilmer	Ruiz
						Correa	Kind	Ruppersberger
						Costa	King (IA)	Rush
						Costello (PA)	King (NY)	Russell
						Courtney	Kininger	Rutherford
						Crawford	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan (OH)
						Crist	Kuster (NH)	Sánchez
						Crowley	Lamb	Sarbanes
						Cuellar	Lance	Schakowsky
						Cummings	Langevin	Schiff
						Curbelo (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
						Davis (CA)	Lawrence	Schrader
						Davis, Danny	Lawson (FL)	Scott (VA)
						DeFazio	Lee	Scott, David
						DeGette	Levin	Serrano
						Delaney	Lewis (GA)	Shea-Porter
						DeLauro	Lieu, Ted	Sherman
						DelBene	Lipinski	Shimkus
						Demings	LoBiondo	Shuster
						Denham	LoBiondo	Simpson
						DeSaulnier	Loeb sack	Sinema
						Deutch	Lofgren	Sires
						Diaz-Balart	Long	Smith (NJ)
						Dingell	Lowey	Smith (WA)
						Doggett	Lucas	Soto
						Donovan	Luetkemeyer	Speier
						Doyle, Michael F.	Lujan Grisham, M.	Stefanik
						Ellison	Lujan, Ben Ray	Stivers
						Engel	Lynch	Suo zzi
						Eshoo	MacArthur	Swalwell (CA)
						Espallat	Maloney, Sean	Takano
						Esty (CT)	Malone y, Carolyn B.	Tenney
						Evans	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (CA)
						Faso	Marino	Thompson (MS)
						Fitzpatrick	Mast	Thompson (PA)
						Fleischmann	Matsui	Thornberry
						Fortenberry	McCollum	Titus
							McEachin	Tonko
								Torres

## NOES—239

Abraham	Fitzpatrick	Love	Abraham	Emmer	LaMalfa
Aderholt	Fleischmann	Lucas	Aderholt	Estes (KS)	Lamborn
Allen	Flores	Luetkemeyer	Allen	Ferguson	Larson (CT)
Amodei	Fortenberry	MacArthur	Amodei	Flores	Latta
Arrington	Fox	Maloney, Sean	Arrington	Gaetz	Lesko
Babin	Frelinghuysen	Marchant	Babin	Gallagher	Lewis (MN)
Bacon	Gaetz	Marino	Bacon	Garrett	Loudermilk
Banks (IN)	Gallagher	Marshall	Banks (IN)	Gianforte	Love
Barletta	Garrett	Massie	Barton	Gibbs	Marchant
Barr	Gianforte	Mast	Biggs	Gohmert	Marshall
Barton	Gibbs	McCarthy	Blum	Gowdy	Massie
Bergman	Gohmert	McCaul	Brat	Grothman	McCarthy
Biggs	Goodlatte	McClintock	Brooks (AL)	Guthrie	McCaul
Billirakis	Gosar	McHenry	Buck	Handel	McClintock
Bishop (GA)	Gottheimer	McKinley	Bucshon	Harris	McKinley
Bishop (MI)	Gowdy	McMorris	Budd	Hensarling	McMorris
Bishop (UT)	Granger	Rodgers	Burgess	Herrera Beutler	Rodgers
Black	Graves (GA)	McSally	Byrne	Hice, Jody B.	McSally
Blackburn	Graves (LA)	Meadows	Carter (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Meadows
Blum	Graves (MO)	Messer	Chabot	Holding	Messer
Bost	Griffith	Mitchell	Cheney	Hollingsworth	Moolenaar
Brady (TX)	Grothman	Moolenaar	Coffman	Hudson	Mooney (WV)
Brat	Guthrie	Mooney (WV)	Collins (GA)	Huizenga	Mullin
Brooks (AL)	Handel	Mullin	Comer	Huntgren	Newhouse
Brooks (IN)	Harper	Newhouse	Cook	Hunter	Norman
Buchanan	Harris	Norcross	Cramer	Huntgren	Olson
Buck	Hartzler	Norman	Culberson	Johnson (LA)	Palmer
Bucshon	Hensarling	Nunes	Curtis	Johnson (OH)	Pearce
Budd	Herrera Beutler	Olson	Davis, Rodney	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Burgess	Hice, Jody B.	Palmer	DesJarlais	Kilmer	Pittenger
Byrne	Higgins (LA)	Paulsen	Duffy	Kind	Poe (TX)
Calvert	Hill	Pearce	Duncan (SC)	King (IA)	Rice (TX)
Carter (GA)	Holding	Perry	Dunne	King (NY)	Rooney, Francis
Carter (TX)	Hollingsworth	Pittenger	Emmer	Kininger	Rothfuss
Chabot	Hudson	Poe (TX)	Estes (KS)	Kuster (NH)	
Cheney	Huizenga	Poliquin	Ferguson	Lamb	
Coffman	Hultgren	Posey		Lance	
Cole	Hunter	Ratcliffe		Langevin	
Collins (GA)	Hurd	Reed		Larsen (WA)	
Collins (NY)	Issa	Reichert		Lawrence	
Comer	Jenkins (KS)	Renacci		Lawson (FL)	
Comstock	Jenkins (WV)	Rice (SC)		Lee	
Conaway	Johnson (LA)	Roby		Levin	
Cook	Johnson (OH)	Roe (TN)		Lewis (GA)	
Cooper	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (AL)		Lieu, Ted	
Correa	Jordan	Rogers (KY)		Lipinski	
Cramer	Joyce (OH)	Rokita		LoBiondo	
Crawford	Katko	Rooney, Francis		Loeb sack	
Cuellar	Kelly (MS)	Rooney, Thomas J.		Lofgren	
Culberson	Kelly (PA)	Ros-Lehtinen		Long	
Curbelo (FL)	King (IA)	Rosen		Lowenthal	
Curtis	King (NY)	Roskam		Lowey	
Davidson	Kininger	Ross		Lucas	
Davis, Rodney	Knight	Rothfuss		Luetkemeyer	
DeFazio	Kustoff (TN)	Rouzer		Lujan Grisham, M.	
Denham	Labrador	Royce (CA)		Lujan, Ben Ray	
DeSantis	LaHood	Ruppersberger		Lynch	
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Russell		MacArthur	
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Rutherford		Maloney, Sean	
Donovan	Lance	Ryan (OH)		Malone y, Carolyn B.	
Duffy	Latta	Sanford		Maloney, Sean	
Duncan (SC)	Lesko	Scallie		Marino	
Dunn	Lewis (MN)	Schweikert		Mast	
Emmer	Lipinski	Scott, Austin		Matsui	
Estes (KS)	LoBiondo	Sensenbrenner		McCollum	
Faso	Long	Sessions		McEachin	
Ferguson	Loudermilk				

## NOES—276

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2136

So the amendment was rejected.  
The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on the amendment offered by the  
gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR)  
on which further proceedings were  
postponed and on which the noes pre-  
vailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 139, noes 276,  
answered “present” 2, not voting 10, as  
follows:

[Roll No. 249]

AYES—139

Abraham	Emmer	LaMalfa
Aderholt	Estes (KS)	Lamborn
Allen	Ferguson	Larson (CT)
Amodei	Flores	Latta
Arrington	Gaetz	Lesko
Babin	Gallagher	Lewis (MN)
Bacon	Garrett	Loudermilk
Banks (IN)	Gianforte	Love
Barton	Gibbs	Marchant
Biggs	Gohmert	Marshall
Billirakis	Gosar	Massie
Blum	Gowdy	McCarthy
Brat	Grothman	McCaul
Brooks (AL)	Guthrie	McClintock
Buck	Handel	McKinley
Bucshon	Harris	McMorris
Budd	Hensarling	Rodgers
Burgess	Herrera Beutler	McSally
Byrne	Hice, Jody B.	Meadows
Carter (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Messer
Chabot	Holding	Moolenaar
Cheney	Hollingsworth	Mooney (WV)
Coffman	Hudson	Mullin
Collins (GA)	Huizenga	Newhouse
Comer	Huntgren	Norman
Cook	Hunter	Olson
Cramer	Jenkins (KS)	Palmer
Culberson	Johnson (LA)	Pearce
Curtis	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Davis, Rodney	Johnson, Sam	Poe (TX)
Davis, Rodney	Jones	Posey
DesJarlais	Jordan	Ratcliffe
Duffy	Kelly (MS)	Rice (SC)
Duncan (SC)	Knight	Rohrabacher
Dunne	Kustoff (TN)	Rokita
Emmer	Labrador	Rooney, Francis
Estes (KS)	LaHood	Rothfuss
Faso		
Ferguson		

Trott Velázquez Wenstrup  
Tsongas Visclosky Williams  
Turner Wasserman Wilson (FL)  
Upton Schultz Womack  
Valadao Waters, Maxine Woodall  
Veasey Watson Coleman Yarmuth  
Vela Welch

## ANSWERED “PRESENT”—2

Amash Rooney, Thomas J.

## NOT VOTING—10

Beatty Palazzo Walters, Mimi  
Carbajal Pollis Walz  
Griffith Sewell (AL)  
Noem Vargas

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 2139

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

## AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR.

LOWENTHAL

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on the amendment offered by the  
gentleman from California (Mr.  
LOWENTHAL) on which further pro-  
ceedings were postponed and on which  
the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 195, noes 223,  
not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 250]

## AYES—195

Adams Cuellar Heck  
Aguilar Cummings Higgins (NY)  
Barragán Davis (CA) Himes  
Bass Davis, Danny Hoyer  
Bera DeFazio Huffman  
Beyer DeGette Jackson Lee  
Bishop (GA) Delaney Jayapal  
Blumenauer DeLauro Jeffries  
Blunt Rochester DelBene Johnson (GA)  
Bonamici Demings Johnson, E. B.  
Boyle, Brendan DeSaulnier Kaptur  
F. Deutch Katko  
Brady (PA) Dingell Keating  
Brown (MD) Doggett Kelly (IL)  
Brownley (CA) Doyle, Michael Kennedy  
Buchanan F. Khanna  
Bustos Ellison Kihuen  
Butterfield Engel Kildee  
Capuano Eshoo Kilmer  
Cárdenas Espaillat Kind  
Carson (IN) Esty (CT) Krishnamoorthi  
Cartwright Evans Kuster (NH)  
Castor (FL) Fitzpatrick Lamb  
Castro (TX) Fortenberry Langevin  
Chu, Judy Foster Larsen (WA)  
Cicilline Frankel (FL) Larson (CT)  
Clark (MA) Fudge Lawrence  
Clarke (NY) Gabbard Lawson (FL)  
Clay Gallego Lee  
Cleaver Garamendi Levin  
Clyburn Gomez Lewis (GA)  
Cohen Gonzalez (TX) Lieu, Ted  
Connolly Gottheimer Lipinski  
Cooper Green, Al Loeb sack  
Correa Green, Gene Lofgren  
Costa Grijalva Flores  
Courtney Gutiérrez Lowey  
Crist Hanabusa Lujan Grisham,  
Crowley Hastings M.

Luján, Ben Ray  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Mast  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nolan  
Norcross  
O'Halloran  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Pelosi

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Banks (IN)  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barton  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Billrakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Bost  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Coffman  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Comstock  
Conaway  
Cook  
Costello (PA)  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Culberson  
Curbelo (FL)  
Curtis  
Davidson  
Davis, Rodney  
Denham  
DesSantis  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donovan  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes (KS)  
Faso  
Ferguson  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Flox  
Foe  
Frelinghuysen  
Gaetz

## NOES—223

Gallagher  
Garrett  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guthrie  
Handel  
Harper  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hensarling  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Hurd  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Knight  
Kustoff (TN)  
Labrador  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
Lesko  
Lewis (MN)  
LoBiondo  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Love  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
MacArthur  
Marchant  
Marino  
Marshall  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock

Sherman  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (WA)  
Takano  
Soto  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Suzuki  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Tsongas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)

Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack

## NOT VOTING—9

Beatty  
Carbajal  
Noem

Palazzo  
Pollis  
Sewell (AL)

Vargas  
Walters, Mimi  
Walz

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 2142

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MRS.  
BLACKBURN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on the amendment offered by the  
gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs.  
BLACKBURN) on which further pro-  
ceedings were postponed and on which  
the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 155, noes 262,  
not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 251]

## AYES—155

Abraham  
Allen  
Amash  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Banks (IN)  
Barton  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Billrakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Carter (GA)  
Chabot  
Coffman  
Collins (GA)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Cooper  
Cramer  
Crawford  
Culberson  
Curtis  
Davidson  
DeSantis  
DesJarlais  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Estes (KS)  
Floe  
Foe  
Frelinghuysen  
Gaetz

Ferguson  
Flores  
Flox  
Gaetz  
Garrett  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte  
Gosar  
Gowdy  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guthrie  
Handel  
Harris  
Hensarling  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Holding  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hultgren  
Hunter  
Issa  
Jenkins (KS)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones  
Jordan  
Kelly (MS)  
King (IA)  
Knight  
Kustoff (TN)  
Labrador  
LaHood  
Lamborn  
Lance  
Latta  
Lesko  
Lewis (MN)

Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Marchant  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McSally  
Meadows  
Messer  
Mitchell  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Norman  
Olson  
Palmer  
Paulsen  
Pearce  
Perry  
Poe (TX)  
Poliquin  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Rice (SC)  
Roe (TN)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney, Francis  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Royce (CA)  
Russell  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (TX)

Smucker  
Stewart  
Taylor  
Tipton  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg

Walker  
Walorski  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams

Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Young (IA)  
Zeldin

Beatty  
Carbajal  
Noem  
Palazzo

## NOT VOTING—10

Polis  
Sewell (AL)  
Sinema  
Vargas

Walters, Mimi  
Walz

Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.

Brady (PA)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Bucshon

Burgess  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (TX)

Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cheney  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)

Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Coffman  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)

Comstock  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Costello (PA)

Courtney  
Crawford  
Crist  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cumplings

Curbelo (FL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
Davis, Rodney  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene

Demings  
Denham  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donovan  
Doyle, Michael  
F.

Dunn  
Ellison  
Emmer  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Españat  
Esty (CT)  
Evans  
Faso  
Ferguson

Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallo  
Garamendi  
Gibbs  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)

Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (MO)  
Green, Al  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hanabusa  
Harper  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Heck  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (NY)

Himes  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Joyce (OH)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (PA)

Kennedy  
Ruiz  
Kihuen  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Knight  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Lance  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham,  
M.  
Luján, Ben Ray  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Marino  
Marshall  
Mast  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McMorris  
Rodgers  
McNerney  
McSally  
Meeks  
Meng  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Newhouse  
Nolan  
Norcross  
Nunes  
O'Halleran

O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pascarelli  
Paulsen  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pocan  
Poliquin  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Reed  
Reichert  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roby  
Roe (TN)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney, Thomas  
J.  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rosen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce (CA)  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sinema  
Sires  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stivers  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Tenney  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Walorski  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wenstrup  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Womack  
Yarmuth  
Young (AK)  
Young (IA)

## NOES—262

Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Amodei  
Barletta  
Barr  
Barragán  
Bass  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Capuano  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cheney  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (NY)  
Comstock  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Costello (PA)  
Courtney  
Crist  
Crowley  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Curbelo (FL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny  
Davis, Rodney  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delaney  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Demings  
Denham  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donovan  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Dunn  
Ellison  
Emmer  
Engel  
Eshoo  
Españat  
Esty (CT)  
Evans  
Faso  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Frankel (FL)  
Frelinghuysen  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallagher  
Gallo  
Garamendi

Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (MO)  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutiérrez  
Hanabusa  
Harper  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Heck  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Hollingsworth  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Hurd  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Jenkins (WV)  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Joyce (OH)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Ruiz  
Kihuen  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (GA)  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Love  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan Grisham,  
M.  
Luján, Ben Ray  
Lynch  
MacArthur  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Marino  
Marshall  
Mast  
Matsui  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moolenaar  
Moore  
Moulton  
Murphy (FL)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Newhouse  
Nolan

Norcross  
Nunes  
O'Halleran  
O'Rourke  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pascarelli  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Pingree  
Pittenger  
Pocan  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Reed  
Reichert  
Renacci  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Roby  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney, Thomas  
J.  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rosen  
Roskam  
Ross  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan (OH)  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schradler  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Shea-Porter  
Sherman  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sires  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Speier  
Stefanik  
Stivers  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Tenney  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Titus  
Tonko  
Torres  
Trott  
Tsongas  
Turner  
Valadao  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Walden  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters, Maxine  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Yarmuth  
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2146

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 128, noes 289, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 252]

## AYES—128

Abraham  
Allen  
Amash  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Banks (IN)  
Barr  
Barton  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (MI)  
Bishop (UT)  
Black  
Blackburn  
Blum  
Brady (TX)  
Brat  
Brooks (AL)  
Buck  
Budd  
Byrne  
Carter (GA)  
Chabot  
Comer  
Cook  
Cramer  
Curtis  
Davidson  
DeSantis  
Duffy  
Duncan (SC)  
Duncan (TN)  
Estes (KS)  
Flores  
Fox  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Garrett  
Gianforte  
Gohmert  
Goodlatte

Gosar  
Gowdy  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guthrie  
Handel  
Harris  
Hensarling  
Hice, Jody B.  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Hultgren  
Jenkins (KS)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones  
Jordan  
Kelly (MS)  
King (IA)  
Kustoff (TN)  
Labrador  
LaHood  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Lewis (MN)  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Marchant  
Marshall  
Massie  
McCarthy  
McCauley  
McClintock  
Meadows  
Messer  
Mooney (WV)

Mullin  
Norman  
Olson  
Palmer  
Perry  
Pingree  
Pittenger  
Poe (TX)  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Renacci  
Rice (SC)  
Rohrabacher  
Rokita  
Rooney, Francis  
Rothfus  
Rouzer  
Russell  
Sanford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Sessions  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (TX)  
Smucker  
Stewart  
Taylor  
Tipton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walker  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wittman  
Woodall  
Yoder  
Yoho  
Zeldin

## NOES—289

Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Amodei

Barletta  
Barragán  
Bass  
Bera

Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester

## NOT VOTING—10

Beatty	Palazzo	Walters, Mimi
Carbajal	Polis	Walz
Issa	Sewell (AL)	
Noem	Vargas	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

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

□ 2150

Mr. ROTHFUS changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, the machine did not register my no vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 252.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments under House Resolution 918, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois) having assumed the chair, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

**SERGEANT ERNEST I. "BOOTS"  
THOMAS VA CLINIC**

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (S. 2246) to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2246

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

**SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF A DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINIC IN FLORIDA.**

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Health Care Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2181 Orange Avenue in Tallahassee, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Sergeant Ernest I. 'Boots' Thomas VA Clinic".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the clinic referred to in paragraph (1) shall be considered to be a reference to the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 923 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. 5895.

Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HULTGREN) kindly take the chair.

□ 2153

**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. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, with Mr. HULTGREN (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 pursuant to House Resolution 923, amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 115-712 offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. NOLAN) had been disposed of.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

**AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. ESHOO**

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, first, I want the House to know that this is a bipartisan amendment.

This amendment provides a \$1 million increase for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to fund the development and deployment of high-efficiency linear generator technology.

Linear generators convert fuel and air into electricity with the same efficiency and near zero emissions as the highest performing fuel cells on the market, and they are superior to many legacy fuel cells. But instead of using an electrochemical process like fuel cells, linear generators use an electromechanical process that relies on only two moving parts and no oil, which reduces capital and maintenance costs and results in a life span of three

to four times greater than a traditional fuel cell.

Equally as important, linear generators are dispatchable and can provide electricity even when the electricity grid is down. This is especially valuable in areas recently hit by hurricanes like Puerto Rico and Houston, Texas, and other extreme weather events like last year's wildfires in northern California.

Linear generators also provide resilient baseload power, which eliminates the need for expensive, unreliable, and dirty diesel back-up generators.

At its heart, this amendment is about investing in the future of energy production, and it is about laying the groundwork for the innovators in our country to do what they do best: outperform the status quo and outcompete the rest of the world.

The United States has been a global leader in the development of energy efficiency technology, reducing energy costs and increasing reliability for consumers. But we are in danger of falling behind our foreign competitors.

Mr. Chairman, linear generator technology was born in my Silicon Valley district by some of the best and the brightest minds from Stanford University. And although this technology is substantially similar to fuel cells, it faces an uphill battle and an uneven playing field in bringing these products to market, despite the many benefits of the technology itself.

□ 2200

This amendment will ensure that the Fuel Cell Technologies Office at the DOE invests in the next generation of fuel cell technologies and maintains U.S. leadership in this critical field.

Mr. Chair, it is nice not to have any opposition, so I urge my colleagues to support the next generation of fuel cell technologies and vote "yes" on this bipartisan amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ESHOO).

The amendment was agreed to.

**AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR.**

**PERLMUTTER**

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 32, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chair, I offer a simple amendment today to increase funding for DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's facilities and infrastructure account by \$5 million.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee for their support of the facilities account over the last few years.

As Chairman HULTGREN knows, I represent Golden, Colorado, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. NREL is the premier energy efficiency and renewable energy lab in the world. For more than 40 years, NREL has led the charge in research and design of renewable energy products affecting the way we utilize and secure American energy. Labs like NREL are working to bring life-changing technological innovations to the market so we can better power our Nation and reduce costs for our customers.

The facilities account supports NREL by funding operation of the Energy Systems Integration Facility, general operations, safety and security of the lab, as well as maintenance and replacement of infrastructure and equipment at NREL. This is the account that enables NREL to focus its research dollars directly into new research and technologies.

The bill in front of us today makes significant investments in infrastructure and equipment at many of DOE's other 16 national labs, including through the Office of Science. NREL has those same needs for modest investments in new equipment to stay on the cutting-edge and avoid losing American leadership in materials, research, high-performance computer modeling, and more.

Congress has supported DOE's national labs and science activities very well in the last 2 years, yet EERE's facilities account has remained flat.

This \$5 million increase is needed this year to fund a growing list of equipment and maintenance needs at NREL, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

It takes \$5 million from the administration account and adds \$5 million to the facilities account.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The bill provides \$92 million for the facilities and infrastructure program within the EERE account. That level fully funds operation and maintenance activities at NREL and is the same amount as was appropriated last year.

In light of EERE being reduced by \$243 million compared to last year's level, I would say that the bill contains very strong support for NREL's operations and maintenance activities.

This amendment goes too far in increasing an account that already has strong support.

Additionally, I am concerned that the amendment would have unintended consequences in taking away strategic funding from the departmental administration account.

Mr. Chair, for these reasons, I must oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Chairman, I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment.

The facilities account at NREL has been held flat. We need to boost and improve some of the equipment there. So I think this is a needed amendment, and I would ask for an "aye" vote.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

The amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. HASTINGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 24, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$7,666,667)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Chair, let me say at the outset to the chairman and ranking member, that I do not intend to ask for a recorded vote on this measure. I thought earlier today that I would withdraw the amendment, but in light of the fact that we are here in the middle of the night, I decided I may as well make my point.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase funding for cybersecurity of the electric power grid by \$5 million, offset by reductions in fossil energy research and development.

Like almost everyone in this body, I am deeply concerned about the cybersecurity of our Nation's electric power grid.

I don't know how many of you know that yesterday there was a major outage—that hadn't reached the news, for some reason—of the Comcast telephone network. I don't think there was anything untoward with reference to it, at least it hadn't been reported.

The mere fact is that we are more reliant than ever on this Nation's power grid to provide electricity to the massive amount of technologies that contribute to our country every single second: cellular communications equipment; heating and cooling to our workplaces—especially cooling in this par-

ticular workplace that seems to be overused, in my opinion—and homes; lights to guide us at night on highways; and on and on.

While we have never been more dependent on electricity, our electric energy grid has never been as vulnerable as it is today.

With the rise of nation-state-supported computer hackers in countries like Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and the rogue hackers, the computers that control our power networks are increasingly seen as the most impactful targets for those who wish to do us harm.

Outages from such attacks will cause harm not only to our national security, but our economic stability as well. They will hurt, to name just a few, hospitals, banks, factories, financial networks, water systems, telecommunications, and military bases.

I believe that we must work with those who operate our grid to give them the tools they need to detect and prevent malicious actors from causing damage to our electric system and critical infrastructure.

This funding of \$5 million that I would request, and will again somewhere, is just a fraction of what is needed, but it sends a signal at least that we are serious about addressing this vulnerability, and that is my purpose here this evening.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I agree with everything the gentleman just said, but I disagree with the amendment. Everything he said is absolutely accurate.

My colleague's amendment would increase funding for the Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, or CESER, account, by using the Fossil Energy account as an offset.

I share my colleague's support for the important work funded by the CESER account, and the underlying bill reflects that support. In fact, the CESER account was provided an increase of \$50 million over last year's level. That is a 52 percent increase in this bill. Put another way, that is the single largest percentage increase in any account in this bill.

I support the CESER account and efforts to enhance the cybersecurity and resilience of our electrical grid. That is why the bill provides the highest level of funding these research and development activities have ever had.

However, my colleague's amendment would take away funds from other important research and development activities.

The Fossil Energy account focuses on research and development activities that ensure the Nation is using its abundant natural resources as safely, cleanly, and efficiently as possible.

Targeted increases to the Fossil Energy account support technological advances in carbon capture, carbon storage, and advanced energy generation technologies.

Cuts to the Fossil Energy account threaten these innovations.

In light of the robust support for the CESER account in the underlying bill and the unintended consequences this amendment may have on the Fossil Energy account, I must oppose the amendment, but I will tell my colleague that I look forward to working with him to address this concern that ought to concern all of us.

Cybersecurity is a huge issue, and I think it is going to be one of the biggest things we face in the coming years.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

The amendment was rejected.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 6 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$24,000,000)”.

Page 34, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$24,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman SIMPSON and Ranking Member KAPTUR and all their subcommittee colleagues for, again, putting together a strong Energy and Water appropriations bill this year.

As the chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, I know how crucial that bill is to our national defense.

The Atomic Energy Defense activities funded by this bill and authorized by the NDAA are critical to our nuclear deterrent, and that nuclear deterrent is not just the warheads and missiles over in DOD; it is also the people, capabilities, and infrastructure in DOE. Together, they comprise our nuclear deterrent.

My amendment would align a key aspect of this appropriations bill related to DOE’s nuclear weapons infrastructure with the fiscal year 2019 NDAA that the House passed 2 weeks ago by a bipartisan vote of 351-66.

My amendment provides \$24 million in funding to the Material Staging Facility project, which will enable huge

security improvements, operational efficiencies, and billions in long-term cost savings at the Pantex plant in Texas.

This project was initiated in the fiscal year 2018 NDAA and fiscal year 2018 omnibus appropriations bill, because Congress recognized its importance.

My amendment would ensure that this project stays on track and align with its fiscal year 2019 appropriation and with the fiscal year 2019 NDAA authorization.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting what they have already supported in the NDAA and vote “yes” on my amendment.

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

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Idaho is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, I want to thank the gentleman for his support for and active lobbying for the weapons activities that are so vital to our country. He makes sure that we do our job here.

Mr. Chair, I have no problem with the amendment, and hope it will pass.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A, before the short title, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are revised by reducing the amount made available for “Corps of Engineers-Civil-Construction”, and increasing the amount made available for the same account, by \$100,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, again, I offer my appreciation both to the Rules Committee and to the chairman and ranking member.

This is to emphasize the need for funding in the Army Corps of Engineers. It is an amendment that increases and decreases by \$100 million, with the focus on the construction account.

I hold up examples of construction projects that are necessary, not only in the Gulf region, but projects that are necessary across the Nation.

□ 2215

That is, of course, dams, reservoirs, reservoir pools, and other areas that can be devastated by disaster. And so this amendment is to emphasize the Army Corps of Engineers construction account, particularly dealing with the need for repair to river and harbor, flood and storm damage, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration and, as well, to include the need to deal with our ports.

So my amendment is, again, to reflect on the devastation of the storm that occurred over the last year. With the prediction of 14 storms coming in 2018, approximately five or so to be of monumental impact and hitting the Gulf Region, it is imperative that the Army Corps of Engineers move on their construction account and move on their construction projects to avoid some of the disaster that we have already experienced.

I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

In concluding, let me emphasize the Port of Houston, which truly needs the Army Corps of Engineers’ efforts, particularly in dredging. We are a man-made port. That is a very important aspect of our work, and that is construction work.

The Port of Houston today is operating with draft restrictions that may last a year or longer. Draft restrictions are adding costs to oil and gas and petrochemical operations, which are passed on to wholesalers, who pass these costs to consumers at the pump.

It is also well known that the work that the Army Corps of Engineers does in respect to repair helps the environment. So again, I ask my colleagues to support the amendment, what is a focus on the Army Corps of Engineers’ construction account, but I would like to make the additional point that we, in the region, need an expedited utilization of those dollars to fix the repairs, prepare us for oncoming potential disasters not only in my particular State, but across the region.

I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce the criteria of abandonment described in provision G of provision V of the rule published in the Federal Register at 58 Fed. Reg. 45008 (relating to Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, my amendment today aims to protect private property rights of farmers and ranchers by upholding the long-standing policy of "once a PCC, always a PCC," otherwise known as a prior converted cropland.

There are over 53 million acres of prior converted cropland throughout the country, and for more than 30 years, both Congress and the administration have clearly stipulated these lands were not waters of the United States. These are lands that have been previously cleared, drained, or otherwise altered and operated for decades of farming activity. They do not have the same geographical values as a wetland and should not be regulated as such.

This view was further reinforced by the Clinton administration in its 1993 wetlands plan, specifically exempting prior converted cropland from this regulation. This should apply regardless of any change in use, including agriculture back to non-agriculture use.

However, in recent years, the EPA and Army Corps have used a creative interpretation of their abandonment criteria to regulate prior converted cropland, massively devaluing farmland that had been previously converted from wetlands for the purpose of agriculture decades before.

We have already seen this in a number of cases, where the EPA presumes cropland is under their jurisdiction unless the property owner proves otherwise, either through lengthy and expensive soil testing or by taking land out of production and fallowing it for years.

If this rule continues, there is no obstacle to prevent agencies from applying this more broadly, including to any project in the U.S. being planned on prior converted croplands actively used for agriculture production.

Furthermore, this regulation has set a terrible precedent by being authored in the Federal Register, where there is no public comment or review period.

My amendment seeks to unify the policy of the United States Department of Agriculture on prior converted cropland with the EPA, and, indeed, once it is a prior cropland, it is always a prior cropland, regardless of its use.

By unifying these policies, this amendment will ensure that all prior converted croplands that are exempt will remain protected from overregulation and reinterpretation of the Army Corps and EPA.

My amendment will not force wetlands back into agricultural lands. It will not prevent any current wetlands from being regulated as wetlands. This simply says that the land we have already converted away from wetlands will stay that way, not be unfairly regulated under the intent of Congress when this legislation was originally passed.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, essentially, the LaMalfa amendment would prohibit funds from being used to enforce the criteria for abandoned prior converted cropland. Currently, if land categorized as prior converted cropland has not been used for agricultural purposes for 5 consecutive years, if the owner of that land wanted to fill or dredge it, they would need to get a section 404 permit from the Corps, and those are generally wetlands.

So this amendment would basically create a "once exempted from having to get a Section 404 permit, always exempted" standard, overturning 35 years of Federal policy.

The amendment makes a significant change to the Clean Water Act regulations, one that deserves thoughtful consideration. Under current law and regulation, activities that convert wetlands that occur as a part of existing ongoing farming, ranching, and silviculture activities do not require section 404 wetlands permits.

Let me repeat that for my colleagues. The Clean Water Act explicitly exempts certain activities from regulation, including normal agricultural activities like plowing fields, planting and harvesting crops, and maintaining irrigation and drainage ditches.

The gentleman from California wants to go further than the exemptions already in the law and in the underlying bill. In his view, wetlands should be able to be filled, even when prior converted farmland has had no action or indication of actual agricultural use for 5 consecutive years; that is, there has been no cropping, no management, no maintenance activities related to agricultural production.

I say to my dear colleague from California, it is hard to understand how prior cropland wouldn't be abandoned if none of the activities of farming are performed there for 5 consecutive years.

I would also like to point out that this specific regulation has been on the books for 35 years; yet this amendment would overturn at least 35 years of policy to create a "once exempted, always exempted" standard for any land that was ever used as farmland.

Now, let me tell you, additionally, why this concerns me. According to the Ohio—my home State—Environmental

Protection Agency, since the late 18th century, 90 percent of Ohio's wetland resources have been destroyed or degraded through draining, filling, or other modification. Because of the valuable functions the remaining wetlands perform, including filtration to adjoining lakes and streams, it is imperative to ensure that all impacts to wetlands are properly mitigated.

Wetlands help filter impurities from water. Sediment settles out the runoff, and contaminants bind to plant surfaces in wetlands, resulting in improved water quality. Wetlands perform other valuable functions, including reducing flood flow and shoreline erosion control.

In Ohio, we also depend upon our wetlands as a haven for rare and endangered plants, and one-third of all the endangered species depend on wetlands for survival; and many wetlands are important fish spawning and nursery areas, as well as nesting, resting, and feeding areas for waterfowl.

So we should make certain that any changes we make to wetlands policy that may result in the destruction of these important ecological areas are evaluated carefully and that we not overturn decades-old policy lightly.

It is for these reasons that I must respectfully oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment simply reiterates that the long-held policy that prior converted—and these are key words, "prior converted croplands"—all these prior converted croplands were done over 30 years ago before laws were changed to prevent such activity of converting wetlands. Every intent of Congress, and even the Clinton administration, worked to clarify that you cannot use the Clean Water Act.

Indeed, you talk about 40 years' worth of policy. It has only been in recent years that a more aggressive reinterpretation of policy by Army Corps and EPA has started coming after people requiring 404 permits if they choose to do something different with their own private land after 5 years.

This is affecting people in my own district, and they are losing million-dollar lawsuits because of this reinterpretation, not one set up by Congress when the original legislation was passed.

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

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, this amendment does not prevent any current regulations on current wetlands. Again, it goes after the aggressive rule-making that EPA, with their cohorts in the Army Corps, have put upon landowners and farmers and ranchers in more recent years.

So, if we sit back and watch bureaucrats attempt to gain control over every ditch, puddle, and pond they can

get their hands on, then we are in a bad way in agriculture and, as well, the sacred private property rights our country is founded on. It is a major threat to the livelihood of ag and rural America.

So, again, the intent here is not to roll back any current wetlands but simply to allow people, if they want to make crop changes, they want to make decisions on their land that they are paying the property tax on, they are paying the mortgage on, if they want to change their use of the land, they should have that right in the United States of America and not have to get permission for something that has been—the key words here—prior converted under the law.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for “aye” votes of this body, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. GOHMERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division A (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to prepare, propose, or promulgate any regulation or guidance that references or relies on the analysis contained in—

(1) “Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in February 2010;

(2) “Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in May 2013 and revised in November 2013;

(3) “Revised Draft Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews”, published by the Council on Environmental Quality on December 24, 2014 (79 Fed. Reg. 77801);

(4) “Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Carbon, United States Government, in July 2015;

(5) “Addendum to the Technical Support Document on Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866: Application of the Methodology to Estimate the Social Cost of Methane and the Social Cost of Nitrous Oxide”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of Greenhouse Gases, United States Government, in August 2016; or

(6) “Technical Support Document: Technical Update of the Social Cost of Carbon for Regulatory Impact Analysis Under Executive Order 12866”, published by the Interagency Working Group on Social Cost of

Greenhouse Gases, United States Government, in August 2016.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, the amendment prohibits the use of funds to prepare, propose, or promulgate any regulation or guidance related to the social cost of carbon.

Social cost of carbon metric was a tool, and is a tool, used to bolster many Obama-era regulations. They supposedly targeted vague, ambiguous, and unverifiable costs.

In an article this week, The Wall Street Journal points out that by introducing “social costs” and “social benefits,” the EPA began factoring in speculation about how regulatory inaction would affect everything from rising sea levels to pediatric asthma, EPA optimists even including their guesses about how domestic relationships could have a global impact.

Meanwhile, the Agency ignored the best practices from the Office of Management and Budget, juking the numbers to raise the cost of carbon emissions. This proved as politically useful as it was scientifically imprecise.

Months before introducing the Clean Power Plan, the EPA suddenly raised these social costs of a ton of carbon emissions to an average of \$36 from \$21, completely unverifiable.

□ 2230

Now, the regulatory specifics will be hashed out in coming months, but there is really potential here to curb the distortions that mask bad policy.

If Mr. Pruitt succeeds, future cost-benefit analyses will be more consistent and transparent. The reform would help to ensure regulation is based on sound, scientific analysis instead of wishful bureaucratic thinking.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, this is ultimately a tax on the Nation's poor. The rich, they can handle these added, superfluous costs that come out of the nebulous areas of bureaucrats' minds, but the real ultimate cost is actually to the Nation's poor.

I can't help but go back to a woman, an elderly lady that lived outside of Carthage, Texas, that said: “You know, I keep having these costs go up and up and up. I am afraid I am going to end up in my home going back to a wood-burning stove because of the Federal Government.”

And I said: “I really hate to be the one to break this to you, but your wood-burning stove you used when you were growing up that your mama used probably wouldn't be allowed today.”

Anyway, there is no reason to have this kind of cost, and I would urge a passing of this amendment. Let's quit adding nebulous, unverifiable costs.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I have to oppose my good friend Mr. GOHMERT on this amendment.

The gentleman actually wants to prohibit funds from being used to implement any activities regarding the social costs of carbon. And this amendment tells the Department of Energy to ignore the latest meteorological data and changes dealing with weather science. And the amendment denies that carbon pollution is harmful. According to this amendment, the cost of carbon pollution is zero.

I remember my first trip to New York City after I graduated from college. Thank goodness it has changed. I had a pink blouse on. By the time I finished the first afternoon, it was so full of gray spots I hardly recognized it. And I didn't know what it was. Well, it was carbon. It was fallout from the chimneys and so forth in New York City.

So we know that carbon has impacts. This amendment is tantamount to saying that weather changes and climate change have no cost and no one will get hurt. Well, that simply isn't true. Tell that to citizens in Puerto Rico who lost businesses, homes, and loved ones after Hurricane Maria, that there is no cost from weather changes.

Last year's devastating hurricane season resulted in Puerto Ricans still without power 9 months later, almost 5,000 lives lost, and almost 200,000 people displaced from their homes.

House Republicans can vote for this amendment, they can try to block the Department of Energy from recognizing the damage caused by climate changes, but they can't overturn the laws of nature.

I am amazed in my part of the country how much water is coming down now, spring rains at such fierce levels. The way they come, it is very different from when I was first growing up there.

So, in the National Climate Assessment, our Nation's leading climate scientists reiterated what we have known for years: Climate change is real, evidenced by the climate-related indicators we have observed, including longer seasons, extreme droughts, and sea level rise.

The amendment tells the Department to ignore these scientific findings. That is irresponsible and a blatant disregard to the well-being and security of our great Nation, not just now but into the future.

The truth is that unchecked climate change would have catastrophic impacts here in the United States and across the globe. They are already starting.

Those who are less fortunate will face the heaviest impact. I remember going down to New Orleans and seeing the Ninth Ward. The poorest people in New Orleans lived in the Ninth Ward, and it was the most dangerous place to live.

While claiming that climate change has no cost, House Republicans and the Trump administration seem to be arguing that they are the champions of the working class, decrying the critical EPA safeguards and their alleged impacts on working-class Americans and their access to healthcare.

It is amazing to look at maps of where trees exist. Many times in cities across this country, where the poorest people live there are no trees. And there is a direct relationship between asthma, the lack of oxygen, and trees.

So you don't have to pay attention to the science, but it is pretty clear.

I think it is outrageous that the opposition party has the nerve to pose as the defenders of working-class Americans because, actually, you have a pretty poor record of defending those who are the poorest, ranging from dropping food stamps, to the GOP tax scam selling out Medicare and Medicaid to pay for corporate tax breaks, to Republican Governors deciding not to approve the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act and now trying to get rid of people on insurance who have preexisting conditions, to failing to quickly provide funding resources and the necessary leadership to help the victims of last fall's hurricanes.

The evidence is all out there if anybody cares to look. But to hear you tell the story, the only way to protect the health of America's workers and their children is to weaken longstanding public health protections.

To say we should allow polluters to pollute more? That is nonsense. More air and water pollution won't make our Nation's citizens any healthier. More toxic pollution certainly isn't the answer. And the answer certainly isn't pretending that climate change won't have real costs to all Americans.

I was interested to hear tonight some of our colleagues from New Mexico telling about how very, very dry New Mexico is, with one of the shortest snowfalls in history.

So it is time to stop denying the science and accept reality: Climate change is occurring, it is caused by humans, and it is already causing serious damage.

We are at the beginning of a new hurricane season, and now is not the time to pretend that extreme weather events, rising seas, and more frequent storms do not have a cost.

Before the Trump administration abandoned common sense, the social cost of carbon was a very conservative calculation. The full costs of a rapidly changing climate are almost certainly significantly higher, but the social cost of carbon is a much, much better estimate than assuming the costs are zero.

Unfortunately, that is what this amendment would require the government to assume: zero harm and zero cost from carbon pollution and climate change.

So I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. Pretending climate

change doesn't exist won't make it go away.

I yield back the balance of my time.  
Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Chairman, I really have such great respect for my friend across the aisle, and I do truly mean that. But when I hear talk about what Republicans did to our Nation's poor and our seniors, I keep coming back to the ObamaCare vote, without a single one of the Republicans voting for that bill. Democrats have to take full credit. They passed it without a single Republican vote and cut \$716 billion out of the healthcare of seniors.

Now, President Obama told them: Seniors, you don't have to worry. It will only come out of the pockets of the rich, greedy doctors.

Well, what our folks have found out is that is not the case at all. It has affected the elderly completely. It has been a real problem for them, because what they have seen is that, actually, if their healthcare provider doesn't get paid, they don't get their healthcare.

So I would just like to say again, I need to urge people to vote for this amendment. Making our Nation's poor pay for ambiguous, unverified costs and saying we are somehow making the world better while they are making the poor poorer is absolutely unsubstantiable, and I would urge a "yes" vote.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

The Chair understands that amendment No. 11 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 64, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$250,000)".

Page 68, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$250,000)".

Page 68, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$250,000)".

Page 78, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$250,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, this is a bipartisan amendment. It is very sim-

ple. It would expand the House Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program so that more wounded servicemembers have the opportunity to continue serving our country by working in congressional offices.

We need more veterans in public service. They bring unique perspectives and experiences, unlike any other. The veterans that I have been fortunate enough to hire in my office have given me invaluable support and allowed me to consider issues that are important to veterans in an important and much more enlightened fashion. Their voices are important in this body, more now than ever.

By investing in the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program, more veterans will get a chance to serve. Expanding this program will enhance the professional development opportunities for those fellows.

We in Congress do talk a lot about ways to help veterans transition following their service in the military. This is an opportunity for us to actually do something about that and model what we think all employers ought to be doing.

It is a simple way to expand opportunities for veterans. It increases the number of veterans in public service. Again, in my office, I have benefited greatly from the veterans that I have hired. It is a bipartisan effort to continue to expand this program.

I ask my colleagues to pass this amendment. It is a small way to not only improve the function of our own offices but also say thanks to the brave men and women who have given so much for the freedom that we all enjoy.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank the gentleman for his amendment. We are pleased to accept it. This is a remarkable program, and we want to honor those who serve and allow them to serve with us in a further capacity.

I wanted to commend the gentleman. I believe we have about 110 serving in congressional offices, and this will provide additional opportunities to some remarkable young men and women.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 64, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 66, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 67, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 79, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, which would allocate an additional \$500,000 to the Office of Employee Assistance under the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives.

The Office of Employee Assistance provides valuable services for Members of Congress and their staff. Unfortunately, this office is grossly understaffed. Currently, there are 6 staff in the Office of Employee Assistance to serve the 435 Members of Congress and their staff, a total of over 9,000 House employees.

How could a staff of 6 possibly meet the needs of over 9,000 employees? No company, no State or Federal agency would have an employee assistance staff of 6 to serve 9,000 employees. Neither should the House of Representatives.

Managing a team of people and creating a positive workforce culture is a unique skill and challenging work. Managing people requires many skills, such as leadership, good communication, interpersonal skills, humility, and a good sense of humor.

□ 2245

Members of Congress and office supervisors such as chiefs of staff and legislative directors need additional resources to help them develop the skills to successfully lead their teams, establish a strong office culture, and make this House of Representatives a better place to work.

Members of Congress have diverse backgrounds, levels of education, and work experience, as well as varying levels of comfort managing employees. We are elected to be great leaders, but in order to be effective and to be role models, we must also be great bosses.

New and tenured Members of Congress would greatly benefit from more knowledge and support when it comes to successfully organizing their teams, hiring new employees, disciplining and evaluating staff, and handling employment complaints, including sexual harassment. The Office of Employee Assistance can and should be empowered to provide this support to every Member of Congress and all their staff.

Chiefs of staff and legislative directors need the resources necessary to help them develop their supervisory skills and to succeed as managers. Chiefs of Staff and legislative directors are key to creating and maintaining a

positive workplace culture and a professional office setting. The quality of their training shapes the culture of our offices.

I don't claim to be an expert in this area. In fact, before I became a Member of Congress, I had very little experience as an employer, much less as a manager of 20 employees in two separate offices in two different parts of the country. Like all new Members, I was focused on doing what I was elected to do: helping the people of my district and working on issues important to them. I know now that I would have benefited as a new Member from more training and awareness of resources to assist me and my senior staff with running an effective and supportive office.

At a time when this Congress rightly is being called upon to seriously address longstanding issues of sexual harassment in our workplace, we have an obligation to provide better resources to our colleagues and to our staff. Making more funds available to the Office of Employee Assistance is an important step for us to take in that effort. Our dedicated staff deserves better.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. We would be very pleased to accept the gentlewoman's amendment. We commend the gentlewoman for her effort. We also commend the effort of those who work in this office dealing with many, many hundreds of cases. We are pleased to accept the amendment.

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Again, they do heroic work, and they do important work. There aren't enough of them. I am hopeful for the support.

I thank the gentleman for his support. I think this is a very important amendment for us to adopt to demonstrate our commitment to do better for all of our staff and to be leaders, not followers, in this effort for a supportive and inclusive workplace.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. ESTY).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. MEADOWS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce the amendment made by section 1501(d) of the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-68; 123 Stat. 2041).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, initiating an independent counsel investigation comes with many political and constitutional challenges.

These individuals were vested with full power and independent authority to exercise all investigative and prosecutorial functions and powers of the Department of Justice with respect to matters within their jurisdiction.

When the independent counsel statute was reauthorized in 1994, an amendment was made to the law requiring the Government Accountability Office to conduct periodic audits of independent counsel expenditures. This amendment gave Congress the ability to audit any and all independent counsel expenses and investigate how those taxpayer dollars were spent.

This is an important procedure that was repealed in 2010, and it is time Congress act to restore this key oversight provision. My amendment reestablishes the semiannual Government Accountability Office financial review of obligated expenditures from the independent counsel and requires the report's findings to be submitted to Congress.

While the work of an independent counsel is indeed important, it is just as important that we properly take account of where the hardworking American taxpayers' dollars go. So to ensure this accountability, I want to urge the passage of this amendment.

I want to take one personal privilege of thanking the fine work of Chad Yelinski.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I understand that Mr. MEADOWS offers this amendment to try to attack Special Counsel Mueller and his team to imply that there is some sort of impropriety going on here with the Russian investigation.

Of course, these improprieties aren't with the special counsel, Mr. Chair; the problems are with Russia and the people in our country, our political system, and our current administration who repeatedly communicated and met with Russian operatives during the Presidential campaign. But trying to muddy the waters by going after the integrity of the investigators is a classic tactic used by the people who feel threatened by an investigation because they know they have been caught.

The bottom line is the way this amendment is drafted, it doesn't do anything. It says that no funds in the bill can be used to “enforce” a repeal of the provision of law that happened a

decade ago. Not enforcing a repeal is not the same as reinstating the provision that was repealed.

This amendment was drafted in this tortured fashion to avoid violating the rules of the House that prohibit legislating on an appropriations measure. In any case, there is currently no independent counsel. Robert Mueller is a special counsel, and neither he nor the GAO would be affected if this amendment became law.

Let me just suggest, Mr. Chair, that if people in this town are interested in ending this situation that we have going on, I would suggest that maybe the President of the United States call up Mr. Mueller, go and clear the air, tell the truth, say what he has to say, and let's move on as a country.

For those reasons, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Chairman, I find it very interesting that the gentleman opposite would claim to know my motives in that he has not talked to me about it.

I also find it very ironic that the gentleman makes the argument that my amendment does absolutely nothing and yet opposes it. So, indeed, if it does nothing, then I can't find any reason why he wouldn't support it.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would certainly urge the adoption of my amendment, and being the late hour that it is, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. There is appropriated, for salaries and expenses of the Office of Technology Assessment as authorized by the Technology Assessment Act of 1972 (2 U.S.C. 471 et seq.) \$2,500,000, to be derived from a reduction of \$3,463,000 in the amount provided in this Act for the item for "Architect of the Capitol, Capital Construction and Operations".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would restore funding to the Office of Technology Assessment, or OTA.

I would like to thank Representatives FOSTER, ESTY, DELANEY, LANGEVIN, LIEU, and LUJÁN for offering this amendment with me.

The foundation for good policy is accurate and objective analysis, and for more than two decades, the OTA set that foundation by providing relevant and unbiased technical and scientific assessments for Members of Congress and staff. In 1995, the OTA was defunded, stripping Congress of a valuable resource.

Many of the issues OTA studied 20 years ago, like antibiotic-resistant bacteria and electronic surveillance in the digital age, are even more pressing today.

Mr. Chair, Congress needs access to unbiased technological expertise to weigh the pros and cons of policy questions surrounding cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and so many more matters. The recent Facebook hearings made it clear that many Members of Congress struggle to grasp the policy issues surrounding social media and data security.

I applaud the chairman and ranking member for including a study in the underlying bill to look into the technological expertise available to Congress. It is an important first step, but it is not enough.

Our amendment restores a modest \$2.5 million to the OTA account for salaries and expenses to begin rebuilding the office. The cost is offset by a reduction to the AOC's capital construction and operations account. This administrative account will not take resources from specific construction projects.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the amendment to restore funding to the Office of Technology Assessment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would provide funding to re-create a government agency, as the gentleman mentioned, which was defunded in 1995, 23 years ago. Before we re-create an entire government agency, I believe the most responsible thing to do is to study the need for such an agency and to identify the best path forward.

After receiving dozens of requests advocating for the restoration of this funding, this bill has included, through the work of Chairman YODER—and I am briefly taking his place and have the pleasure of working with Ranking Member RYAN.

We have included in the report accompanying this bill language direct-

ing the Congressional Research Service to engage with the National Academy of Public Administration or a similar entity to produce a report detailing, first of all, the current technology assessment resources available to Members within the Government Accountability Office, to some extent, which has taken over this responsibility for the last 23 years; also to assess the potential need to create a separate entity; and, lastly, are there parts of what are being suggested here already duplicative within the available resources and services of the legislative branch?

For this reason, I oppose the amendment and urge the Members to do so as well.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for helping me bring this amendment to the floor.

We now live in a world where technology has become increasingly important in our personal lives, in our economy, and in our democracy, but Congress is not adequately prepared to lead on the technical issues that could have serious effects on our country's future.

The Office of Technology Assessment would provide Congress with nonpartisan reports and realtime advice on issues that require leadership from lawmakers, including data privacy, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and others. When it was operating, lawmakers used the OTA's reports to make decisions that save taxpayer money, which is why this amendment received bipartisan support in the past.

Before it was defunded, the OTA advised Congress, for example, on the importance of interoperability of electronic health records, advice that, had it been acted on, would have saved billions of dollars and thousands of lives.

So I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and restore the OTA so Congress, once again, has access to credible and nonpartisan scientific expertise.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, the GAO does most of what these gentlemen are seeking. I think, obviously, they have a certain feeling, and I respect those feelings. I don't think we need to create an agency, basically the duties of which have been taken, for the last 23 years, by the Government Accountability Office.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the Members to vote against the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2300

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the ranking member of the committee.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I will brief.

I want to lend my support. I think this is a good amendment, a positive

amendment. Things are moving so quickly in society, we need as much expertise as possible.

So I thank the gentleman from California and urge an “aye” vote on this amendment.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the majority for including the report.

I just want to remind the majority also that the OTA was never eliminated; it just was defunded. I believe it is time to fund it again.

I refer back to the Facebook hearings in the Senate. I think people on both sides of the aisle, liberal and conservative, and think tanks observed that the first branch of government, which is the legislative branch of government, needs to have the resources and the capacity to do its own independent analysis.

That is why I believe so many of my Republican colleagues will support this tomorrow. I hope everyone on both sides of the aisle supports this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. COHEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 17 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division B (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. 512. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to purchase plastic drinking straws.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This amendment, which is an environmental amendment, would prohibit the House from spending funds to purchase plastic drinking straws in our eating areas in the House.

Plastic drinking straws are a considerable environmental risk to mammals and fish. They are dropped and discarded on the streets but particularly in the oceans. And they have had whales show up with 17 pounds of plastic in their stomachs and tortoises

with straws in their nostrils and all kinds of awful things. It is a threat to sea turtles and all kinds of marine wildlife.

This would be an opportunity for us to show the public that we are aware there are cities, restaurant associations, and other groups that are banning straws or at least asking that they be made optional for customers so that they are used or not used, but let the customer make that decision. I think this would be a great thing for the House to do to show that we understand this environmental problem.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COHEN. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I would be very pleased to accept the amendment. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his forethought and concern, which we also share.

Mr. COHEN. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the chairman and all the work he has done for many, many years in the House, and I appreciate the opportunity to serve with him.

And I appreciate the ranking member for his help on this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I ask for an “aye” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 18 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 109, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$32,287,000) (increased by \$32,287,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is intended to highlight the lack of urgency by the Air Force to address an ongoing drinking water emergency across the country, including one in my home district. I am not talking about Flint; I am talking about Oscoda, Michigan, at the northern end of my district, the home of the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base.

My constituents living there have had their drinking water contaminated by PFAS, perfluorinated chemicals, from the Air Force's use of firefighting foam. Exposure to PFAS has been linked to harmful health issues like cancer as well as thyroid, kidney, liver,

heart, and reproductive problems. It is not just servicemembers but community members there.

Unfortunately, the more we learn about this dangerous class of chemicals, the more we are finding it in drinking water across the country. In my district alone, thousands of people have cancer-causing chemicals in their drinking water due to the Air Force's use of this material.

The Air Force does not seem to want to recognize this ongoing drinking water crisis. I have been pushing the Air Force to clean up the contamination in Oscoda and other communities. In fact, the entire Michigan delegation, Democrats and Republicans, wrote to appropriators asking for more funding for PFAS contamination.

While Members are prevented from earmarking legislation to send resources directly to clean up contamination in Oscoda, it is an urgent problem that I wanted to call attention to. This community is near this former Air Force Base. It is facing very serious water contamination issues.

You would think that the Air Force would request additional resources to clean up contamination, but, frustratingly, the Air Force has so far refused to request additional resources.

The Appropriations Committee even asked the Air Force if they needed more money. Let me repeat that. The Appropriations Committee even asked the Air Force if they needed more money to address this problem, but the Air Force responded that they did not need any additional funds.

I offer this amendment for the purpose of raising the issue. I know that it is not possible for us to designate these funds, so it is my intention to withdraw this.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I am very sympathetic to the gentleman from Michigan's plight.

PFAS chemicals have been found in groundwater and drinking water in Michigan due to their use in firefighting foam at former Wurtsmith Air Force Base. In fact, many closed installations across the country have a PFAS problem.

For many decades, the Department of Defense used a class of chemicals called PFAS and PFOA in firefighting foam. However, we now know that PFAS is a toxic chemical that has negative health effects on the environment.

I would like to work with the gentleman from Michigan on this issue to ensure that cleanup costs in his district are properly addressed in a timely manner, and I look forward to working with him on this issue.

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Florida, the ranking member of the subcommittee, for her commitment to work on this.

This is a serious issue. I know Congress takes it seriously. I just would ask that the Air Force take it equally as seriously and request the funds necessary to clean up this really difficult problem.

With that, I know that this amendment could present some problems in terms of the way this legislation moved forward, but the commitment that I have that this will be getting the attention it deserves from Congress, I think, is important.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 109, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment No. 20 to division C of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

This amendment is meant to address an issue we have in Ontario, California. However, I expect many of the Members of this body have experienced it in their own districts at some point.

In the Rules Committee hearing last night, I referred to this amendment as giving the Secretary of Defense the ability to finish the job, and that is precisely what we should expect from our service branches when they close military bases in our districts during BRAC rounds.

Ontario International Airport was the Ontario Air National Guard Station, which was established in 1949. This facility remained in operation for decades, assisting training and support for the Korean, Vietnam, and countless other wars and conflicts.

In 1997, the facility was closed as part of the latest Base Realignment and Closure process. This meant our Armed Services moved out. But instead of the airport being able to use the newly vacant land, the old site has sat largely unchanged for 20 years due to the environmental hazards of demolition.

When military bases are closed, it can be devastating to our local commu-

nities. At the very least, we should expect our service branches to leave our communities in as good or better shape than they found them.

In Ontario, California, old Air Force facilities have been left standing at the Ontario International Airport. These abandoned buildings have been overtaken by nature and look like the remains of a lost civilization, with trees and animals roaming free at the remaining site. This valuable but currently unusable space is hindering the growth of the Ontario Airport, and communities around Ontario depend on the airport.

My amendment would simply direct the Secretary to make available funds from the existing BRAC funding made available in this legislation to remove these old facilities.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I will not oppose this amendment because it does not require DOD to fund anything in particular.

I would like to point out that the FY 2019 budget submission for Defense Appropriations included \$442.9 million for demolition within the facilities sustainment, restoration, and modernization account, double the FY 2018 level.

I would like to remind my colleagues that, while there may be a particular interest behind the amendments, these do not direct funding to a particular activity. Our bill does not even fund these activities. For this reason, I will not oppose this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I also do not oppose the amendment and find the gentlewoman's concept interesting.

It is pretty clear that getting another BRAC round is going to be difficult. In response, many services are demolishing facilities that they no longer need using operation and maintenance funding.

As we know, the BRAC account is primarily for environmental cleanup costs associated with closing bases. I would be interested to see if there are any environmental cleanup costs associated with the demolishing of buildings.

For that reason, I will not oppose the amendment, and I look forward to seeing the results of the gentlewoman's idea.

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

□ 2315

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Chairman, the underlying bill has funding for BRAC closures. Before we proceed with any new closures, let's finish the job on the old closures.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. KILDEE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 127, line 16, insert after the dollar amount the following: “of which \$2,037,547,400 shall be made available for vocational rehabilitation and employment programs under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would provide just over \$2 billion to the vocational rehabilitation and employment account. This account invests in programs to help veterans successfully transition to civilian life.

Our country has been at war for nearly two decades. While these conflicts are still ongoing, the number of veterans in this country is going to continue to grow. We have to invest in programs that support this generation of veterans as they seek to reintegrate into the civilian workforce.

I just want to highlight a couple of important programs in this account.

The Special Employer Incentives program connects veterans with opportunities where the VA reimburses the employer for up to half of a veteran's salary. This is a program that matches veterans with apprenticeships, with the expectation of being hired upon completion.

I know from experience that our veterans bring unique perspective and skills to the workplace. I have hired, as I have said in previous conversations, multiple veterans working in my office, including a Wounded Warrior fellow and a HillVets fellow. We should ensure that we are supporting programs that connect veterans with employers.

My amendment would also ensure funding for the VA to expand its Veterans Economic Communities Initiative, a program in which nonprofits and educational institutions build supportive networks for veterans. This is exactly the kind of long-term support that we should have had in place years

ago before launching into these conflicts.

For many Americans, the American Dream is owning your own business and being your own boss. The vocational rehabilitation and employment account includes programs that help veterans do just that.

The vocational rehabilitation and employment account also includes the VetSuccess on Campus program, which places vocational rehab counselors in partner schools.

This amendment would give the VA the opportunity to expand these programs, reaching even more veterans.

Unfortunately, as this process has moved forward, we have come to understand that the VA would intend to reduce the account for direct support for tuition and other supplies for veterans under their rights under the GI Bill.

I will ask that this amendment be withdrawn, but I want to make sure to make the point that we ought to have a specific carveout for these vocational programs, for these transition programs. It is my hope that, as we move forward, we will be able to work with the VA to be able to identify a source that would not reduce the other benefits that are available to veterans seeking to better themselves.

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

Mr. Chair, I withdraw this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 131, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 5895 to provide \$1 million in additional critical funding for the VA to conduct educational outreach to veterans about the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

Our military uses burn pits to eliminate tons of waste, including chemicals, plastics, medical waste, human waste, computers—you name it—creating giant plumes of black smoke containing carcinogens, particulate matter, and other toxins.

For years, the Department of Defense used burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, even while recognizing that exposure to burn pits may pose a health risk to our troops since about the late 1970s.

Now veterans all across the country— young veterans in their twenties and thirties—are developing rare and severe pulmonary diseases, cancers, and autoimmune diseases despite living healthy lifestyles, being healthy enough to be sent to war, and not having any other risk factors.

This may bring up thoughts of Agent Orange that our Vietnam veterans faced. Burn pits exposure and the negative health outcomes are being described by our veterans as our modern-day Agent Orange, and we must learn from our past mistakes and act now.

For more than a decade, veterans exposed to burn pits and their families have been given the runaround to get the care they have earned and deserve and to have their concerns taken seriously. My commonsense amendment would provide additional funding for the VA to conduct an educational outreach campaign on the burn pits registry to ensure more veterans register.

The purpose of the registry is to collect data from veterans and service-members exposed to burn pits to highlight health patterns and create cohorts for research on the health effects of exposure.

Mr. Chair, 3.7 million veterans are eligible to enroll in the VA burn pit registry; yet, after 4 years, only 144,000 veterans have enrolled. That is only a dismal less than 4 percent enrollment rate. It is clear that more outreach and education must be done to improve awareness about the registry.

These additional funds will also improve health outcomes by raising awareness for our veterans and their physicians so they can be on the lookout for subtle changes in their health, including respiratory issues, early signs of cancer, or even autoimmune diseases.

We have a responsibility to protect our men and women in uniform and veterans from the harmful effects of exposure to burn pits. If there is a high enough suspicion of a severe enough consequence, then we need to act now.

The four things we need to do are:

One, stop our troops' exposure to burn pits out on the battlefield;

Two, outreach to doctors and veterans about the illnesses they may face so they can be vigilant and seek and get the appropriate care;

Three, give veterans and service-members the treatment that they have earned and deserve; and

Four, simultaneously do the research that is needed to understand the full scope of the dangers associated with exposure to burn pits.

By investing in this educational campaign about the burn pits registry, my amendment will help tackle two of these fronts by improving outreach to veterans and providing the VA with a larger study sample size to help determine the full scope of the negative health effects linked to exposure.

I urge my colleagues, on behalf of Jennifer Kepner, a 39-year-old mother of two who died of pancreatic cancer

after being exposed to burn pits, with no other risk factors, in Balad Air Force Base, I urge my colleagues, on behalf of all the others who have died of cancer at a young age and left behind families and those who have acquired pulmonary fibrosis and permanent disabilities who are now requiring oxygen, unable to work, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and to take concrete action to help those veterans who have been exposed to burn pits. The health of our veterans must be put above bureaucracy. We must help them get the answers and the healthcare services that they need and deserve now.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, though I do not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, as the gentleman from California said, some veterans have reported respiratory issues and other health conditions that they believe are related to their exposure to burn pits.

There are studies that provide information about the health effects related to exposure, but not enough to determine the long-term impacts. In response, the VA is researching, responsibly, the issue and has created the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry for veterans and servicemembers. However, many veterans, unfortunately, do not know about the burn pit registry.

The gentleman from California's amendment would help bring attention to the registry to get more veterans registered so that, should an issue arise, they can be contacted quickly and receive the care that they have earned.

There is no cost to the veteran to participate, and the veteran does not even need to be enrolled in the VA's healthcare system.

The burn pit registry is a tool to help participants become more aware of their health and to identify health conditions possibly related to exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards. But it only works if veterans know to sign up, and the gentleman's amendment will accomplish that.

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the chairman and the ranking member and all those who are in support of this specific amendment, who will put our veterans above this bureaucracy and give them the care that they need by expanding their access to this burn pit registry. I want to, from the bottom of my heart, say thank you.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, this registry is a tool that can be used to identify health concerns, guide discussions with a

healthcare provider, and document deployment-related exposures. We need to ensure that the VA is doing all it can to make veterans aware of this registry. It could literally, as the gentleman from California pointed out, be the difference between life and death.

Mr. Chair, I urge all my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF OHIO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 131, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chair, my amendment calls on the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop hospice care standards tailored to the unique needs of Vietnam-era combat veterans. As Vietnam veterans grow older, it is imperative that the VA has clear standards in place to care for this group and future veteran populations.

By the VA's own estimate, there are approximately 6.5 million Vietnam veterans. These veterans have unique medical and psychological needs which must be identified and addressed, including lethal diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure and a high prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and substance abuse.

As part of the fiscal year 2018 MILCON-VA Appropriations, Congress directed the VA to submit a report identifying the unique challenges faced by Vietnam veterans receiving specialized palliative and hospice care and to develop best practices for hospice care specifically tailored to Vietnam veterans. Unfortunately, the VA responded with an inadequate two-page report that did not meet the reporting requirements.

What the report did state is that there are over 4,000 community hospice care providers maintaining their own resources and training materials. This lack of cohesion indicates that the VA lacks consistent protocols and clear standards for veterans' hospice care.

The report language for this appropriations bill addresses the VA's Vietnam Veterans End-of-Life Care report, calling it woefully inadequate, and requires the VA to redo it within 30 days of enactment. However, as it is clear that the VA currently lacks consistent

hospice care protocols, I am instead calling on the VA to establish protocols that will meet the needs of Vietnam-era veterans.

The VA must act now to implement clear and consistent standards of care for our veterans in need of hospice care. Developing these standards would also be beneficial for Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria combat veterans in the future.

We have a responsibility to ensure that our Nation's heroes are receiving the care and benefits they deserve and have earned, and that includes ensuring the VA has in place clear hospice care standards and services tailored to the unique needs of these veterans.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I will not oppose the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, we understand the gentleman's concerns and will keep them in mind for the conference. We have included report language on the topic in both the 2018 and 2019 reports.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2330

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. RUIZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, as the designee of Mr. CARBAJAL, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 131, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment with my good friend from Santa Barbara, California, Congressman SALUD CARBAJAL, to address an issue impacting veterans that prevents them from accessing healthcare services they have earned and deserve.

Right now, veterans calling their community-based outpatient clinics to make an appointment are automatically routed to central, busy call cen-

ters at major VA medical centers. This makes no sense.

This means that veterans end up waiting sometimes more than an hour, especially in CARBAJAL's district, to be connected to a scheduler, and that is if they can get through at all.

Additionally, some community-based outpatient clinics are not following up with veterans after the initial call at the busy hospital calling center, forcing veterans to find transportation to actually travel to the clinic just to make their appointment. As a result, many veterans get fed up and stop pursuing the care that they need out of frustration and lack of accessibility.

Our Nation's veterans deserve timely access to healthcare services. They should be able to make their medical appointments or at least speak to somebody without having to wait an hour on the phone.

This amendment directs the Secretary to ensure the VA phone system allows veterans to directly call their local community-based outpatient centers for appointments at those facilities, rather than having all calls be routed to the major busy VA medical centers.

In short, it would reduce call wait times for veterans in Congressman CARBAJAL's district, in my district, in your districts, and districts throughout our Nation.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, we understand the gentleman's concerns. We will keep them in mind for conference. We will be interested in learning more about this problem that he identifies.

I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Providing veterans, Mr. Chairman, with prompt access to care is one goal that all Members of this body share. Call routing at the VA is a very important issue. We need to ensure that there is a system that meets the expectations of veterans and their loved ones.

There are numerous VA call center numbers available to veterans who have questions about healthcare benefits and other issues, and we must ensure that calls being made to the VA are prioritized, tracked, and routed to the correct place so that issues are promptly and thoroughly addressed.

We do also have, Mr. Chairman, an issue with there being a lot of different phone numbers at the VA, and that in and of itself is also confusing. So I, too,

look forward to working with both gentlemen from California. I appreciate their efforts on this issue.

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Chairman, wonderful. This is a very easy, commonsense fix to a problem that our veterans face. They wait too long, they get fed up, they are not getting the followup that they need, and all this does is allows them to call the actual place where they need their appointments to schedule an appointment with them.

So I would really like to thank Chairman CARTER and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for not opposing this amendment and for their support and for their support of veterans in the underlying bill.

I would also like to recognize and thank Congressman CARBAJAL and his staff for their work, and his efforts to improve the lives of veterans in his district, in my district, and all of our districts. I also want to thank my staff for their work on this amendment?

I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment to help ensure veterans have easy access to healthcare benefits that they have earned and deserve, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. MCSALLY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 131, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$28,872,000) (increased by \$28,872,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the underlying legislation, H.R. 5895, and urge adoption of my amendment to division C of the bill, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2019. This amendment would increase critically needed funding for suicide prevention and outreach programs as part of a broader mental health service for our veterans.

Veterans make up less than 9 percent of the U.S. population, yet veteran suicides account for 18 percent of all suicides in America. After adjusting for differences in age and sex, that puts the risk of suicide at 22 percent higher among veterans than for civilian adults, and the suicide rates for female veterans has risen more than 85 percent since 2001.

This tragic trend is even more egregious in my home State of Arizona. According to a recent study by Arizona State University Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety, Arizona veterans are nearly four times more likely to take their own lives than nonveterans.

This study shows that veterans in Arizona committed suicide at a rate of 55 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 14 per 100,000 for nonveterans in Arizona. In my home State, that means veterans are 391 percent more likely to commit suicide than nonveterans—391 percent.

Despite these stark and startling statistics, studies and data across the board consistently show that mental health services, and, specifically, suicide prevention for veteran populations, continue to go unmet. It is not enough to simply talk about studies and statistics and hope for the best. Lip service will not save lives.

For over 500,000 veterans that call Arizona home, this can be a life or death issue. Today and every day, on average, 20 veterans took their own lives—20 of my fellow warriors, 20 heroes, 20 loved ones, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, 20 vets who often survived combating the enemy in conflict, only to come home and take their own lives.

Mr. Chairman, this is unacceptable. When they raised their right hand and took an oath that they were willing to defend our freedoms with their lives, we have a covenant that we got their back, and we are going to give them everything that they need.

I urge my colleagues, please, to support my amendment and ensure funding for suicide prevention programs is increased and we save their lives.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting Chair. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman's concerns about providing adequate funding to address veterans' mental health needs is shared by every member of our committee. We are pleased that the bill provides \$8.6 million for mental health programs, including \$196 million for suicide prevention outreach.

We will certainly try to maintain these substantial levels in conference.

Mr. Chairman, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the gentlewoman is correct, roughly 20 veterans take their own lives every day in the United States, and it is a very serious problem that we need to address.

As the chairman mentioned, the bill provides \$8.6 million for mental health

programs, and that is actually \$6 million above the budget request. We are very proud of the work that the committee has done.

In addition, the \$196 million for suicide prevention outreach fully funds the veterans' crisis line, additionally, at \$90 million. The bill repeats language first included in the FY17 act requiring the veterans crisis line to provide to individuals who contact them immediate hotline assistance from a trained professional and to adhere to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

The potential for suicide and making sure that we take care of our veterans who are facing crisis is absolutely critical. I do not oppose the amendment, but I do think it is important to stress that the committee did work to significantly prioritize this issue, and we appreciate the gentlewoman's attention to it.

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

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their commitment to our vets and to preventing suicide of these warriors, and I urge our colleagues to support the amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. WELCH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 26 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 132, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

Page 131, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would increase the VA medical services account by \$5 million for the purpose of strengthening the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

Burn pits, as you know, Mr. Chairman, were commonly used on U.S. military sites during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars to burn all types of waste—from chemicals, paint, medical waste, and human waste to munitions, petroleum, plastics, and rubber. But, as you know, many members of the military who were exposed to burn pits are beginning to experience negative health effects from the toxic smoke that they inhaled. And that is why I

am offering this amendment, to increase funding to address and assist those suffering more aggressively and quickly.

On May 7, Mr. Chairman, I met with a group of Vermont National Guard members led by Pat Cram, who have been impacted by burn pit exposure. Pat is the wife of Sergeant Major Mike Cram of the Vermont National Guard who died this past December from prostate cancer that is believed to be a direct result of his exposure to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sergeant Major Cram first deployed to Iraq in 2004 with a group of MPs from the 42nd Infantry Division of the Vermont National Guard. They joined up with the 278th Tennessee National Guard Calvary in Iraq. All 21 soldiers from this group that deployed together for 18 months returned home to their families safely.

But since their safe return, this same group has lost two members from prostate cancer and another has been treated for it, and they believe their exposure to burn pit toxins is the reason.

This group is still close, they stay in touch, their families support each other. I was so inspired to hear about how they have stuck together throughout the years. But those members that have not had the direct health issues that some of their comrades have are now wondering whether they, too, will get sick.

This funding would provide resources to the VA to make necessary improvements to the registry and prepare for the long-term care for those affected veterans. It would also allow, Mr. Chairman, the VA to hire analysts and epidemiologists who can connect the registry entries to health outcomes, make necessary technological updates to the registry, and increase the funding for essential clinical research.

The cost of a war must always include the cost of caring for the warrior, and this critical funding helps to do just that.

I want to thank Chairman CARTER and Ranking Member WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for their attention to this issue and willingness to help. I urge support for my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting Chair. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, we understand the gentleman's concerns, and we will keep in mind this concern during our conference. I have heard from veterans in my district about the concerns, and, in fact, sat down with some last weekend, and this was one of their number one concerns.

So this has a health impact. These burn pits are something we really need to get into, and we will have this in mind in conference.

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

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 2345

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. BARR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in part B of House Report 115-712.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 131, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000)".

Page 132, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$5,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 923, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to increase funding for the VA adaptive sports equine-assisted therapy program by \$5 million.

This grant program provides much-needed resources for evidence-based equine-assisted therapy that helps treat veterans suffering from unseen psychological wounds such as post-traumatic stress disorder, military sexual trauma, and traumatic brain injury. Increased funding for equine-assisted therapy will greatly improve mental health treatment for our veterans.

As the chairman of the Congressional Horse Caucus, the representative for the horse capital of the world, and as someone who cares deeply for our veterans, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, the bill provides \$1 million over the President's budget request for the Adaptive Sports Grant, ASG, program for equine-assisted therapy, as our 2018 bill did also.

We understand the gentleman's concern in further increasing this funding and will keep it in mind during conference.

In my congressional district, we also have equine therapy, and I am very familiar with it.

Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Adaptive sports promotes the rehabilitation of disabled military service veterans. This is a vital program that allows veterans with disabilities to participate in physical activity, including those with mental health issues, within their home communities, as well as more advanced paralympic and adaptive sports programs at the regional and national levels.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is a strong supporter of this program. In fact, the bill provides \$17.8 million for the National Veterans Sports Program. I appreciate the gentleman addressing this issue today, and I support this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. 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. BARR) having assumed the chair, Mr. HULTGREN, 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. 5895) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2377. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 2734. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the "George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 2857. An act to designate the Nordic Museum in Seattle, Washington, as the "National Nordic Museums"; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3249. An act to authorize the project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, further reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the speaker pro tempore, Mr. MITCHELL:

H.R. 1397. An act to authorize, direct, facilitate the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1719. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire approximately 44 acres of land in Martinez, California, for inclusion in the John Muir National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1900. An act to designate the Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio, as the National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2772. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 8, 2018, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

5053. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting a certification regarding the Integrated Defensive Electronic Countermeasures Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433a(b); Public Law 111-23, Sec. 206(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 111-383, Sec. 1075(b)(35)); (124 Stat. 4371); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5054. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting the 2018 Report to Congress on Sustainable Ranges, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 113 note; Public Law 107-314, 366(a)(5); (116 Stat. 2522); to the Committee on Armed Services.

5055. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's annual report on material violations or suspected material violations of regulations relating to Treasury auctions and other Treasury securities offerings during the period January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 103-202, Sec. 202(d)(1); (107 Stat. 2358); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5056. A letter from the Senior Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Qualified Financial Contracts Recordkeeping Related to Orderly Liquidation Authority (RIN: 1505-AC57) received May 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

5057. A letter from the Chair of the Board and Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's FY 2017 actuarial evaluation of the expected operations and status of the PBGC funds, pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 1308; Public Law 93-406, Sec. 4008 (as amended by Public Law 109-280, Sec. 412); (120 Stat. 936); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5058. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received June 1, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

5059. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's 2017 report titled "Economic Dispatch and Technological Change", pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 16432(c); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1234(c); (119 Stat. 960) and 42 U.S.C. 16524(c); Public Law 109-58, Sec. 1832(c); (119 Stat. 1138); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5060. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's delegation of authority — Delegation of Authority to the States of Iowa; Kansas; Missouri; Nebraska; Lincoln-Lancaster County, NE; and City of Omaha, NE, for New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Including Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) Standards [EPA-R07-OAR-2018-0021; FRL-9978-80-Region 7] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5061. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Defensin Proteins Derived from Spinach in Citrus Plants; Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0040; FRL-9977-62] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5062. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of California Air Plan Revisions; Butte County Air Quality Management District; Stationary Source Permits [EPA-R09-OAR-2018-0120; FRL-9978-18-Region 9] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5063. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Virginia; Emissions Statement Rule Certification for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2017-0738; FRL-9978-57-Region 3] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5064. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Continuous Opacity Monitoring Requirements for Municipal Waste Combustors [EPA-R03-OAR-2017-0484; FRL-9978-56-Region 3] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5065. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Nonattainment Plan for the Central New Hampshire Sulfur Dioxide Nonattainment Area [EPA-R01-OAR-2017-0083;

FRL-9978-27-Region 1] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5066. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Michigan; Regional Haze Progress Report [EPA-R05-OAR-2016-0058; FRL-9978-61-Region 5] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5067. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Material Safety Safeguards, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's NUREG revision — Consolidated Guidance About Materials Licenses: Program-Specific Guidance About Academic, Research and Development, and Other Licenses of Limited Scope, Including Electron Capture Devices and X-Ray Fluorescence Analyzers [NUREG-1556, Volume 7, Revision 1] received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

5068. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5069. A letter from the Acting Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition and Sustainment, Office of the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting Transmittal No. 07-18, informing of the Department's intent to sign a Project Arrangement between the Department of Defense of the United States of America and the Department of Defence of the Commonwealth of Australia, pursuant to Sec. 27(f) of the Arms Export Control Act, and Executive Order 13637; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5070. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Service of Process; Production or Disclosure of Official Information in Response to Court Orders, Subpoenas, Notices of Depositions, Requests for Admissions, Interrogatories, or Similar Requests or Demands in Connection With Federal or State Litigation; Expert Testimony [Public Notice 10248] (RIN: 1400-AE49) received May 31, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5071. A letter from the Deputy White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a notification of a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5072. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's 58th Semiannual Report to Congress on Audit Follow-up, covering the six-month period ending March 31, 2018, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act, as amended; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5073. A letter from the Acting Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to the Congress for the reporting period October 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, pursuant to Sec. 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5074. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting

the Commission's semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, and Management Report, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5075. A letter from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period October 1, 2017, through March 31, 2018, pursuant to Sec. 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5076. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report for 2017, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

5077. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Affairs, NMFS, International Affairs and Seafood Inspection, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; Lifting the Stay on Inclusion of Shrimp and Abalone in the Seafood Traceability Program [Docket No.: 180417378-8379-01] (RIN: 0648-BH89) received June 1, 2018, 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.

5078. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report providing an FY 2019 Estimate for the Free Clinic Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 233(o)(6)(C); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title II, Sec. 224(o)(6)(C) (as added by Public Law 104-191, Sec. 194); (110 Stat. 1988); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

5079. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Bath Creek, Bath, NC [Docket Number: USCG-2018-0416] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5080. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Upper Mississippi River, St. Louis, MO [Docket Number: USCG-2018-0430] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5081. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's temporary final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Metropolis, IL [Docket Number: USCG-2018-0077] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 30, 2018, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

5082. A letter from the Chairman, Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations, transmitting the Committee's report to the Congress on the Extension of Trade Promotion Authority, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 4202(c)(3)(A); Public Law 114-26, Sec. 103(c)(3)(A); (129 Stat. 336); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 6026. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify the prohibitions on making robocalls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PEARCE, Ms. GABBARD, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 6027. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a process by which a family member of a deceased individual who is eligible for the Department of Veterans Affairs burn pit registry may register for such registry on behalf of the deceased individual; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. DONOVAN):

H.R. 6028. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require air carriers to disclose the date and location of the most recent aircraft maintenance; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROTHFUS:

H.R. 6029. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the comprehensive opioid abuse grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 6030. A bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. NOEM (for herself, Mr. CRIST, Mr. FLORES, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. GORMERT, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. POLIQUIN, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 6031. A bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 6032. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on the state of the internet-connected devices industry in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CRIST, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HIMES, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN,

Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PAL-LONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 6033. A bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. ROSKAM, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 6034. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit annual reports reviewing the educational material used by the Palestinian Authority or the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East in the West Bank and Gaza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 6035. A bill to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise section 230.163 of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, to apply the exemption offered in such section to communications made by underwriters and dealers acting by or on behalf of a well-known seasoned issuer; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself and Mr. BARLETTA):

H.R. 6036. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, to add a work-study program for off-campus community service at selected after-school activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6037. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal certain rules related to the determination of unrelated business taxable income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6038. A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Dickinson Reservoir in the State of North Dakota; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6039. A bill to establish a procedure for the conveyance of certain Federal property around the Jamestown Reservoir in the State of North Dakota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 6040. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 6041. A bill to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 6042. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the reduction in Federal medical assistance percentage for Medicaid personal care services furnished without an electronic visit verification system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. POLIS, Mr. BUCK, Ms. LEE, Mr. JONES, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. BLUM,

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

Mr. COHEN, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 6043. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Ms. DELBENE):

H.R. 6044. A bill to preempt State data security vulnerability mandates and decryption requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6045. A bill to amend Public Law 87-788 (commonly known as the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act; 16 U.S.C. 582a-7) to provide for equal treatment of the District of Columbia with respect to funds made available under that Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. WELCH):

H.R. 6046. A bill to require candidates for election for public office to notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation upon receiving unsolicited information about other candidates in the election from a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 6047. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act relating to controlled substance analogues; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6048. A bill to require a study and report on matters concerning best practices in mortality counts as a result of a major disaster; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KNIGHT (for himself and Mr. COOK):

H. Con. Res. 122. Concurrent resolution commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Lockheed Martin Skunk Works and its significant contributions to the national security of the United States; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. ESTY of Connecticut, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York,

Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. VELA, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. LEE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SOTO, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. TONKO, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SIRE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. CRIST, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BEYER, Mr. PALONE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. GALLEGU, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. KEATING, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. PETERSON, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. NOLAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MENG, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NEAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CLAY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BEN RAY LUJAN of New Mexico, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. KILMER):

H. Res. 927. A resolution condemning the Trump administration's zero tolerance policy; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 6026.

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

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. That provision gives Congress the power "to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6027.

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

#### THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

#### ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

#### CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 6028.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ROTHFUS:

H.R. 6029.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

And, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 6030.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mrs. NOEM:

H.R. 6031.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 6032.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: Congress shall have the Power . . . "to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:

H.R. 6033.

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

Article IV, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution

"The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 6034.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 6035.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, providing the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states.

By Mr. CARSON of Indiana:

H.R. 6036.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. CONAWAY:

H.R. 6037.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6038.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is in article IV section 3 clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CRAMER:

H.R. 6039.

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

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is in article IV section 3 clause 2 of the Constitution.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 6040.

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

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 (relating to the power of Congress to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States).

By Mr. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 6041.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 6042.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 6043.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power \* \* \* To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Office thereof.

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 6044.

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

Article I Section VIII, Clause III

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6045.

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

clause 18 of section 18 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 6046.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 6047.

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

Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution—Congress has the power to provide for the general welfare of the United States

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 6048

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

“The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .”

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 19: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 99: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 110: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 154: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 172: Mr. BRAT.

H.R. 237: Mr. POSEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 686: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana.

H.R. 1114: Mr. RUSH and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1171: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 1295: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1298: Mr. GIBBS, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DENHAM, and Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1310: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1322: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1419: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1444: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1447: Mr. O'HALLERAN.

H.R. 1475: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCNERNEY, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 1511: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 1515: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1562: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1612: Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. LEE.

H.R. 1651: Ms. TITUS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 1661: Mr. PITTMER.

H.R. 1683: Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. MCEACHIN, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 1739: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1784: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1832: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1874: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 1876: Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 2077: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 2092: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 2134: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 2197: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 2276: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2309: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 2355: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2380: Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 2426: Mr. HECK.

H.R. 2452: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 2556: Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 2566: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. LEE, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 2640: Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 2651: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2851: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BYRNE, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mrs. COMSTOCK.

H.R. 2903: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 2965: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 2976: Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 3273: Ms. WILSON of Florida.

H.R. 3305: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3378: Mr. KING of Iowa.

H.R. 3528: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama.

H.R. 3600: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 3605: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 3625: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 3671: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3692: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 3730: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3738: Mr. VELA.

H.R. 3768: Mr. LIPINSKI.

H.R. 3861: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 4022: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CICCILLINE, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 4229: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 4256: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4391: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.

H.R. 4699: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 4729: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 4732: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 4815: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 4824: Mr. LAMBORN.

H.R. 4841: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 4846: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4953: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 4985: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 5058: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 5105: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 5153: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.

H.R. 5155: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 5161: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5176: Mr. FASO.

H.R. 5197: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WALDEN, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. STIVERS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. FASO.

H.R. 5210: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 5220: Mr. CULBERSON.

H.R. 5233: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota, and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 5248: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5294: Mr. ROTHFUS.

H.R. 5306: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 5327: Mr. COMER.

H.R. 5337: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 5358: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. ABRAHAM.

H.R. 5359: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 5374: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 5384: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 5389: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 5417: Mr. FORTENBERRY.

H.R. 5457: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5460: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 5472: Mr. GAETZ and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 5477: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 5507: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. ROKITA.

H.R. 5551: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 5588: Mr. BACON and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 5593: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 5606: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 5613: Mr. ESTES of Kansas.

H.R. 5640: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 5641: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5644: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.

H.R. 5671: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ and Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 5694: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 5713: Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 5728: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 5760: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 5780: Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 5795: Mr. ROKITA, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas.

H.R. 5800: Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 5811: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. WALDEN.

H.R. 5813: Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 5819: Mrs. DEMINGS.

H.R. 5831: Ms. TSONGAS.

H.R. 5861: Mr. GAETZ, Mrs. HANDEL, Mr. KUSTOFF of Tennessee, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 5884: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 5899: Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LIPINSKI, and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 5900: Mr. LANCE.

H.R. 5912: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.

H.R. 5988: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. LATTA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. GIANFORTE.

H.R. 6014: Mrs. DINGELL and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.

H.R. 6015: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 6016: Mr. DONOVAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 6018: Mr. KINZINGER.  
H.J. Res. 33: Ms. BARRAGAN and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.  
H.J. Res. 135: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
H. Con. Res. 8: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H. Con. Res. 10: Mr. MARCHANT.  
H. Con. Res. 72: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FASO, and Mr. KING of New York.  
H. Con. Res. 119: Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. HOLDING, and Mr. WALBERG.

H. Res. 15: Mr. GIANFORTE.  
H. Res. 31: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. O'ROURKE.  
H. Res. 136: Mr. SOTO.  
H. Res. 356: Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. MENG.  
H. Res. 523: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. DEFazio.  
H. Res. 763: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H. Res. 785: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H. Res. 888: Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. TONKO.  
H. Res. 901: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H. Res. 913: Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. RASKIN.  
H. Res. 919: Mr. RATCLIFFE.  
H. Res. 926: Mr. RUSH.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018

No. 94

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God, our Lord, You are the light of the world. In Your light, we see our lives and know our poverty. Illuminate our path with the brightness of Your abundance. Supply our needs from Your celestial bounty.

Bless our Senators. Lord, You know their lives, hearts, and thoughts. Give them the wisdom to refuse to deviate from integrity. Equip them with strength and spirit to trust You, even when they don't understand Your providential guidance. Guide their words so that those with whom they work will seek common ground for the good of our Nation and world.

And Lord, surround the United States Senate page spring class of 2018 with the shield of Your Divine favor. Thank You for their faithful service.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

### NOMINATION OF KENNETH MARCUS AND THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, today the Senate will consider the

nomination of Kenneth Marcus to serve as the Department of Education's Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. His resume includes degrees from Williams College and the California Berkeley School of Law, and his career has spanned private practice and public service, with considerable experience in government. I look forward to voting to confirm Mr. Marcus later today.

Then, the Senate will resume consideration of the John S. McCain 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. It is the result of serious bipartisan work over the past several months.

Our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee have engaged in candid discussions with our Nation's top military leaders. They have heard about the pressing needs of the men and women who serve in harm's way: greater readiness, enhanced weapons capabilities in the air and on the seas, simpler processes for acquisition, and more support for military families.

This week we have already discussed the array of global challenges that face our Nation at this critical moment. This NDAA will help to equip our troops with the latest training and the best technology to confront those challenges and to keep us safe.

It is also important to reflect on all that this legislation will do for our warfighters and their families here at home. It will increase base pay for servicemembers by 2.6 percent, the largest annual raise in nearly a decade. It authorizes new resources for family housing construction, improved care for servicemembers' children with severe disabilities, and programs to better manage opioid prescriptions in the military health system.

It will authorize continued operations at military posts across our country that build up our Nation's security and form the backbone of local communities.

The servicemembers who serve at Kentucky's Army installations and in the Kentucky Air and Army National

Guard are critical to our overall national defense strategy. I am proud to represent them here in the Senate.

Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division and a number of Special Operations units. In recent years, many of these servicemembers have seen a near-constant cycle of deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The NDAA ensures that they are not forgotten. Fort Knox hosts the Army's Human Resources Command and Recruiting Command, where the NDAA will help to modernize officer personnel management, and this year's legislation paves the way for new construction projects at both these facilities.

In Madison County, the Blue Grass Army Depot is responsible for storing and demilitarizing conventional and legacy chemical weapons. It is a top-of-the-line facility, integral to our national security. Passing this NDAA will help to ensure that it can continue safe and effective operations.

It is my privilege to represent the men and women of the Kentucky Air and Army National Guard, including the 123rd Airlift Wing. This legislation will reaffirm our commitment to these citizen soldiers and airmen who are always ready to respond to emergencies at home or threats from abroad.

Kentucky is indeed proud of our men and women in uniform. When I vote for this Defense bill, I will be casting my vote for them.

### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, 16 months ago, President Trump and Republican majorities arrived in Washington with clear instructions from the American people: Get the Federal Government out of the way. A decade of Democratic control meant that taxes were too high, regulations were too burdensome, and America was too difficult a place to start a small business or hire more workers.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3269

Republicans heard our marching orders loud and clear. We used the Congressional Review Act a record 16 times to root out invasive rules that tripped up small businesses. We uprooted key pieces of ObamaCare and Dodd-Frank that had burdened the middle class, and we delivered a long-overdue, comprehensive overhaul of America's Tax Code. It is helping to rejuvenate the economy and is letting American families keep more of what they earn.

Today, under this Republican government, the U.S. economy is healthier than it has been in a long time. We have the lowest unemployment in 18 years, and more open positions than workers seeking jobs for the first time since the Labor Department started collecting these data. There is record levels of optimism among small businesses and manufacturers. More Americans are saying that now is a good time to find a quality job than at any point in the last 17 years.

In the Obama years, prosperity was slower in coming. Opportunities were comparatively few, and what limited growth did occur flowed disproportionately into America's very biggest urban centers.

Now our economy is starting to work better for all kinds of communities. I recently heard a few inspiring stories from my friend Senator PORTMAN. In Zanesville, OH, the owners of GKM Auto Parts spent much of the last decade watching health insurance premiums soar. By 2016 they could no longer support coverage for their employees, but as Senator PORTMAN recently explained, one of the first things the company was able to do following the passage of historic tax reform last year was to restore that coverage.

He also shared that builders and manufacturers across his State, from Wolf Metals in Columbus to Advanced Industrial Roofing in Massillon, are increasing pay and benefits, investing in equipment, and creating jobs as a direct result of tax reform and this pro-growth economic climate.

We are hearing stories like these from every corner of our country.

American workers and job creators are turning the page on the last decade and writing brand-new success stories, and Republican policies are helping to make that happen.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from North Carolina.

CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF PASTOR ANDREW BRUNSON

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I wish to speak briefly. I thank the Democratic leader for giving me the opportunity to speak for 5 minutes to do what I have done every week for the past couple of months and what I will do every week until we get a resolution; that is, to talk about Pastor Brunson, a Presbyterian minister who has been in prison in Turkey since October of 2016.

As best as we can tell, the only thing Pastor Brunson is guilty of is being a missionary who has committed 20 years of his life to working with people in Turkey who want to hear the Word of God. That is it. We can talk about—I will not today because my time is limited—all the trumped-up charges I witnessed when I spent 12 hours in a Turkish courtroom a couple of months ago or that I discussed with Pastor Brunson about 3 weeks earlier when I visited him in a prison.

Today what I want to talk about is relevant to the national defense authorization and the work we have done in committee to put Turkey on notice that this is unacceptable.

Turkey has been an ally of the United States since 1952. The NATO alliance commits every member of NATO to send their men and women in uniform into harm's way to defend the national security of a nation of the alliance. We have that with Turkey; we have since 1952.

Over the past month or so, we have seen a would-be adversary in North Korea release three prisoners, we have seen Venezuela release a prisoner, but in Turkey, since October of 2016, we have seen them hold a man for almost a year and a half without charges. Then I saw a man go before a court—and I witnessed for a whole day—being subjected to some of the most absurd charges possible. Next week, when I have more time, I will get into those.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who voted to put a provision in the national defense authorization that really makes us wonder whether we have to rethink our relationship with Turkey, particularly around the Joint Strike Fighter. The Joint Strike Fighter is one of the most sophisticated tactical fighters that has ever flown; arguably, the most sophisticated. Turkey is a NATO ally and, as such, they have access to that weapons system. In fact, they manufacture a lot of the critical parts for it.

What we offered in the NDAA is an examination of whether that relationship makes sense; No. 1, because of the way they are treating one of our American citizens, not letting him come back home, he and his wife; and No. 2, if that is the behavior of a NATO ally, is that really where we should be putting, in our supply chains and in our defensive systems, one of the most sophisticated weapons, one of the most important weapons in our arsenal. I, for one, think we have to look at it.

Until the Turkish Government recognizes that they are illegally holding Pastor Brunson, and a number of others, then I think we have to put the spotlight on them and hold them accountable. If I have an obligation, as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate, to defend their integrity, they have an obligation to treat our American citizens with respect.

We have the amendment in the NDAA. We also have another amendment we may offer. We need to make Turkey know we believe our alliance with them is important, but it is also important to treat American citizens who are not guilty of a crime with respect and bring Pastor Brunson home.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

TURKEY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, I thank my colleague. I was asked by my colleague from North Carolina if I would agree with his remarks, and he said he thought so. I definitely do. I think Erdogan is doing very bad things to the Turkish people, to our NATO alliance in the Middle East. He has had a vehemently anti-Israel position. To allow him to get away with all of this stuff without putting maximum pressure on him makes no sense. So I thank my colleague from North Carolina.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Madam President, on other subjects, later today the Senate will move to the consideration of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act. The annual defense authorization is something our friend Senator MCCAIN cares deeply about and has talked to me about regularly, and we wish he were here to shepherd it on the floor as we have seen him do many times before.

It is important that we get this done for our military, for our broader national security, for Senator MCCAIN, and to ensure that this critical authorization bill moves forward on a steady track. Any time we say the name or see the name written, "John S. McCain," our hearts go pitter-patter a little bit, and we pray for his speedy recovery.

The NDAA is an opportunity to revise and improve our national security to meet the evolving threats of a world that is changing so very fast. I just

want to highlight a few provisions in the bill that are important.

Just this morning, Secretary Ross announced that the Trump administration will relax penalties on Chinese telecom giant ZTE. Instead of permanently crippling ZTE, the administration will settle for a smaller fine than the company paid in 2017 and a reorganization of the company's board. It is essentially a slap on the wrist.

As a reminder, ZTE has been a threat to our national security, and that was stated by the Republican-led FCC, Republican-led FBI, and Republican-led Pentagon. This is not a partisan issue. ZTE was guilty not only of evading U.S. sanctions but lying to U.S. officials about it afterward. ZTE has been deemed such a threat to our telecommunications networks that the FCC recommended forbidding the sale of any ZTE products in the United States.

But, inexplicably, President Trump, after talking tough, did a total reversal. Once again, it seems President Xi has outfoxed President Trump. There is absolutely no good reason that ZTE should get a second chance, but with this deal, the President has inexplicably thrown him a lifeline. President Xi must be laughing all the way to the forbidden palace. He has once again taken advantage of President Trump on an issue vital to our security.

Many believe ZTE could be a mechanism for spying on our military and on lots of different parts of the United States. China has shown no reluctance to do that in the past, and we are just rolling over for no reason, having gotten nothing in return. This is a serious mistake, a 180-degree turn away from the President's promise to be tough on China. Donald Trump should be aiming his trade fire at China, but instead he inexplicably aims it at allies, such as Canada and Europe. When it comes to China, despite his tough talk, this deal with ZTE proves that President Trump just shoots blanks. This guy—the art of the deal? He has gotten taken to the cleaners by President Xi, and the rest of the world is probably laughing at him.

We cannot allow the damage from this action by Secretary Ross to stay. We must undo it. It will be up to Congress to reverse this deal if the President goes forward with it, which he has announced this morning he will.

The Banking Committee already adopted an amendment that would prohibit the administration from weakening sanctions against the Chinese telecoms, including ZTE; however, the President has rushed to undo the sanctions before that bill could pass, so it won't affect ZTE because the sanctions have just been lifted by the administration.

Now that the President has rushed to give this company relief, we will offer a bipartisan amendment, led by Senators Cotton and Van Hollen, that retroactively imposes the sanctions

originally leveled against ZTE, reversing the consent agreement signed this morning. This is a bipartisan bill. Senator COTTON and Senator VAN HOLLEN don't agree on much, but thank God, when it comes to national security, they are agreeing. This Chamber should overwhelmingly vote for the Cotton-Van Hollen amendment, which I am proud to cosponsor, as I believe Senator CORNYN and others on the other side will do. We must do that. We hope Leader MCCONNELL will allow a vote or, at minimum, put it in the managers' package. We cannot move forward with this danger to national security without doing something about ZTE.

There is also a provision in the Defense bill to expand the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, known as CFIUS, so that the board can review minority-position investments and joint ventures in critical technology and infrastructure companies.

Too often, foreign companies—usually Chinese—backed by some hostile foreign governments—usually the Chinese Government—and they are hostile to us economically, make no mistake about it. That word is not too strong. They try to gain controlling or minority positions in critical American technology companies to pilfer their intellectual property and reproduce it in their own countries. They don't allow us to sell the goods; they instead buy minority interests in American companies, learn how to do it, produce it in China, and then undercut us and sell it here. No wonder we lose millions of jobs to China.

This must be stopped. Because these foreign companies go to great lengths to avoid a CFIUS review and sneak in under the radar, we ought to widen the scope of cases that CFIUS can look at, better protecting our national security and our economic security, and the Defense bill, fortunately, is the first opportunity to do that.

Now back to ZTE, the ZTE example is perhaps the best example of how this administration's trade policies are in shambles. The President has talked tough on China. President Trump and I agree very strongly—or we had agreed. I don't know where he is now, but in the past, we have agreed. We just had a conversation a few weeks ago about the need to combat China's rapacious trade practices. Initially, I was hopeful the President would follow through. He seemed to do this out of conviction. But it seems that even though President Trump roars like a lion on China, he behaves like a lamb. Instead of ramping up pressure on China, he tells them he is weak. He tells them he will back off. He tells them he is not for real. President Trump has directed far too much of the administration's energies on trade toward punishing allies such as Canada and Europe instead of focusing on the real menace, the No. 1 menace—China.

So if President Trump is listening this morning, I tell him: Be strong on

China. Don't trade away our leverage for anything short of real concessions on intellectual property theft and market access—the two things that most threaten our long-term economic standing, that most threaten the American economy, the American worker, and American jobs.

#### EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE

Now on another matter, Madam President, today the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia will hear oral arguments in a case concerning the potential violation of the emoluments clause by the President of the United States—none other than the President of the United States violating this clause. The emoluments clause of the Constitution of the United States—written over 200 years ago into the Constitution by our Founding Fathers—prohibits any member of our government from profiting from their office, accepting any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign state.

The reason for the emoluments clause is plain: The Framers were worried that members of our government could be co-opted or influenced by the bribery of foreign capitals and thus prohibited even the potential for self-enrichment. They knew then what we know now: We don't want double-dealing by our elected officials, and when they have private interests, you never know—are they acting in what they believe is the national interests or what will help make them a profit?

With President Trump, we sincerely hope that no such self-enrichment is going on, but it remains a great concern to millions of Americans that President Trump has maintained a stake in vast business empire holdings all over the world. President Trump continues to profit from these holdings while he refuses to divest—an appalling departure from well-established practices of past Presidents. It shows a degree of selfishness that we haven't seen in Presidents. The President still refuses to disclose his tax returns and the precise extent of his foreign holdings—another radical and disturbing departure from past Presidents. This President acts like he is in the swamp, not like he is cleaning it up.

The President's actions certainly present the possibility of exposure to violation of the emoluments clause, so I believe it is a good thing that the courts are looking at this issue and taking it seriously. That is what our Constitution says they should do. It is a good thing the courts are taking it seriously. We cannot afford to have the Office of the Presidency of the United States corrupted for narrow, selfish means.

President Trump could easily—if you want to be President, you give up all the stuff you own. Every President has done it. There are blind trusts. There are all kinds of ways to do it. But this President seems to think he is measured by a different standard than anyone else. Everyone else makes their tax

returns public; he does not. Everyone else divests themselves of any interest in foreign business to avoid even the appearance of conflict; he does not. It is a double standard.

When the President says he wants to clean up the swamp when he goes to his rallies and gets cheered, what are those people cheering for? He has made the swamp worse than any President I know.

#### PARDON POWER

In other news, Madam President, we have learned that the President is very keen on his pardon power. The President went so far as to tweet earlier this week that he believes he has the absolute right—his words—to pardon himself.

Let me remind President Trump of a very simple fact: President Trump, you do not have the right to pardon yourself. No one—no one—in America is above the law, not even the President—especially the President. If the President did have the right to pardon himself, he could engage in blatant corruption and self-dealing without consequence. The President could violate the emoluments clause, for example, and simply exonerate himself for taking bribes from foreign interests. Surely that is not what our Framers intended. It would turn the Presidency into a farce and render American democracy greatly defunct.

When the President says and tweets things like this, we have to be very clear about how wrong he is. We cannot allow the morality of this government, the shining example the Founding Fathers put together, to just recede. President Trump is doing that on almost a daily basis, and we need not just Democrats, we need Republicans and Independents to stand up when he says things like that.

I was glad to hear that a number of my Republican colleagues said he doesn't have the power to pardon himself. I was proud of Senator GRASSLEY, who always speaks his mind—sometimes I like it, sometimes I don't, but he always speaks his mind—who talked about how wrong it was for the President to say he could pardon himself.

The idea that the President could pardon anyone, anytime, himself included, is antithetical to the very idea of a democracy.

President Trump, you are not King by another name.

I hope the President will focus instead on the Nation's business in the months ahead.

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. INHOFE. Madam Present, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Will the Senator yield for a UC?

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. Chairman, I will yield to you under almost every circumstance.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks by the Senator from New Jersey, I be recognized as in morning business for as much time as I shall consume.

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

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise today to speak in opposition to the nomination of Kenneth Marcus to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. One of the most critical functions of the Department of Education is the role in enforcing Federal civil rights and upholding the protection of students' civil rights in schools.

The Office for Civil Rights within the Department of Education is a particularly important instrument in enforcing civil rights in schools, protecting those precious rights of our children, and ensuring that schools provide students with access to equal educational opportunities and a nondiscriminatory environment in which to learn. It is an idea we have in our country that it is fundamental that we have a level playing field and abundant opportunity for all kids, no matter what their background is.

The continued need for this office is clear. In fact, during the Obama administration, the Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Education handled 76,000 complaints over 8 years and issued dozens of policy guidance documents to help schools better protect and preserve civil rights of students.

In the last year alone, or year and a half, we have seen what is clearly an abdication of this leadership in the Trump administration and what that has meant for the protection of civil rights for our country's children and for our country's students. We have seen an Office for Civil Rights that has rolled back protections for LGBTQ students, an office that has rolled back protections for students with disabilities, and an office that is set on gutting the very mission of the office itself, which is to protect all of our students from discrimination and empower them with equal opportunities to succeed.

The confirmation of Kenneth Marcus would be another blow to the civil rights of our students. Mr. Marcus is someone who, in his record and in his testimony to my colleagues on the Senate HELP Committee, has demonstrated that he possesses at best a disturbing apathy and at worst a wanton disregard for the importance, if not urgency, of protecting the rights of our kids in school.

When Mr. Marcus was asked by Senator MURRAY to name an example of something—anything—that Donald Trump had said or done when it comes to discrimination or civil rights that he disagrees with, and Mr. Marcus

could not name any area of disagreement. He couldn't find a single disagreement in the way that Donald Trump demeaned Americans with disabilities or how the President has spoken about Mexicans or even the way the President has issued policies that attack the rights of Muslims or the rights of LGBTQ Americans. There was no disagreement mentioned whatsoever.

When he was asked during his confirmation hearing if as Assistant Secretary he would intervene in an instance where Black students in a school district were receiving lower quality teachers, fewer books, fewer AP classes, and fewer educational resources than White students, one would expect his answer to have been: Yes, I would intervene. Yes, I would stand up for equality. Instead, Mr. Marcus refused to say that he would step in in such a hypothetical circumstance.

When Senator MURPHY asked about disparities in school districts that were suspending or expelling five times as many Black students for the same set of behaviors compared to White students, instead of just saying the obvious thing—that this is wrong, that the same behavior necessitates the same disciplinary action—instead of saying something as simple as that, Mr. Marcus went on to say this:

"I believe that disparities of that size are grounds for concern, but my experience says that one needs to approach each compliant, or compliance review, with an open mind and a sense of fairness to find out what the answers are. I will tell you that I have seen what appeared to be inexcusable disparities that were the result of paperwork errors, they just got the numbers wrong."

I don't know how much of the data on this issue of disciplinary inequality Mr. Marcus has seen, but it is abundantly clear that for someone who wants to be in this position, they should understand the crisis we have with discipline in this country. The data has shown that even in preschool—from the age of 4 years old—Black preschool kids are 3.6 times more likely to receive an out-of-school suspension than White preschool kids. Again, that is also for the same infraction.

This is not about getting the numbers wrong. This is about being aware of a problem we have in this country that fuels the school-to-prison pipeline. It is a problem that is so severe that I fought in a bipartisan way to get an amendment about school expulsions in the Every Student Succeeds Act. This is a problem that is so severe that in 2014 the Department of Education issued guidance clarifying that schools must administer discipline without discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin. The guidance provided important information and support for schools to create a safer, more inclusive environment. We know this problem is not going away, because just last month a new report from the Government Accountability Office concluded that Black students, boys, and

students with disabilities were still significantly overrepresented in disciplinary action.

What we need is a Department of Education that is going to stand up for kids on problems that we know exist. I was stunned that this is a candidate who doesn't even acknowledge the urgency in protecting LGBTQ kids. And at a time of such crisis, Secretary Betsy DeVos continues to fail to protect the rights of all of our students, just this week, she called discrimination against LGBTQ students in schools "an issue for Congress and the courts to settle," abdicating any responsibility.

That is unacceptable, and I don't understand. We have children who are literally under attack. We face a crisis in this country when it comes to LGBTQ youth. This is not an argument over facts. The facts are clear: LGBT youths face a stunning level of prejudice and discrimination inside and outside of schools, starting at a young age. We know that LGBT youths are two times more likely than their heterosexual peers to be physically assaulted in school. LGBT youths are four times as likely to attempt suicide.

According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 34 percent of gay and lesbian youth students were bullied on school property, and 13 percent report not going to school because of fear for their safety. This kind of harassment has no place in our classrooms or schools or anywhere in the United States. It is far too common, from discriminating disciplinary practice to physical violence against our kids, and we have work to do in this country to keep all children safe, to treat all children equally, to give every kid a fair shot in schools to make it and thrive. Yet we are trying to elevate someone to one of the most significant positions in our land to protect children who has a disregard and an apathy toward the compelling and continuing problems in our schools.

When I think about the role of the Federal Government in protecting children, I think about a picture that, as soon as I walk out of my office, the picture is there, and it is that picture from Norman Rockwell of Ruby Bridges trying to walk to school, at the age of 6, to become the first Black child to attend a White elementary school in the South. The photo of her—and the famous painting—is jarring when you see it. It is a reminder to me every day when I leave my office about the roles and responsibilities we have in this body. The hate that was being spewed on her—Ruby Bridges—was plainly evident.

I am telling you, if you visit schools right now and talk to some of our children who are being bullied and intimidated, they can speak to that kind of hate as well. You can still feel the pain and hatred echoing from our past, and you can see it. You can see it echoing in our present. She was determined, and, most importantly, she was not

alone. At the age of 6, walking to school, Ruby Bridges walked not alone but, as Norman Rockwell's picture captures, she walked with Federal Marshals, and they stood with her. She was not alone. She had government folks who said: Your rights are my rights. Your future is my future. We pledge an oath to be a nation of liberty and nation not for some but for all—that "injustice anywhere," as King said, "is a threat to justice everywhere."

The Federal Government alone is not enough to educate our kids. It is about local communities that keep them safe. It is about those soccer coaches. It is about the drama teacher. It is about the love and the kindness and the nurturing environment that is the common standard in all of our schools in America in every State. We have seen from history that there is a role for us to play in keeping folks safe. There are aberrations in our country where hatred still thrives, where discrimination still exists, where there is a role for us to play, and we can't surrender that role.

We can't retreat from our vigilance in protecting every child in America. That is why the Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Education are so critical and must be led by someone who understands our history and understands the urgent work that still needs to be done. We need a person in this role who is committed to every single child no matter who they are and a person who sees within that child their truth, their divinity, their limitless potential, their promise, and how we as a nation need them to succeed.

We have a long way to go. There is work still to do. Children in this country who are hurting now need champions in positions of high office. That is why I oppose the nomination of Mr. Marcus. He is not the person, by his own testimony, who sees our children, who will protect all of our children, who understands their crises, and hears their cries. I will be voting against his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The Senator from Oklahoma.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, arguably, the most significant bill to be introduced and passed every year is the National Defense Authorization Act. Yesterday, the leader moved to proceed to that bill, but then there was some objection. Senator REED and I have spent some time and have been very concerned about getting this started. We passed this out of committee in record time and share the commitment that this bill is a matter fitting for the Senate's deliberative process. We want to have an amendment process, and we proposed this, but there was some objection to it yesterday.

I think an open legislative process is one of the hallmarks of the democracy that we ask our servicemembers to protect and defend. They are out there on

the line. We owe them everything that is in an annual bill. In fact, that bill has actually been passed every year. For the past 57 years, we have had a national defense authorization act. What we wanted to do this time, which would have been different from the last time, was to have had an open amendment process—heard a lot of amendments and had a lot of discussion on the floor. We intended to do that but were disappointed that there was an objection to that yesterday. That is why we have been working on satisfying those objections, and I think we have done this.

I believe, by 12 noon or after the 12:30 vote, we are going to be in a position to go ahead and ask that the majority leader restate his motion to proceed and that it will be passed without objection. I am looking forward to that. I think we need to get started. I don't need to go into the arguments, as others are waiting for the floor right now, but we want to get this bill started immediately.

It is not just to make sure we have the pay raises for our kids who are out there risking their lives, and it is not just that we have to keep up with the commitments we have made. We have gone through some dry years over the last 10 years. When I go around the country and talk to groups, there is this assumption that America has the best of everything, but that is not true anymore. That is one reason there is a sense of urgency on this.

Take artillery, for example. The two things you use to measure the artillery capability of a country are those of range and rapid fire, and we are out-ranged and out-rapid fired by both Russia and China. They have other systems that are better than ours.

Right now, one of the most modern systems is hypersonic warfare. A lot of people are not aware of this, but it allows us to go five times the speed of sound with a weapon. We have been developing this for some time. However, now we have found out that both Russia and China have been ahead of us on this. This bill is going to put us in high gear and make sure this development actually happens.

Our triad system, our nuclear triad, is also one on which we have not been doing anything for the last 8 or 10 years, and now Russia and China have gotten ahead. This is something we are not going to tolerate.

We have the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, and we are going to get to it today. I will mention that we are actually hoping for a couple of amendments to take place this afternoon. These have to be agreed to and have been agreed to by both sides. Boozman amendment No. 2276 is a study to suggest the permanent stationing of our troops in Poland. The second one is the McCain fellowship amendment, by Senator REED, amendment No. 2284.

I, and I am sure Senator REED—I speak for him too—would like to get

started on some amendments today instead of waiting around until Monday. Doing so will put us a lot further ahead than we otherwise would be. Our anticipation is to get this thing done by next week, and I think we can do it.

I thank those who had some objection to moving to this bill. I very much appreciate their working with us. I think it will be completed, and I anticipate that the majority leader will have a motion that he will make after the 12:30 p.m. vote today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

#### TARIFFS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I rise to sound the alarm about the President's decision to impose steep tariffs on our trading partners.

Make no mistake, we are not, as some administration officials have suggested, in the leisurely early innings of a baseball game. We are in the nascent stages of a full-scale trade war. Despite the President's statement that this war will be easily won, any student of history knows that unlike a baseball game, in which a winner is guaranteed, a trade war only guarantees there will be losers.

Free trade allows the most efficient allocation of labor and capital. Protectionism, on the other hand, stifles innovation and reduces productivity. Recognition of this philosophy has been as close to a consensus as this body has achieved in more than 70 years, and the application of these principles has provided the foundation for growth and prosperity that was unimagined by previous generations.

If tariffs aimed at our adversaries produce disastrous results, what will happen when we target our allies?

Imagine claiming that imports from Canada represent a national security threat. Well, that is exactly what we are doing. Canada is our largest trading partner—a trading partner, coincidentally, with whom we enjoy a trade surplus. Just yesterday, we learned of a phone call in which Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau challenged the President's use of national security as a justification for levying tariffs against a steadfast ally. These new tariffs imposed on our allies will not and are not going unanswered. A number of them have already introduced retaliatory measures.

In March, when the tariffs on steel and aluminum were first announced, I proposed legislation to block their implementation. Yesterday, I joined with a bipartisan group of Senators, led by Senator CORKER, in introducing legislation to rein in the President's use of section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to justify protectionist measures. This bipartisan group includes Senators from coast to coast and from across the political spectrum.

The Constitution grants Congress the preeminent role in regulating trade and tariffs. Congress must show leadership on this issue. We are elected to be

leaders, not followers here. It is not our charge to just go along because the President shares our party affiliation, to throw out our long-held beliefs just because they might complicate our political standing.

#### PROTECTING THE VALUES OF FREEDOM

Now, Mr. President, let me speak for a few minutes on our unique standing in the world and the opportunities and responsibilities that come as a result of that standing.

From its very creation, the United States of America has played a vital role in world leadership. Our Founding Fathers showed how a band of colonies could not only break free from a despotic monarchy but could build a functional democracy on the sturdy scaffold of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. They entrenched this hallowed trio of principles within our Declaration of Independence, making America the first country in the world to be born not of accidents of geography or of Tribe but of an idea—a powerful idea—the idea of freedom.

More than 100 years later, at the turn of the 20th century, one that would come to be called the American Century, President Theodore Roosevelt used his inaugural address to highlight America's role: A country that had broken free from tyranny had a moral obligation to help others do likewise.

Roosevelt said:

Much has been given us, and much will rightfully be expected from us. We have duties to others and duties to ourselves; and we can shirk neither. We have become a great nation, forced by the fact of its greatness into relations with other nations of the earth, and we must behave as befits a people with such responsibilities.

This declaration alerted Americans that the Nation had arrived at a new position of global leadership, and it remains as true today as it was then.

The 20th century saw the United States transition from being merely one voice for freedom and liberty to become the preeminent leader of that sacred cause across the world. In the 40 years that followed Roosevelt's speech, American men and women would twice be called on to fight for peace in the face of World War. Hundreds of thousands of Americans would selflessly lay down their lives for the freedom of others.

Indeed, nowhere in our national history has that been more clearly displayed than 74 years ago yesterday, when, on the beaches of Normandy, thousands of Americans paid the ultimate sacrifice to free our European allies from the most unspeakable tyranny the world has ever known.

Yet this Nation's transformation into an indispensable nation, a necessary nation, was not crafted by military might alone. It was our efforts to build up international institutions and norms aimed at fostering democratic ideals and free market principles that truly secured the global leadership some would now squander.

I believe President Reagan best described the importance of this broader

American role when, during an address to the British Parliament, in the depth of the Cold War, he said this:

Our military strength is a prerequisite to peace, but let it be clear we maintain this strength in the hope it will never be used, for the ultimate determinant in the struggle that's now going on in the world will not be bombs and rockets, but a test of wills and ideas, a trial of spiritual resolve, the values we hold, the beliefs we cherish, the ideals to which we are dedicated.

By 1945, the United States had contributed about half of the world's entire economic activity, and, in 1991, we emerged from the Cold War as the world's sole superpower. The Soviet Union was in a glorious free fall, shedding republics by the day. Eastern Europe was squinting out into the light of liberation for the first time in 40 years. Free markets and free minds were sweeping the world.

I vividly recall the fall of the Berlin Wall. At the time, I was in Africa, assisting in the transition to democracy of the newly independent country of Namibia, as it shrugged off the shackles of apartheid.

A continent away, a dissident playwright, Vaclav Havel, emerged from a Communist prison to become the President of a liberated Czechoslovakia. In appearing before a joint session of our Congress, he praised the powerful inspiration of American democracy, and he thanked us for liberating Europe, once again, "from the tyrant's grip."

Both 1945 and 1991 were moments of American global success, when this Nation could have easily chosen to have turned inward and to have left the rest of the community of nations to fend for themselves or we could have simply maintained our dominance through sheer economic supremacy and military strength. We chose neither.

Instead, we chose to build the foundations of a global order based on the values we venerate, the beliefs we cherish, the ideals we aspire to—a world in which leaders must earn the respect of their peers, not through the coercive tactics of bluster and threat but through the virtues of their actions and the wisdom of their policies.

Winston Churchill famously opined, "Democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time." It was a wry acknowledgment that however messy it may sometimes seem in practice, democracy's genius lies in its regular renewal of the people's mandate, what Thomas Jefferson called the "consent of the governed."

It is our responsibility to be the premier example of this democratic order. This is the golden thread that leads all the way back to our Founding Fathers, but today that golden thread of continuity is in danger of being snapped.

Today we appear to be turning our back on this responsibility—a responsibility upheld by previous generations—the same generations that crafted the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe and Japan after World War II, helping to

shape our two most aggressive enemies into two of our most stalwart allies; the generations who crafted pivotal international organizations such as NATO, the United Nations, and the World Trade Organization, forums for multilateral compromise to take the place of war as the primary arbiter of conflict between nations; the generations who negotiated nuclear disarmament treaties, pulling us back from the brink of atomic Armageddon—but no more.

Instead we find ourselves today led by those who express admiration for authoritarianism in Russia, China, the Philippines, and other places that make common cause with bullies and who flirt with tyrants. We see a world descending into an atavistic tribalism, a political primitivism where dealings between nations are driven by fear and antagonism, bullying and threats, taunts and brinkmanship, rather than mutual benefit and comity.

We find ourselves led by those who would fall for isolationist instincts and antiquated, preindustrial, protectionist economic philosophies—the very same shortsighted nostrums that ushered in the Great Depression. Those who would reject the decades-long consensus on the virtues of free trade, open markets, international interdependence—the policies which have led to the greatest sustained growth our world has ever seen.

What shall our friends make of such erratic behavior? How will they respond to such confusing actions? Most importantly, how long will they remain our friends if this irrational approach continues?

Alliances, institutions, and pacts that took generations to patiently build, generations more to solidify, that were paid for in both blood and treasure, are shattered in an ill-tempered second, an ill-considered tantrum, a childish taunt here, a bellicose insult there, incoherent policy utterances, often as not by tweet, contradicted in the space of a single news cycle. Muddled and mercurial, this is not grownup leadership. Our allies are left baffled, confused, and often appalled.

Make no mistake, our allies and those who look to American leadership will not wait for us to come to our senses. If we abandon our role as a leader in the world today, it may very well not be there tomorrow. We saw this vividly displayed in the decision to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. After we hastily withdrew from those negotiations, the 11 other countries involved did not go home. They did not give up on trade or come back to us on bended knee, begging us to rejoin the process. They simply shrugged and continued on their own, leaving us behind.

Countries in Southeast Asia that would prefer to be part of the American trade orbit will have no other choice than to be sucked into China's vortex. This is the same China our President

correctly acknowledges as America's primary global competitor. Once again, the absurdity of protectionist policies is laid bare.

The question facing us today is this: Do we really want to be the generation that finally gave in to the backward, regressive tug of American isolationism? Do we want future generations to refer to American leadership in the world only in the past tense, with a rueful nostalgia? Are we truly ready to abandon this “shining city on a hill” described by John Winthrop and echoed so eloquently by Ronald Reagan? Do we believe the United States of America is still “the last best hope on earth,” as Abraham Lincoln once proclaimed?

We are not perfect. We have faltered in our leadership at times; at others we have struggled to determine how best to project our national values, but it is our leadership as the designated driver of the vehicle of world order, the so-called Pax Americana that for more than 70 years has maintained unprecedented peace and prosperity throughout the world. Yes, the world we live in is far from perfect, but I believe it is a far better place as a result of American leadership.

It has been said that the universe abhors a vacuum, and if we do not lead, someone else will. Those who are most likely to do so do not share our democratic values. We should not wish for future generations of Americans to come of age in a world led by someone else.

“Freedom,” as John F. Kennedy once proclaimed, “is not merely a word or an abstract theory, but the most effective instrument for advancing the welfare of man.” We owe it to those generations who have come before us, and those who will come after us, to recognize that our defense of that freedom, in all its forms—from free speech and free thought to free markets and free trade—is not an act of recreation. Let us pointedly declare to those who would suggest otherwise that the crossroads in which we find ourselves is not the early innings of any game but a historic moment in which we will either affirm our commitment to the values that have served so well for so long or engage in a trade war that will only lead to economic disaster. Let us not falter in our mission to promote and protect the values of freedom. Let us not turn away from this most noble of responsibilities. Let us proudly take the torch passed to us from our parents and our parents' parents.

Let us continue to serve as a beacon of hope, a shining light of freedom seen across a volatile world. This light stretches from the lanterns in Boston's Old North Church, lit during the ride of Paul Revere, to the light that shines above our Capitol today. It is the light of freedom, the very spirit of America, and it must never be extinguished.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I thank Senator FLAKE for his comments, his willingness to speak out, and for the courage with which he has spoken. His beliefs, I think, are admirable, and this Senator wants to state that for the record. What he has spoken about does not look down the blind alley of partisanship. He is talking about looking at America, and this Senator appreciates his remarks.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, I want to talk today about what is happening to the coastal communities in Florida. The Presiding Officer represents Alaska, the State that has the most coastline. Next to Alaska, my State of Florida has more coastline than any other State, and I would venture to say that since Alaska has very few beaches, it ought to be very clear that the State of Florida has more beaches than any other State. That, of course, is an attraction that becomes an economic engine because people from all over the world want to come to enjoy the sands of Florida's beaches and enjoy the bounty of nature the Lord has provided, but we better watch out because we are starting to mess it up.

Yesterday, NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, released data that the contiguous United States had the warmest May on record. The entire continent of the United States had the warmest May on record. The heat is having real-world impacts.

NOAA also released its “2017 State of High Tide Flooding and 2018 Outlook.” During 2017, the average high-tide flooding in the United States was the highest ever recorded. In 2018, NOAA predicts that high-tide flooding will be 60 percent more frequent across U.S. coastlines than it was 18 years ago in 2000, primarily because of the local sea level rise.

Doesn't this suggest something? In the lower latitudes, our seas are rising. It should not surprise us. It doesn't surprise this Senator. We got a glimpse of this when 4 years ago I took our Commerce Committee to Miami Beach and in fact had a hearing.

One of the witnesses was a NASA scientist, Dr. Piers Sellers, a prestigious scientist and former astronaut who, unfortunately, we lost to cancer just recently. At the hearing he said, “By the end of the century, the intensity of hurricanes . . . will increase . . . but even if hurricane frequency and intensity do not change, rising sea levels and coastal development will likely increase the impact of hurricanes and other coastal storms on those coastal communities and infrastructure.”

I would like to show a picture. A picture tells the real story. This shows a sunny day in Miami Beach—a sunny day when the king tide is flooding Miami Beach. OK. That is obvious, looking at it. This happens frequently at high tide.

What has the city of Miami Beach had to do? Spend tens of millions of

dollars on big pumps and raising the level of the road to try to alleviate this problem. This is happening with some frequency in South Florida. Dr. Sellers testified back in 2014 that not projections or forecasts but actual measurements showed the sea had risen over the last four decades 5 to 8 inches.

Let's take another look at other flooding. That photo was Miami Beach, which is down at the southeast part of the peninsula of Florida. This photo was taken in downtown Sarasota. Sarasota is on the Gulf Coast and is closer to the middle of the peninsula; in other words, about 150 miles north of the latitude of Miami Beach. The vice mayor brought me these pictures of Sarasota. Look at this car on the street. Pictures don't tell the full story.

We held another field hearing in West Palm Beach a year ago, and the Broward County resilience officer came to Palm Beach County for that hearing and showed a video of a man biking along the city of Fort Lauderdale, where the sidewalk is submerged in water. In other words, what has happened in Miami Beach is happening in the Las Olas section of Fort Lauderdale.

Then we took the committee to St. Petersburg, which is on the opposite coast, the gulf coast, where the city has designed its new pier out of floating docks to accommodate the rising sea as they rise up and down in Tampa Bay.

Or how about St. Augustine, where the public works department is seeing nuisance flooding from high tides that are overwhelming their storm water system.

All of these are examples of how sea level rise affects coastal Florida on sunny days, not rainstorm days. The NASA scientist at our hearing was talking about how climate could exacerbate damage from hurricanes. Why? Because if the water is warmer, that is the fuel for a hurricane, and that is what is sucked up into that vortex as the hurricane feeds itself. The hotter the water it is over, the more ferocious—and likely frequent—those storms will be. Warmer ocean water fuels hurricanes, making them more intense, and the sea level rise compounds the storm surge and the rain-induced flooding.

Let me show you another image. Here is an image that shows what Florida's coastal communities face when the Sun is not shining. This is during a rainstorm. Here is flooding in Jacksonville. Where is Jacksonville? It is at the north end of the peninsula. It is almost right next to the Georgia line. You can see a sign that says "no skateboarding" is almost completely engulfed by the rising water.

Then you think: What about a place further south on the latitudes, Puerto Rico? Hurricane Maria absolutely ravaged that island, and it is not an exaggeration to say that climate change and sea level rise are putting people's

lives and their property at risk. It is the reality.

I am going to continue to extend an invitation to our colleagues. I want you to come with me to Florida, and I want to show you these impacts. I have had the privilege of taking several of our colleagues to the Florida Everglades, where alligators are plentiful, to see this unusual ecosystem as we travel about in an airboat. I want you to come and see what is happening as a result of the rising water, and the real question is, What are we going to do about it?

There are two pieces to the solution. One is that we are going to have to stop putting so many greenhouse gases into the air. CO<sub>2</sub>, which is carbon dioxide, and methane are the two big culprits. Part of the solution is climate mitigation, which means we must invest in new technology, in the economy of the future—things like wind, solar, electric vehicles, and more efficient buildings. We are going to have to make our communities more resilient to the greenhouse gasses and the warming that they already have caused in the system. This is called climate change adaptation.

You don't have to agree with climate science to know that it makes sense; it makes dollars and cents to do this. We are talking about strengthening our building codes to withstand wind events. We are talking about restoring the function of the floodplains so that when 2 to 3 feet of rainwater suddenly gets dumped in one place, it can absorb and gradually recede. We are talking about rebuilding natural flood protection, like sand dunes and beaches. In the Commerce Committee we have heard countless stories from local government officials that if they could have invested before the natural catastrophe that hit them, they would have saved the Federal Government a lot of money by avoiding the enormous cost of the disaster response and relief itself, not to mention reducing the risk to human life.

The proof is in front of our very eyes. The photos we have shown—let's show the rest of them here—don't lie. Yet here we are upon another hurricane season. Of course, we hope the big storms don't come, but the likelihood is that they will. Remember, they don't necessarily go just to Florida. Remember Hurricane Sandy? Look what it did to the Northeast.

We hope we don't see any more of these harrowing images. But, as we hope, we are going to have to act because what we have shown here in these photos today is not about projections; it is about real-time observation. Let's quit ignoring the obvious.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, sometimes when I am traveling across Tennessee, someone will come up to me

and say: Why don't you guys in the U.S. Senate ever do anything? So I have taken to carrying around a little card that I keep in my pocket. I hand it to them and I say: Well, I can read this to you in about 30 seconds, and this is what has happened in the last 18 months: the best economy in 18 years; lower taxes; biggest reforms in 31 years; biggest increase in financial support for the military in 15 years; biggest pay raise in 8 years for the military; more repeal of regulations than anyone can remember; a Supreme Court Justice; 21 conservative appeals court judges; Alaska energy, which took 38 years, and the Presiding Officer knows all about that; a new National Labor Relations Board, which could be the most important change of all; repealed the ObamaCare individual mandate; the Dodd-Frank mortgage rules are gone; Veterans Choice, which the President signed yesterday; Iran, Russia, and North Korea sanctions.

All of that would not have happened without a Republican President, and it would not have happened without Republican majorities in the U.S. Congress. It took both.

The person who asks me "When are you guys ever going to do anything?" will often say "Well, I didn't know that; I hadn't realized that."

So I am very proud of that record; that is in 18 months. I think if you like a conservative government, a center-right government, you would have to agree that those are the most accomplishments in at least 30 years in this country. The President should be justly proud of that, and so should the Congress.

#### TARIFFS

Mr. President, despite the fact that I agree with President Trump on taxes, judges, regulations, and the list I just read, there is one area in which I have been supremely ineffective in persuading him, and that is in the area of tariffs.

I care about tariffs, especially because Tennessee has become, in many ways, the No. 1 auto state. I have spent a lot of time over the last 40 years watching the auto industry in Tennessee grow—ever since I helped to recruit the Nissan plant to Tennessee in 1980 as Governor at a time when we had literally no auto jobs—and suddenly today, one-third of our manufacturing jobs are auto jobs. They are not only in three big auto plants, like Nissan, General Motors, and Volkswagen, but they are in over 900 different auto suppliers in 88 of Tennessee's 95 counties.

Let me say that again: We have over 900 auto suppliers in 88 of 95 of Tennessee's counties—one-third of all of our manufacturing jobs. Nothing has done more in the last 40 years to move us from the third poorest State in average family incomes up toward the middle and heading toward the top. It has been the greatest source of benefit for Tennessee families of anything that has happened, so you can see why I become concerned when anything threatens that.

A 25-percent tariff on steel and a 10-percent tariff on aluminum threatens that because almost every one of those auto parts suppliers in Tennessee uses aluminum and steel in making their parts for cars and trucks that will be sold in the United States and exported around the world.

If your price goes up, what usually happens is your profits go down, your sales go down, and your wages don't go up as fast or jobs might disappear. That is what happened when President George W. Bush did something similar at the beginning of his term. I had just come to the U.S. Senate in 2003, and President Bush tried to protect the steel companies, but what he did was hurt everyone else more than the steel companies. There were more jobs lost in the companies that used steel than in the companies that produced steel.

Already, I am hearing stories all across our State about the effects of tariffs, and I was hearing stories about the potential effects of tariffs even before they were imposed. For example, not just auto parts but Electrolux—a big home appliance manufacturer planning a \$250 million new plant to make home appliances in Springfield, TN—buys 100 percent of its steel in the United States. But as soon as the steel tariffs were announced, it put that expansion on hold because when you raise the price of steel coming into the United States, then all the domestic suppliers raise their prices. Electrolux said that even though it bought all of its steel from U.S. suppliers, it couldn't be competitive in the marketplace with tariffs on imported steel. That is one example.

Here is a different kind of example. Bush Brothers in East Tennessee, in Newport, has a remarkable operation. They can one-third of all the beans in the United States. You have probably bought Bush Brothers beans. Well, the cans have a certain kind of steel that is mostly imported because not enough of it is made in the United States. Bush Brothers estimates that the tariff on steel will reduce their revenues by 8.5 percent. They are a big company. That is one-third of all beans in the United States. These aren't served in country clubs. These are people who are in ordinary homes around the country buying cans of baked beans. Their prices go up, and the revenues go down, profits go down, employees go down, jobs go down, and wages don't go up in Newport, TN.

Then we have two big tire companies in Tennessee. Bridgestone is one of them. All tires have a strengthening kind of steel to make them stronger. None of that is produced in the United States. All of it is imported. So when you put a 25-percent tax on that strengthening steel coming in for the tires there at Bridgestone and at Hankook, in Clarksville, TN, up goes the price for American consumers who buy tires, and down go the profits for Bridgestone and Hankook, and down go the revenues, and down go the opportunities for increased wages and jobs.

So think about the impact of a 25-percent increase on the materials you use to make parts in the companies that employ one-third of all the manufacturing jobs in Tennessee. We have a big, strong auto industry in the Southeastern United States. We think a lot about the Midwest, and we are proud of that. While the Midwest lost 3.6 million jobs in the last 20 years in the auto industry, the Southeast gained 3.6 million jobs. We have a good, strong auto industry in Tennessee, and we don't want to see it hurt.

That is why I have respectfully said to President Trump—I saw him in Nashville last week, and I said: Mr. President, as you know, I agree with you, and I am proud of what has happened with the best economy in the last 18 years with lower taxes, with fewer regulations, and all of those things. These are the most significant accomplishments in at least 30 years by a conservative government. I would like to persuade you to change your mind on tariffs. Our State is likely to be hurt more than any other State because, in many ways, we are the No. 1 auto State. What I would suggest, respectfully, is a focus shift from tariffs to reciprocity; in other words, say to every country: Please do for us what we do for you. We are going to insist on that. And then we have various tools and weapons—maybe including tariffs in some cases—to enforce that. But the goal should be, you do for us what we do for you.

Mexico and Canada can do that. That shouldn't be a problem. The trade deficit is not the right indicator with Mexico and Canada. We produce nearly 24 percent of all the money in the world in the United States. Mexico produces about 1 percent. So they spend 25 percent of their money buying stuff from us, and we spend one-fifth of 1 percent buying stuff from them.

Let's not focus on the trade deficit. Let's not start with tariffs. Say to other countries: Do for us what we do for you. Go country by country and enforce that. That would be consistent with all the other accomplishments that happened in the last 18 months. That would be consistent with the lower taxes and the fewer regulations and the other actions that have increased the best economy in the last 18 years. It is my hope that I can become more persuasive on that. Article I, section 8, gives Congress the specific right to deal with tariffs and trade, and I hope we do.

Madam President, if I may say one more thing about the vote we will be having at 12:30. Today the Senate is finally voting to confirm Ken Marcus, a well-qualified nominee, to serve as Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education.

I worked to get a time agreement for this vote because Mr. Marcus did not deserve to be the subject of the Democrats' unreasonable and unnecessary obstruction and delays. I want to thank Senator MURRAY from Wash-

ington and the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, for helping to bring these delays to a conclusion today.

For example, Mr. Marcus was nominated on October 30, 2017—220 days ago. He has been pending on the floor since the HELP Committee approved his nomination on January 18, 2018—140 days ago. To compare, President Obama's two nominees to this position, Russlynn Ali and Catherine Lhamon, were confirmed in 45 and 52 days, and both were confirmed by a voice vote. That doesn't mean that every Republican supported these nominees, but it means we knew that students would be better served when the Department of Education had a confirmed civil rights official in place even if Republicans might disagree with that person.

I would remind my colleagues that when President Obama proposed to have John King serve as Acting Secretary of Education for 1 year, I said: Mr. President, the country is better served and we are better served if you send us a nomination and let us confirm Mr. King, even though we disagree with him. The President did that. I made sure he was confirmed within a month. That is what should happen when a President makes nominations.

It is time to confirm Mr. Marcus and give Secretary DeVos and our country an Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. Mr. Marcus has a deep understanding of civil rights law. He founded the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law and served as Staff Director for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights for four years. He effectively served in this position before. When he worked in the Department of Education under President George W. Bush, he was delegated the authority of Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. In that position, he was charged with enforcing civil rights laws, such as Title IX, and he issued guidance reminding schools of their obligation, established in regulation, to have in place Title IX coordinators and procedures for when there was an alleged Title IX violation.

Mr. Marcus enjoys wide support. Sixty-eight organizations signed letters supporting his nomination, including Hillel International, the largest Jewish campus organization in the world, which had this to say:

"Mr. Marcus has been a longtime champion for civil rights and for college students. We have worked personally with him on several campuses across the country in response to specific issues of bigotry and discrimination, and we have found him to be extremely skilled and knowledgeable in Civil Rights laws."

As Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Mr. Marcus will lead a very important office. The Office for Civil Rights has the responsibility of ensuring that Title IX and other civil rights laws, and the protections they provide to all students, are fully enforced. When Mr. Marcus is confirmed, he will get to work enforcing these laws so that all students feel safe at school.

I am glad we are having this vote today. I support the nomination, and I urge my colleagues to support Mr. Marcus as well.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I oppose the confirmation of Kenneth Marcus to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. Mr. Marcus has a long record of targeting First Amendment-protected speech and scholarship of people with whom he disagrees. His history also reflects a hostility towards civil rights, including making racially charged accusations and opposing affirmative action. In addition, Mr. Marcus has not publicly committed to upholding the civil rights protections of every student in the country, without regard to LGBTQI status, race, home language, gender, religion, disability, or immigration status.

I am particularly concerned with Mr. Marcus's nomination, given the important role that the Office of Civil Rights—OCR—plays in protecting students from discrimination in schools and on campuses, as well as holding schools accountable for their sexual assault prevention policies. As we are all aware, Secretary DeVos and Acting OCR Director Candice Jackson have already taken very concerning steps to roll back guidance and investigations of potential civil rights violations. Given his testimony before the Senate HELP committee, I fear Mr. Marcus will likely contribute to this troubling pattern of neglect at the Department.

According to a joint statement by UnidosUS and National Urban League: “Kenneth Marcus’ troubling record with regard to enforcing the rights of immigrant students and English learners, and past attempts to undermine critical policies aimed at remedying racial discrimination, including affirmative action. Mr. Marcus [also] has a demonstrated history of hostility toward affirmative action and all race-based remedies to discrimination. He lacks a commitment to enforcing civil rights protections for students of color, and does not believe in disparate-impact or unintentional discrimination. J Street released a statement expressing its concerns with Kenneth Marcus’ nomination, stating that “[s]tudents deserve an assistant secretary who will uphold all of our community’s values and priorities—including support for the fight against sexual violence and all forms of discrimination. We need government officials who will defend women and all those impacted by sexual violence, and who will fight this epidemic on college campuses and in our society. It’s evident that Marcus would be an obstacle and not an ally in this work. His record shows that he is not prepared to take a stand against the many forms of discrimination based on gender, race, sexual identity and disability that harm students today.”

In addition, the following various education, civil and disability rights

groups oppose the nomination: American Association of University Women, AAUW; American Federation of Teachers; American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; Americans for Peace Now; Arab American Institute; Asian Americans Advancing Justice; Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Center for Law and Social Policy, CLASP; Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund; End Rape on Campus; Feminist Majority Foundation; Hispanic Federation; Human Rights Campaign; J Street; Jewish Voices for Peace; Lambda Legal; Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law; The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; League of United Latin American Citizens; Middle East Studies Association of North America; Muslim Advocates; NAACP; NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, NAPE; National Bar Association; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Center for Transgender Equality; National Council of Jewish Women; National Education Association; National Urban League; National Women’s Law Center; Know Your IX; People for American Way; Policy Link; Poverty & Race Research Action Council; Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; Southern Poverty Law Center; TASH; UnidosUS, formerly NCLR; and YWCA USA.

Given the widespread opposition to Mr. Marcus’s nomination, his troubling testimony in support of his confirmation, I cannot support his nomination. I urge my colleagues to likewise oppose it.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

The U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights, OCR, was established to address discrimination that prevents all students from receiving an equal opportunity to learn. No student should experience harmful discrimination because of their race, gender, disability, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Based on Mr. Marcus’s record and performance during his confirmation process, I have no confidence that he is ready to effectively lead OCR and robustly enforce civil rights protections throughout the country. Mr. Marcus’s demonstrated lack of commitment to the mission of OCR and his failure to understand that all children, regardless of citizenship status, have a right to attend public schools, are warning signs that the nominee is not the right person to lead OCR.

Students in Illinois and across the Nation deserve a leader of OCR who will actively investigate and enforce civil rights protections, particularly in cases where there is evidence of systemic discrimination. An unwillingness or inability to address comprehensive,

systemic discrimination in education is disqualifying, and I must oppose Mr. Marcus’s confirmation.●

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The Senator from Kansas.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I want to speak briefly about the National Defense Authorization Act, which will soon be our topic of business.

I compliment the Armed Services Committee for their diligence and their efforts to authorize appropriations for our Armed Forces in a very thoughtful and deliberative manner.

I have submitted several amendments. I want to talk about a particular one to that underlying bill, amendment No. 2269, which is cosponsored by the senior Senator from Kansas, Mr. ROBERTS, as well as Senator GILLIBRAND from New York and the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER from New York.

Our amendment takes the same approach that the committee takes by addressing the Army’s internal process on force structure—to thoughtfully deliberate how and where the Army makes smart investments, which includes the stationing decisions for soldiers and families that have a consequence not only on those soldiers and families but also on the cost of defending our country for decades to come.

Fortunately, both the Department of Defense and the Army are now experiencing a much-needed period of time in which there is growth—opportunities for us to spend additional dollars to defend our Nation. Our Armed Forces are modernizing, and they are increasing their readiness and lethality to be in a position to better deter, confront, and defeat adversaries in a security environment more complex and volatile than possibly anytime in our country’s history, certainly within recent time. During this moment of growth, the Army ought not miss the opportunity to conduct due diligence in all of their decisions and invest wisely to pay down the cost in the future.

The Army is focusing on reform and seeking to maximize the value of every dollar, to operate transparently, and to appropriately use the resources that the Congress has entrusted to them. They are taxpayer dollars. With this focus on reform, transparency, and on using every dollar wisely, this amendment No. 2269 helps the Army maximize the value of every dollar, operate transparently with Congress, and appropriately use the resources entrusted to them.

I have been working with Army staff and senior leadership since February of this year to better understand their process, and I thank them for their efforts and the straightforward conversations we have had during this process.

Based upon our conversations and testimony, my amendment codifies the transparency they are seeking and updates to the Army’s stationing process that will better ensure that the Army

is making wiser decisions, more cost-effective decisions, and are making decisions that are beneficial in the long term.

Stationing decisions are long-term decisions. They will impact the Army for many years to come. If we have learned anything from recent budget cycles, as the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Neller, said before our Appropriations Defense Subcommittee several times, it is that the only certainty is uncertainty.

The Army has the benefit of a growing budget right now, but in future years, there will surely be periods of fiscal stress and uncertainty where smart investments today will be paid forward.

Our intent with the amendment is to support the Army in making decisions based on fair, open, and comprehensive data—particularly long-term cost factors—that will help the Army save dollars in future years. Those savings can be put where they are desperately needed—toward training, supporting our soldiers and their families, sustaining our weapons, and increasing the Army's readiness and lethality.

I appreciate the help I have had from the Armed Services Committee, and I appreciate the chairman, Senator McCAIN, and his staff. I also appreciate very much my colleague from Oklahoma, Senator INHOFE, for his efforts in this regard. I appreciate their interest in my amendment.

I will be happy to respond to any questions my colleagues may have on the merits of this amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### CHINA AND THE STUDENT VISA PROGRAM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I thank my friend from Kansas.

I want to talk a little bit about a hearing I chaired yesterday, a Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration hearing that was called "Student Visa Integrity: Protecting Educational Opportunity and National Security." The point of the hearing was to raise awareness about a very serious issue and to hear from the Federal agencies responsible for our national security, visa policy, and the vetting of foreign nationals studying in the United States.

We hoped to shed light on policies and procedures that are in place, what should be in place but is not, and to address what has become a growing source of concern; that is, foreign countries taking advantage of their international students studying in the United States and turning them into intelligence assets or otherwise using them to gain information that will help other countries grow their economy and their military in a way that undermines U.S. leadership in both of those areas.

That issue relates primarily to China's aggressive plan to surpass the United States on all fronts—militarily, economically, and technologically—

and to do so by whatever means necessary. We already know that China is perhaps the No. 1 abuser of cyber space to steal intellectual property and to use that to advance its economy or its military. They have been very public about their ultimate goal; that is, to use whatever means they need in order to advance their economy or their military.

It is important to remember that China is not a democracy like ours. China is a Communist country guided by a doctrine that does not recognize the human rights or individual rights that we take for granted here in the United States and in other democracies.

They made it very clear what they intend to do. For example, in its "Made in China 2025" strategy, which is something that has been published—you can read it yourself—China is accelerating its efforts to acquire U.S. intellectual property and sensitive research. That is where our universities in particular come in.

Billions of Federal tax dollars—I think it is \$178 billion in the Omnibus appropriations bill alone—are given to universities to conduct research to benefit the American people and hopefully all of humankind. Some of that research is sensitive because it is classified research. We had, for example, the head of security at the Texas A&M University System talk about the steps they have taken to protect that from prying eyes because of the sensitivity of some of that research.

Universities are ground zero in this threat. This past February, Director Christopher Wray testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee in an open hearing about the security risk posed by certain Chinese students, visiting scientists, and scholars at American colleges and universities. His remarks were brief, and because of the sensitive and classified aspects of some part of what he said, he couldn't provide the full context and breadth in that open setting, but what he did say publicly was alarming. He said that the FBI is "watching warily" and that "naivete" was exacerbating the problem. What I think he meant by that is that people were simply unaware and thus unprepared for what was happening. He also made very clear that the Chinese Government was intent on doing whatever it needed to do—whether it is placing intelligence officers or other agents of the Chinese Government on campuses—to get the information they want.

We are fortunate to have the world's top universities and colleges, and they are known for their open research, which fosters collaboration and innovation across a broad array of industry sectors and academic disciplines. One of the crown jewels of our country is our colleges and universities and the research they do, but our openness is also a vulnerability when being exploited by other countries for their own purposes.

What is happening now, Director Wray says, is that foreign actors have taken advantage of that open environment and are using it to study, learn, and acquire sensitive information to the detriment of U.S. national security—and that is what we are primarily talking about here.

It is not an isolated problem. Director Wray said that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is actively monitoring universities in all of its 56 field offices across the country, not just in major cities. Nearly all students and visiting scholars come for legitimate reasons. I take that as a given. We are not talking about everybody; we are talking about the isolated few. But the danger still remains. Most are here to learn and share our culture and to contribute their talents to America.

I tend to think that our colleges and universities are the best elements of our soft power as a nation. When people come here and learn more about us and where we share values, perhaps even take those values back to their home country and serve as someone we can talk to and work with in the future, it promotes world peace, promotes mutual understanding, and, as I said, I think it is one of the most important elements of our soft power as a country.

I am not here suggesting that we ought to conflate Chinese Communist Party influence on all students and academics—far from it. Students from across the world are certainly welcome; we welcome them with open arms to come to study at our colleges and universities, and I encourage them to explore opportunities to do so.

What yesterday's hearing was actually about was not them but a small subset of people we should be concerned about—security risks, those who are here to steal and exploit our intellectual property and our national security and economic advantages, people who don't respect the rule of law as we do when it comes to intellectual property rights.

As the FBI Director said, we can't be naive. This theft is occurring. It has been well documented, and we have to take the necessary preventive measures to ensure that it doesn't continue.

By the way, I have mentioned one country, China, but certainly these concerns are not limited to China. There are more than 5,000 Russian students studying in the United States. There are other countries, including state sponsors of terrorism, like Iran, that have foreign students here, actively working to steal U.S. technology and bypass expensive research and development and exploit the student visa program to gain information that will benefit their countries.

I will just pause for a moment to say that we spend untold amounts of money in this country—taxpayers' hard-earned money—to research and develop the newest, most innovative products. That is true in the military sector and in the nonmilitary sector.

But when the American taxpayer pays to produce the necessary weapons and necessary infrastructure to protect us and our security, and other countries are actively trying to steal it and don't have to pay that research and development cost, we can see the obvious problem.

Yesterday's hearing exposed a bigger problem, and that is the issue of competing global visions. Communist China makes no secret of the fact that Karl Marx is, in effect, their national hero. There was a week-long celebration in China just last month, which included a mandatory study session, led by President Xi, of Marx's famous work, "The Communist Manifesto." Events like this show that China, while a rival, in some ways could be a wolf in sheep's clothing when it comes to its most aggressive tactics, which I mentioned just a moment ago. When it tries to present itself as a westernizing economy and a friend of the global community of nations, China conveniently ignores facts about its alternative development model and its state-controlled economy, the fact that it respects no law in pursuit of those policies. It also disguises and downplays its geopolitical aims—to rewrite the rules of our world order and recreate them in China's own image.

Whether it is China's increasing belligerence in places like the South China Sea, its crushing of internal political dissent, its flagrant human rights violations, or its population controls—like the one-child policy, which I understand has now been relaxed, but parents are not free to have all the children they want. It is controlled by the government; you have to ask the government's permission—China has repeatedly shown itself as a power-hungry authoritarian country, willing and able to violate the rights of its own people and dismissive and contemptuous of international norms and international law.

I don't intend to sound hyperbolic about this, but this is the truth. So let's not deceive ourselves into believing otherwise. That is what Director Christopher Wray of the FBI calls naïveté. Let's not be naïve. Let's be wary when China tries to just blend in internationally. Its rosy rhetoric and misleading narrative of cooperation are often camouflaged for its true and more troubling aims.

We know that there are high-level negotiations between the United States and the Chinese Government on the issue of trade, and that is a good thing.

Madam President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time remaining for the majority.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for one minute to wrap up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I joined a number of other Senators, 27

Senators, to talk about ongoing trade negotiations with China. The main point of the letter was to emphasize that there is no question that China is actively seeking to surpass the United States economically and militarily. It is imperative that neither the Federal Government nor private U.S. companies abet that effort either deliberately or inadvertently.

When it comes to China, national security isn't just a pretext for economic protectionism. It should not be. I, like many of my colleagues, believe strongly in free trade, and we shouldn't use national security as a pretext for economic protection. But the national security concerns are indeed real, for example, in the ZTE matter, which is a subject of some debate—as it should be—and discussion here in the Congress following the negotiation by Secretary Ross of a deal that he is proposing.

For those of us who serve on the Intelligence Committee and on the Armed Services Committee, I assure you, the threat China poses is real, and the dangers we worry about are already taking effect. Our inaction could have only negative consequences, and we need to aim to prevent any future negative consequences for our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak on the nomination of Kenneth Marcus to lead the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, a nomination we are going to vote on in just a few minutes.

First of all, I want to say that I am pleased President Trump and Secretary DeVos have moved away from their original choice for this position. I believe the current Acting Assistant Secretary, Candice Jackson, is unfit for this role and should be removed from her current position, not just because of the callous, insensitive, and egregious comments she made regarding sexual assault on college campuses but also because of the way she has worked to narrow the role of this office and back away from enforcing transgender students' rights and take away the tools and resources it has as an office to protect our students and actually move it away from its core mission. So as I have said before, I am very glad President Trump and Secretary DeVos decided to nominate someone else to replace Ms. Jackson.

Secondly, I want to thank this nominee, Kenneth Marcus, for his service over the years and for his commitment to the goal of halting discrimination on our college campuses, which is certainly an issue the OCR will face in light of incidents of hateful rhetoric and violence occurring on our campuses and in schools.

I respect Mr. Marcus's commitment, but right now, in this administration, it is not enough. We are now just a bit more than 500 days into President Trump's term, and when it comes to his record and his rhetoric on civil rights, I haven't been surprised once.

I want to start with his rhetoric. This is a President who kicked off his campaign by calling Mexicans criminals, who has called for a ban on all Muslims coming to America, who has openly ridiculed a journalist with a disability, who has openly demeaned women, who defended White supremacists rallying in Charlottesville by saying there were "many fine people" among them, who compared immigrants to "animals" and referred to entire countries with an expletive I will not repeat on the Senate floor. Sadly, I can go on.

It goes beyond his hateful rhetoric. President Trump has tried to implement that Muslim ban. He has actually rolled back guidance on enforcing transgender students' rights. He revoked title IX guidance, which protects women and helps bring perpetrators of sexual assault to justice, halted investigations into systemic discrimination, and has pushed his administration to engage in appalling behavior on our border, dehumanizing immigrants and separating kids from their families. That list goes on.

I feel very confident in saying that when it comes to civil rights, when it comes to the rights and safety of women, of people of color, of LGBTQ people, of people with disabilities, this President has purposefully fanned the flames of racism, ableism, bigotry, and sexism in ways that we have not seen in a generation, and anyone who cares about civil rights in America should be able to point that out.

That is why I was so disappointed that President Trump's nominee to lead the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights could not answer one of my questions at his hearing. When I asked Mr. Marcus to name a single example of something President Trump has said or done that he disagrees with when it comes to discrimination or women's rights or civil rights, he couldn't say one—not a single example, and that is all I was looking for.

He could have talked about how President Trump has stoked hatred and division of Muslims and Latinos; maybe he disagreed with that. He could have talked about how President Trump has downplayed hate crimes against minority communities here in America; maybe he could have said he disagreed with that. He could have talked about how President Trump nominated Jeff Sessions to lead his Justice Department, someone with a record of opposing civil rights protections; maybe he disagreed with that. He could have talked about how President Trump named someone hostile to LGBTQ rights to lead the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Health and Human Services; maybe he could have disagreed with that. He could have talked about any of the ways President Trump has tried to weaken and has actually weakened the office Mr. Marcus is nominated to lead; maybe he disagreed with that. Unfortunately, in this administration, there is

almost no end to the options Mr. Marcus had when I asked him a simple question, but we do not know where he stands because he wouldn't name a single thing—not one.

He said: "I really couldn't say, Senator." That was his response to my question.

There are reasons to oppose this nomination, but for me, this non-response to what should be an easy question was enough for me. We have to have someone in this position who is not only able to say that he disagrees with President Trump when it comes to civil rights; we need someone who is prepared to stand up to him. We need someone who is not only able to say they stand on the side of civil rights in the face of constant attacks; we need someone who is actually willing to disagree with their bosses—President Trump and Secretary DeVos—when civil rights are being threatened. But Mr. Marcus could not commit to me that he would do either, and that is something I simply cannot support.

I will be opposing this nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Thank you.

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.

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

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

Mrs. MURRAY. We yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Marcus nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Boozman	Cassidy
Barrasso	Burr	Collins
Blunt	Capito	Corker

Cornyn	Hoever	Risch
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Roberts
Crapo	Inhofe	Rounds
Cruz	Isakson	Rubio
Daines	Johnson	Sasse
Enzi	Kennedy	Scott
Ernst	Lankford	Shelby
Fischer	Lee	Sullivan
Flake	McConnell	Thune
Gardner	Moran	Tillis
Graham	Murkowski	Toomey
Grassley	Paul	Wicker
Hatch	Perdue	Young
Heller	Portman	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Jones	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Leahy	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Udall
Donnelly	McCaskill	Van Hollen
Durbin	Menendez	Warner
Feinstein	Merkley	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Harris	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Nelson	
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—4

Blumenthal	Duckworth
Coons	McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS— H.R. 5515

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5515; further, that the motion be agreed to and Senator INHOFE—myself—or his designee be recognized to offer the substitute amendment, No. 2282, which is the text of the Senate-reported bill. I further ask that it be in order for Senator BOOZMAN or his designee to call up amendment No. 2276 and for Senator REED or his designee to call up amendment No. 2284 and that the amendments be debated concurrently, with the time equally divided until 2 p.m.; finally, that at 2 p.m., the Senate vote in relation to the Boozman and Reed amendments, in the order listed, with no second-degree amendments in order to the amendments prior to the votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, two bedrock principles of American jurisprudence are the presumption of innocence and the right to have a trial by jury. I have one amendment that I would ask unanimous consent be included in this bill. This amendment would ensure that no American would ever be held indefinitely in prison without having a trial by jury. I can't imagine why we can't have this. One Republican Senator has been blocking this for 6 years.

I object to this unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we allow my amendment to be heard and voted on in the upcoming bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma has the floor.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first of all, I agree with Senator PAUL's amendment and have agreed with his amendment, and I have made it very clear for a long period of time. Procedurally, I want to get to it, and it is my intention to have a vote on it. That will have to come after we are on the bill. We need to get on the bill first.

So I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5515. I further ask that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5515 at 1:45 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### HONORING NEBRASKA'S SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise to continue my tribute to Nebraska's heroes and the current generation of men and women who have given their lives while defending our freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each of these Nebraskans has a powerful story of answering the call to serve.

#### SERGEANT FIRST CLASS TRICIA JAMESON

Today I honor the life of Nebraska Army National Guard SFC Tricia Jameson.

Tricia grew up in St. Paul, which is a small town in central Nebraska's farm country. She had a love for animals and wanted to pursue a career as a veterinarian. Tricia usually kept to herself and was not outspoken, but she displayed great determination when something was important to her.

In elementary school, upon learning that she and other young girls could not play organized softball, she started a letter-writing campaign to change the rules. The community soon took notice and revised the policy to include girls her age. When her friend took his own life because he was picked on at school, Tricia again took up her pen and wrote a letter that was published in a local newspaper, whereby she condemned bullying and honored the life of her friend. She advocated for what is right and how others should be treated. In looking back, it seems obvious that her selfless spirit would, one day, lead her to serve her country.

Tricia attended St. Paul High School, where she was a determined athlete. She participated in volleyball and set athletic records that still stand to this day. Her family then moved to Omaha. She spent her senior year at Millard South High School and graduated in 1989.

Like many young people, Tricia saw the benefits of joining the National Guard as it could provide extra income and help her with her college tuition. She joined in 1994. It didn't take long before her grit and determination caught the eye of her superiors. They rewarded her with a promotion to become a full-time training instructor at Camp Ashland.

As combat intensified in Afghanistan and Iraq, so too did the need to improve battlefield medical knowledge. Sergeant Jameson was assigned to improve the combat lifesaver course. The course teaches soldiers basic medical skills for application on the battlefield. With the same dogged determination that was evident throughout her life, Sergeant Jameson raised the program into a world-class operation. Hundreds of soldiers who learned from Tricia in that program would go on to save lives on battlefields across the world.

In 2005 Nebraska's 313th Medical Company needed to replace two soldiers. So it reached back to Nebraska for volunteers, and when her country called for her service, Sergeant Jameson eagerly stepped forward. She quickly got her personal affairs in order and was sent to her deployment training. By June of 2005, she was in Iraq and on duty with the 313th Medical Company at Camp Speicher. Her impact was felt immediately as the camp was stretched thin to support combat operations in northern and western Iraq.

Staff Sergeant Jameson's first mission on the road was a long one. She was the vehicle commander of an M997 ambulance that was headed to Trebil, near the Jordan border. Staff Sergeant Jameson and her battle buddy, SPC

Rachelle Spors, had just left with a convoy when an urgent call came to help marines who had been injured in combat a few miles away. Without hesitation, Tricia was speeding toward the battlefield to attend the fallen when their field ambulance was struck by an IED. That day, Tricia gave her life while serving her country.

The Nebraska Prairie Soldier newspaper wrote of Tricia's service: "Hundreds of family, friends, veterans group members, state governmental leaders and uniformed co-workers flooded into St. Bridget Catholic Church in Omaha, to help lay a fallen hero to rest."

Her name and reputation live on as soldiers save lives, just as she did, on the battlefield.

For her service to our Nation, SFC Tricia Jameson earned many military decorations, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star, posthumously.

Today I ask that we take a minute to remember Tricia and her selfless spirit.

I wish to thank her family, her mother Pat, and her brother Rob, who share their own heroic burden. SFC Tricia Jameson loved her family. She embodied the pride of her State and the values of our Nation. I am honored to tell her story.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we vote right now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 442, H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities at the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Todd Young, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, Johnny Isakson, Joni Ernst, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, James E. Risch, Tom Cotton, Dan Sullivan, Mike Crapo, Roger F. Wicker, John Thune, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to

proceed to H.R. 5515, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 92, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Leg.]

#### YEAS—92

Alexander	Gardner	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blumenthal	Harris	Portman
Blunt	Hassan	Reed
Booker	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heinrich	Roberts
Brown	Heitkamp	Rounds
Burr	Heller	Rubio
Cantwell	Hirono	Sasse
Capito	Hoeven	Schatz
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Carper	Inhofe	Scott
Casey	Isakson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Jones	Smith
Corker	Kaine	Stabenow
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	King	Tester
Cotton	Klobuchar	Thune
Crapo	Lankford	Tillis
Cruz	Leahy	Toomey
Daines	Lee	Udall
Donnelly	Manchin	Van Hollen
Durbin	Markey	Warner
Enzi	McCaskill	Warren
Ernst	McConnell	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Menendez	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young
Flake	Murphy	

#### NAYS—4

Merkley	Sanders
Paul	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—4

Coons	McCain
Duckworth	Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 92, the nays are 4.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Mississippi.

#### RECOGNIZING SEERSUCKER THURSDAY

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today to comment about the economy, but I want to observe that I am proudly wearing a seersucker suit today. I would mention to my colleagues that Senators have worn seersucker suits for decades, for literally centuries, on this Senate floor.

This is officially Seersucker Thursday in the Senate—a tradition that was begun by my predecessor, the former majority leader, Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, and has been carried on until today by the senior Senator from Louisiana, Mr. CASSIDY. It is a time for those of us who choose to humble ourselves and call attention to ourselves at the same time to have a little fun in a bipartisan manner and to recall the days of old, before there was air conditioning and before we worried so much about how we looked.

I thank Senator CASSIDY for getting a bipartisan group together to have a little fun and remember the days of old, when a lot of folks wore seersucker suits.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS

Mr. President, we ought to be smiling today because the economy is doing so well. The economy is strong and getting stronger. We have 1 million more jobs in America than we had 6 months ago. Last month, we added a quarter of a million jobs in just 1 month. We have a 3.8-percent unemployment rate—an excellent report, the lowest in 18 years. So I am glad to rise this afternoon and say a word or two on the occasion of the 500th day of the Trump administration and of a Republican Congress. We seem to be doing things right. I hope the American people are recognizing that.

The May jobs report was full of good news. Beyond the 3.8-percent unemployment rate, which I have already mentioned, the number of long-term unemployed—those out of work for 27 weeks or longer—has dropped. Wages are on the rise. These are markers of a strong, energized economy.

Let me quote the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times. The Wall Street Journal recently ran an editorial entitled, “The Rising Jobs Tide.” It points out how much has changed for the better over the last year and a half. There are 3 million more full-time workers than we had when this administration began. More than 2.5 million jobs have been added. More than 2 million of these jobs are occupied by Americans between the ages of 25 and 34.

The editorial concludes: “In the last year business confidence has improved, investment is increasing and workers are reaping the benefits.”

Those are American workers who are reaping the benefits, and I am pleased to rise this afternoon and agree with the Wall Street Journal.

I also want to give a shout-out to the New York Times, which is something I haven’t made a habit of doing on the Senate floor. The New York Times said that they have run out of words to describe how good this economy is. There is widespread acknowledgement of this, and I think it is a result of the things this Congress has been trying to do, the things this administration has been trying to do and succeeding in doing, putting policies in place that are de-

signed to create jobs and make it easier on job creators, and they are having a powerful impact.

I am proud of things we have done, like the historic tax cuts—lower taxes. This has meant that middle-class families have more money to live the lives they want to live. This has meant that job creators are not losing out to foreign competition. This has meant that we have ushered in bonuses for some 4 million Americans. Minimum wages are going up from company to company. Energy bills are lower.

Speaking of energy, we are producing a lot more energy now, and I am proud to have been part of that. I am proud to have been part of the vote that allows us to explore energy in a very small part of Alaska called the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, something our distinguished colleague Senator Stevens stood for and worked for tirelessly when he was alive and when he was a Member of this body.

Support for our troops and our veterans has increased. After years of defense sequestration—which Secretary Mattis said harmed our national security more than an enemy could have—we have ended that, and the military is finally getting the money it needs to be prepared. This means a modernized force. It means statutory recognition that we are going to get to a 355-ship fleet that can respond to complex challenges around the world.

Just recently we passed the VA MIS- SION Act, which allows us to continue to improve options and healthcare choices for our veterans.

We rolled back one of the major problems that existed with ObamaCare. We didn’t get it all done, but we did roll back the individual mandate—the law that required free Americans to buy a product or pay a big tax whether they wanted to or not. We were able to do that as part of the tax cut legislation, and I am proud that we took this penalty off the backs of hard-working middle-class Americans.

We rolled back a ton of regulations. We have used the Congressional Review Act and actually started doing that on January 20, 2017, the first day of the Trump administration. We passed 16 Congressional Review Act regulations and put them on the President’s desk that first day to repeal harmful, burdensome, well-intended but job-killing regulations that had come forward in the last days of the Obama administration.

We passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act to provide relief for our small banks, for our community banks, so we are not treating them like some New York bank or some of the largest banks in the country. We freed up the small banks to have a little more ability to loan money to job creators, to small business people seeking to borrow funds and expand their workforce, to allow families to get a loan just a little bit easier with a little bit less regulation so that they can lead the kinds of lives they have wanted to.

We passed legislation to fight opioid abuse. We are not through in that regard. We know we still have a problem. If it were easy, we would have solved it a long time ago, but we are tackling that, and we are accomplishing good things and getting good results.

This is a great economy. The New York Times says so. The Wall Street Journal says so. I think Middle America says so when we are back at home going from county to county, having our town meetings and speaking to our constituents.

We are determined to bear down this summer. We have canceled the August break, and I congratulate the leadership for doing that because we have a lot of things yet to do.

We have a defense bill to pass. We are on it now, and we are going to be on it hopefully with amendments and meaningful improvements next week. Additionally, we are going to pass a farm bill. We are going to pass an FAA reauthorization. We are going to pass legislation strengthening our water infrastructure. For the first time in a long time, our goal—our fervent belief—is that we can get back to the practice of passing our spending bills in regular order and avoiding this last-minute, end-of-the-year omnibus process. Nobody on either side of the aisle likes that process, unless you are one of the one or two people in the room writing those bills, which the President has correctly denounced, and which the American people do not understand.

So we are going to get back to regular order, take these bills one or two or three at a time and put them through the regular process like we are supposed to do.

In addition to that, I hope we have an opportunity to continue confirming conservative judges at the rate we have been. Over one-eighth of the circuit court of appeals is now comprised of new conservative judges, appointed by President Trump and confirmed by the Senate in the last year and a half.

So I am proud of this 500-day process. I am proud of our accomplishments. I am proud to give this interim report and to say we need to resolve to keep it up and build on this great record that has given us the lowest unemployment rate in decades and the most Americans working ever in the history of our Republic.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

#### NATIONAL SEERSUCKER DAY

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise to address two separate topics. Let me begin with National Seersucker Day.

Senator WICKER started and I spoke a little bit earlier about celebrating National Seersucker Day. It is a bipartisan tradition to celebrate an American tradition that started in New Orleans. Anyone who has been in New Orleans in July and August can understand why you would like a lightweight summer suit.

I was asked today by a reporter: Why would you continue the seersucker tradition?

I was thinking, wait a second. Why wouldn't you wear a lightweight suit on a summer's day as opposed to a wool suit? It just makes such sense. But sometimes such sense is in short supply here in Washington, DC.

On the other hand, it is something in which both parties, folks from all regions of our country, participate. It started in New Orleans when Joseph Haspel developed seersucker. It is a lightweight suit. It is, if you will, a lighthearted tradition, but it is one that celebrates an aspect of our country and how something in one part of our country can be adopted by folks elsewhere to the benefit of all.

Once again, I say happy Seersucker Day to everyone, and if you wish to join my office in wearing seersucker every day throughout the summer, you can similarly be comfortable on a hot summer's day here in Washington, DC.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, let me now address something that is on the topmost of Americans' minds, and that is the high cost of healthcare. It is important for our country, for our States, and it is important for families sitting around their kitchen tables. We have to lower healthcare costs. We have to do something about the high price of medicine.

Just some examples of the importance of this issue: Medicare actuaries just this week issued a report that the Medicare trust fund—that trust fund which pays the benefits for the senior citizen on Medicare going to see her physician, going to the hospital. It pays the hospital. That trust fund will effectively be exhausted in 8 years. In 8 years, the Medicare trust fund we have all been paying into will be exhausted. In part, that is related to the high cost of medicine, the high cost of drugs. We must do something about that.

It is not just those on Medicare; it is also those in the individual market. In Louisiana, if you are 60 years old with a family and you are not getting a subsidy through ObamaCare and you want to go into the individual market, your policy, plus deductible and copay, can be up to \$50,000 a year, after-tax dollars.

Think about this: You are making \$150,000, but your after-tax expense for your insurance, deductible, copay, pharmaceutical costs, et cetera, is about \$50,000 before your insurance kicks in.

The Washington Post thought I was exaggerating. They went down and interviewed somebody in Louisiana. They said: He is right—it really would cost you about \$50,000.

The high cost of healthcare and the high cost of drugs impact the Medicare trust fund. It impacts individuals. It also impacts States.

If you look at State budget after State budget that is struggling to make ends meet, inevitably a major expense, which has grown over time, is

Medicaid. States do all sorts of machinations in order to decrease their State's cost of maintaining their Medicaid Program, but despite all those little tricks they do—which, by the way, cost the Federal taxpayers more—still, Medicaid gobbles up more and more of a State's budget. Consequently, one of the reasons college tuition has risen so much—and along with it, the amount of money college students have to borrow to get through even State universities—is that the amount of State general fund dollars going for State university support has declined as Medicaid expenditures have risen.

So whether it is Medicare, Medicaid, or the individual family, rising healthcare costs are significant.

One more thing I should say about families. From 2007 to 2014, the amount middle-income families have had to spend on healthcare has risen by 25 percent even though the amount they have had to spend on other things has fallen. So we have to decrease the cost of drugs and the cost of healthcare.

We did have a bill earlier this year that had been negotiated between Senator ALEXANDER, Senator MURRAY, Senator COLLINS, and Senator NELSON—two Democrats, two Republicans—that would have lowered premiums for those in the individual market and done many other things. For example, there was a Federal reinsurance program that could have lowered premiums by as much as 40 percent, I am told, in terms of this year. If you are getting sticker shock—in a few months or right now—as regards what your next insurance premiums are going to be, this would have lowered that increase dramatically. For those getting short-term, limited-duration policies, it would have put guardrails on those policies to make sure they were good policies. It would have helped young people get back into an insurance market they had been priced out of. It would have given States flexibility on how to implement various programs—again, with the goal to lower insurance costs. It was a bipartisan bill.

By the way, whenever I hear one of my Democratic colleagues stand up and say “We have to do something about healthcare,” I then ask “Why did you object and oppose a bipartisan bill you helped negotiate that would have lowered premiums?” You can see it. It is not me saying it; it is actually the Democratic Party that stood up and said, on the procedural motion to proceed—can we move to a vote on this bill?—that got up and said: No. No, we do not want this bill that will lower premiums for the American people.

What I am saying is not opinion; it can be found on YouTube, on C-SPAN. It was a bipartisan bill which they helped negotiate and which they subsequently objected to, preferring that the American people pay higher premiums, I suppose, so that they would have a campaign issue to talk about.

So whenever one of my Democratic colleagues gets up and talks about the

high cost of healthcare, it begs the question: Why did you oppose the bipartisan bill that would have lowered premiums this year? It is a question the American people should be asking.

On the other hand—I am personally working on this—we just put out an 8-page white paper on what we as a nation can do to lower healthcare costs and to decrease the cost of medications. There are several things in there.

One is to adopt the bipartisan legislation which we thought we had agreement on but which was subsequently opposed by those who had negotiated the bipartisan agreement on the Democratic side.

Second is price transparency. Can you imagine this: If you go and get an x ray that your doctor orders or you go to buy medicine, you would actually know the price of that medicine or the price of that x ray before you go in, and if the price is too high, you would be able to comparatively shop and go someplace where it is less expensive. We do it for jeans. We do it for cell phones. We do it for cars. We should be able to do it for healthcare.

By the way, you probably know I am a gastroenterologist, a physician. I spent 30 years in the healthcare system. This can happen, and it does happen. I am told by a GI friend of mine that in North Carolina, Blue Cross of North Carolina will publish the cost of a colonoscopy. He is a lower cost, higher quality provider, and he gets folks coming from as far as 50 miles away for their colonoscopy, to his facility, because folks look online and see that it is a lower cost and that the quality is great. It can work.

One more thing on how this works. We ask that you ban gag clauses. Right now, some pharmacy benefit managers will tell a pharmacist that she or he cannot tell the patient that it is cheaper to pay cash for their prescription than to pay their insurance copay. The pharmacist could tell them, but the pharmacist is not allowed to because if the pharmacist tells them they would save money by paying cash instead of going through their insurance, the pharmacist would lose that contract with that pharmacy benefit manager. That is wrong. The patient should have the power. If the patient has the power, we lower drug costs, and we lower healthcare costs.

We have many other ideas in this paper, and we invite people to go to the website [Cassidy.senate.gov](http://Cassidy.senate.gov) to see this. We would like feedback. We hope that eventually it will be bipartisan. In the meantime, we will continue to work, as will my Republican colleagues, on how we can lower costs on medicine, lower the cost of drugs, and make it easier for those families sitting around the kitchen tables to meet their bills.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, earlier this year, the Commerce Department found the Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE guilty of persistently and willfully violating U.S. sanctions laws on North Korea and Iran. That is a pretty serious offense for a large company to commit. It found that the company then repeatedly lied about it and went to great lengths to cover it up.

In response, as we should, across party lines, our government took action and put a series of strict export and transaction prohibitions on ZTE in mid-April of this year. We did what we should do. A large international company—it happened to be Chinese in this case—broke the law, broke a serious law on sanctions and then lied about what it did, so we took action.

It is pretty galling to learn that early this morning, the Commerce Department announced yet another agreement with the Chinese telecommunications giant to enable it to interact with U.S. companies. They committed that kind of offense, then they lied about that kind of offense, and now we are saying: It is OK. You can come back into our country and do business with us.

What gives here? We can't allow a Chinese company or a company anywhere—I mean, I am not picking on China in this case, but China is a country we have had difficulty with. It is habitually breaking international trade laws and seems to have as much trouble with the truth as some people in the White House have. Yet we have allowed this Chinese company to violate U.S. law time and again, to lie about it time and again and get away with it. By turning a blind eye to ZTE's blatant violations, the Trump administration is putting Chinese jobs ahead of American jobs, putting Chinese national interests over America's national security. Why in the world would we do that?

ZTE is a Chinese company best known for making cheap smartphones, mostly sold in developing countries, although it also sells them here. That is important. It means a company that knowingly breaks U.S. laws could have control over information people have on their phones.

It is bad enough that we send this message: OK, you broke the law. That is bad enough. Then you lied about it. You broke serious international law, sanctions laws that protect our national security in part and protect the world from these countries—countries such as North Korea and Iran, which are bad actors. You broke the law by helping them, breaking sanctions laws, and then you lied about it. That is bad enough. Now we are not only not penalizing them, we are giving them an advantage when these companies could

have control over information people have on their phones.

This company that cheated isn't a company that makes cars; this is a company that makes telecommunications equipment that can be used in an insidious sort of way against our own people. This could have real national security implications if that information is abused. As we have seen with recent revelations about Facebook giving Chinese telecom giants access to its data, private firms are not always careful with how they manage people's private lives and private data.

The administration's new agreement with ZTE reportedly emerged from direct discussions between President Trump and the President of China. I can't even imagine what those discussions must have been. Think about what the President of China had to defend, what his country did, what his company did. Yet the President of the United States was willing to say: Oh, we will forgive it. We are not really worried. We love you. We love your country. We love this company—even though it is prioritizing Chinese jobs over American jobs, and it is prioritizing Chinese national security interests over America's national security interests.

In a nutshell, America's national security must not be used as a bargaining chip in negotiations. I don't know if the President, talking to the President of China, said: OK, we will do this for you, and you did this for us. Whatever the "you did this for us"—I don't know whether it means the President's business or the President personally or whether "us" means America's national interests, but I have not seen any of America's national interests that are getting favored in this whole transaction.

Trading American sanctions enforcement to promote jobs in China is a bad deal for American workers and a very bad deal for the security of all Americans.

Let's look at how we got here. Last year in March, ZTE agreed to a combined civil and criminal penalty and forfeiture of \$1.2 billion after illegally shipping telecommunications equipment to Iran and North Korea, in direct violation of U.S. sanctions laws. They made false statements and obstructed justice.

I am not a lawyer. I understand that this is serious stuff—shipping telecommunications equipment to Iran and North Korea, which are two really bad actors in the world, two countries that virtually everybody on this Senate floor has spoken out against at one time or another. It violated U.S. sanctions laws—laws that this Senate passed close to unanimously. They made false statements. They obstructed justice. Then the Commerce Department determined that ZTE then lied about its crimes. How does it get more serious than that?

Commerce Secretary Ross said recently—the Commerce Secretary ap-

pointed by the President, Secretary Ross. I know him well. I like some of the things he has done, particularly in Cleveland. He said: "ZTE made false statements to the U.S. Government when they were originally caught and put on the Entity List, made false statements during the reprieve it was given, and made false statements again during its probation."

At least the company is consistent: They lie during this part of the process, and they lie during that part of the process, and then they lie during that part of the process. So we know that about this company's character.

These false statements covered up the fact that ZTE paid full bonuses to employees who had engaged in illegal conduct, and failed to issue letters of reprimand.

They break the law. They lie and lie. Then they give bonuses to the executives who lie. How much more can this company grind Americans' faces in the dirt as they lie, cheat, and steal, and then the American President, in a face-to-face meeting with China, says: It is OK. We don't mind. I speak for the American people. Do it again.

It fundamentally says: If you grind Americans' faces in this muck after all that China has done and this company has done to America's national interests and then you say "We are not going to punish you," it pretty much says you are free to do it again.

Secretary Ross said:

ZTE misled the Department of Commerce. Instead of reprimanding ZTE staff and senior management, ZTE rewarded them. This egregious behavior cannot be ignored.

The President's Secretary of Commerce has said that we can't ignore it. He has said that they cheated, they broke the law, they lied, they lied again, and they lied again. They rewarded those lies and gave bonuses to those who lied. They never reprimanded them. That is what the President's Secretary of Commerce is saying. Then the President said: It is OK. It is OK. We don't mind. We will get something else for this.

That is why this spring, after Ross's comments, the Department of Commerce issued a law enforcement decision imposing a broad denial of export privileges on ZTE for its repeated violations of U.S. sanctions and export control laws.

These denial orders are law enforcement actions. Any changes to them should be decided independently. But that ain't happening here. The President is overruling a law enforcement decision—as he criticizes the FBI almost daily—made in the interests of America's national security, in part by people appointed to their offices by the President of the United States. He didn't just appoint the FBI Director; he didn't just select his Vice President; he appointed Mr. Wilbur Ross as his Secretary of Commerce. The Secretary of Commerce is saying, fundamentally: Mr. President, don't do this. This company needs to be punished.

Again, the President overrules a law enforcement decision made in the interests of America's national security, all in order to save jobs. That is at least a reason, but the problem with that is that the jobs saved are in China. They are not in Mansfield, OH. They are not in Cleveland, OH. They are not in Shreveport, LA, the Presiding Officer's home State. They are not in Toledo, OH. Think about that. The administration looks the other way for a company that broke the law, that threatened national security, and is doing it to protect jobs in Communist China, in the People's Republic of China. It defies all odds.

Can you imagine China saying: You know, I think we are going to hurt our national security so we can put some more jobs in Akron, OH. We are going to compromise our workers' interests so we can put more jobs in Zanesville, OH. It is OK that China is going to get a little hurt so we can get some more jobs in Chillicothe, OH.

I don't think they think that way. They do everything in their power. They steal our technology. They undermine our industries. They put our companies out of business. And then we do this. The only person I know who wants to do this is the President of the United States. The Secretary of Commerce doesn't like this decision. I am sure the FBI doesn't like this decision. I have yet to meet a Republican or Democratic Senator who says: Attaboy, Mr. President. Undermine our national interests. Protect Chinese jobs over jobs in Harrisburg or jobs in Ann Arbor or jobs in Madison, WI, or jobs in Atlanta, GA.

America's policies toward China—it might be an interesting idea to put Americans first, that our policies toward China should put our country first. That is what China does in reverse. That is why Congress needs to push back on this decision by the President and address it directly as soon as possible. The National Defense Authorization Act offers a chance to do that.

Senator VAN HOLLEN inserted language into the CFIUS bill which received overwhelming support from both parties when we marked it up in the Banking Committee 2 weeks ago. That legislation is now in this Defense bill. With the settlement agreement announced by Commerce, that legislation will require some change, some tweaking, to make sure that it covers what the administration has already done and at the same time prevents the President from moving forward with this agreement. Senator COTTON, a conservative Republican; Senator VAN HOLLEN, a progressive Democrat; Senator CRAPO, a Republican and the chairman of the Banking Committee; and I, a Democrat and the ranking member of the Banking Committee, pressed for an amendment that would do that.

This bipartisan amendment would send a clear signal to the White House

and, more importantly, would send a clear signal to the world that we don't agree with that behavior. It would send a clear signal that Congress disapproves of this most recent agreement.

It is inexplicable. Unless the President has some personal reason for doing this—unless it makes the President's business more profitable, unless it puts money in the pocket of his family or himself—and I am not accusing him because I just don't know—I can't figure out what all of this means. Why would you side with Chinese workers over American workers? Why would you side with Chinese national security over our domestic security?

I can't figure out why you would unroll, unspool, a decision by your own Cabinet member to punish this company for breaking the law once, twice, three times with Iran and North Korea, for lying about it once, twice, three times, and for giving rewards to those company officials who broke the law and then lied about it. I can't think of any other explanation as to why a President of the United States would possibly make a decision like that unless it was in his own, personal financial interest.

This bipartisan amendment would send a clear signal that Congress disapproves of that, so I urge my colleagues to support the Van Hollen-Cotton amendment.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ED SCHOENFELD

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday, and that means it is the afternoon when I get to talk about someone in my State who is doing a great job for the State, and oftentimes for the country—someone who is really making a difference. As the Presiding Officer and the pages know, I like to refer to this person as the "Alaskan of the Week." It is one of my favorite parts of the week in the Senate, being able to talk about someone who has made a real difference.

When I give this speech every week, I like to talk about what is going on in Alaska. It is a beautiful State. It is the biggest State—we all know that—in the country. The State is fully in bloom. Its tourists are flocking north by the tens of thousands to view the wildlife, glaciers, mountains, to eat our delicious seafood, take in amazing views through hikes, and have an adventure.

I want to make sure that everyone who is watching in the Galleries or on TV on C-SPAN—you have to come to Alaska. You will have the trip of a lifetime, guaranteed. Come on up.

What is truly impressive about my State is the people who live there and

the sense of community we have there. Alaska isn't always the easiest place to live. It is far from the lower 48 States. The weather can be extreme, but, as a result, the people in the communities bond, and they work together, particularly in some of our most remote communities. We are one big community in Alaska, even though our State is so big.

Every community in Alaska and America needs to be able to share reliable, credible information. On that topic, there has been quite a lot of negative attention paid to the national media, in particular, these past few years. Some of it is merited; nobody is perfect, right? But the vital role of local journalism and how that plays in different communities across our country haven't been talked about nearly enough. We all know this, and in many ways we all benefit from the thousands of local reporters who are working in our country, day in and day out, reporting great factfinding stories and working hard. I believe we should all be saluting them for doing this important work, and that is what we are doing here today.

I would like to introduce Ed Schoenfeld, a reporter in Alaska who is our Alaskan of the Week and who has been reliably reporting the news from Southeast Alaska for 37 years. He recently took a well-earned retirement. Well done, Ed. You are our Alaskan of the Week.

Let me talk a little bit about him. He hitchhiked to Fairbanks when he was 20 years old for a little trip, and as so many do, he promised himself that when he had the opportunity, he would go back to Alaska. That opportunity came in 1979 when the program director position opened up in the public broadcasting station KTOO in Juneau, AK.

Now, Alaska public radio was and still is, in many ways, renowned across the country for its local reporting and for its crucial link to rural communities who need that reporting throughout our State—and need it badly. Interestingly, I think, because of the challenges it presents to reporters, some of National Public Radio's most famous reporters nationally—NPR's most famous reporters—have all cut their teeth in Alaska. So some of the people listening probably heard of Peter Kenyon, Corey Flintoff, Elizabeth Arnold. These are kind of the big dogs at NPR right now. Well, they all got their start in Alaska.

So public radio is where Alaskans throughout my State get their news about the weather, about whale hunts, about bear attacks, about births, deaths, crimes, baptism, good works, bad deeds, and you name it; that is where we get our information. In smaller communities, this information could be critical. Because public radio stations across Alaska work cooperatively, they always pretty much keep it local.

So, from KTOO, Ed went to the newsroom of the Juneau Empire, where he

stayed for 18 years. That is the big paper in Juneau. For the last 15 years, he has been one of the voices of Southeast Alaska on CoastAlaska, a public broadcasting consortium of five local communities. His nickname is “dean of the Douglas press corps.” Now, this is a bit of a joke, not toward him but just what “Douglas” means. Douglas is an island of about 3,000 people.

As the Juneau Empire put it, Ed has earned the professorial status of the dean of the press corps. That status came about because of the dozens and dozens of reporters he has trained and mentored throughout the years, and that is a great legacy.

Of course, he also takes his work very seriously. He has done plenty of lighthearted features about equestrians in Wrangell, exploring caves in the Tongass National Forest, which is the largest national forest in the country.

There are also deeper dives, as you would expect from a serious journalist. He has won an investigative journalism award about allegations of corruption related to a State contract. He has covered our important businesses extensively. There is nobody who has done more digging into an issue that I and my fellow Alaskans care deeply about—particularly in Southeast—and that is what we call the transboundary mining issue—mining waste that comes from mines in Canada into Alaska's waters. Ed has focused on that more than any other reporter, and it is an issue that, as I mentioned, many of us take very seriously. Transboundary mining is complex. Ed has traveled both in Canada and Alaska to the communities that are impacted by this pollution. He has spoken to everyone—community leaders, fishermen, government officials, environmentalists, mining companies, tourism businesses—and what he ultimately came to on this subject is that our concerns about this pollution are legitimate, but unlike some are saying, not all mines are bad—certainly not in Alaska. We have a number of mines, and certainly some are trying to do the right thing. It is more complicated than what the critics often say, says Ed. That is the way it is on most stories, and that is why we need good reporters.

So many issues are complicated. We can get so frustrated with the kind of simplistic “he said, she said” reporting that gets in the papers or on TV today, but good reporters, as we all know, dig much deeper. They cut through the propaganda. They lay out all the facts and facets of an issue and, in many ways, they let us decide. They recognize the people who are listening are intelligent, and they try and help us figure out the importance of some of these big issues. These are the kind of reporters we need in every community. These are the kind of reporters who I think are critical for our democracy.

So now Ed will spend more time with his wife—also a former reporter—Betsy and his two daughters, Elizabeth and Maggie. I am sorry to see him, as I am

sure most Alaskans are, hang up his dean's robe. I know his colleagues are sad, but there will be others who follow in his footsteps, others he has mentored—young, eager reporters who want to inform their community, reliably report the news and facts, and of course there is no better place to do that than in Alaska.

So, Ed, thanks for all of your 37 years of hard work for our great State, and congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week. Your voice will be missed.

Mr. President, as you know right now, we are debating on the Senate floor the National Defense Authorization Act, and I want to congratulate Senator INHOFE, my good friend from Oklahoma and the acting chairman of the Armed Services Committee. I also certainly want to congratulate Senator MCCAIN, whom we are all praying for, who is struggling with some health issues right now, who is the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island, the ranking member on the Armed Services Committee, for the great work they have done shepherding this very important piece of legislation through the committee process. Now we have it on the floor, and we are debating it. It is certainly one of the most important pieces of legislation we bring to the Senate floor every year.

It is over 50 years, without missing 1 year, we have moved the NDAA bill, which authorizes funding and policies for the men and women in our military, through the Senate floor. So there are a bunch of things in this bill that are very important for our troops, for the national defense of our Nation. By the way, it is a very bipartisan bill, just like it was last year. So we are going to be discussing this for the next week, and hopefully people watching back home or here in Washington will get a sense of just how important this legislation is.

What I want to do this afternoon is talk about two provisions my team and I authored in this bill. They are two provisions that are very important, as the President of the United States and his team head to Singapore for the summit that the world is watching with the dictator of North Korea, Kim Jong Un. I wanted to highlight two key sections because what they are meant to do is strengthen the President's hand and the leverage of the United States as the leaders of our country move into these negotiations with a very unpredictable dictator whom, in my view, we can't trust at all. Nevertheless, what we are trying to do is bolster the President's hand in these negotiations, and we are all cautiously optimistic that something positive can come out of this summit.

So what are these two provisions? The first provision deals with strengthening America's missile defense, and the second one focuses on the status of U.S. military forces on the Korean Peninsula. What I would like to do first is talk about the missile defense provisions in the NDAA this year.

Now, as this chart shows, Kim Jong Un has dramatically increased testing for North Korea's missile program and nuclear program. If you look at what happened under his grandfather Kim Il Sung and his father Kim Jong Il, the current leader of North Korea has dramatically increased both the testing on intercontinental ballistic missiles, nuclear missiles, and nuclear weapons.

Fortunately—and I think the American people want this—we have seen this threat coming. A number of us have seen this threat coming. So that is why, in last year's national defense authorization, we had a bill—my office authored it, but we had many cosponsors, both Democrats and Republicans—to significantly enhance our Nation's missile defense. That passed in the NDAA. It was fully funded by the end of the year—almost \$5 billion to increase missile defense for our Nation.

What it did is it increased capacity, building new fields of missiles that can shoot down any incoming missiles. It increased capability, which would mean accelerating technology for multiple warheads on top of each missile to again increase our ability to shoot down any incoming missile, and it required more testing by the Missile Defense Agency so we can perfect the regional and homeland missile defenses we have in the United States. That is big progress. It is already happening, and of course that is really important, given the threat we now face as a country.

As Alaska's Senator, I am proud of the fact that a lot—actually most—of our Nation's missile defense is located in the great State of Alaska. This is simply physics. This is physics and location, location, location. If there is going to be a threat from either Iran or North Korea or anywhere else with regard to the United States of America, that threat is almost always going to fly over Alaska.

We have our radar systems there. We have long-range discrimination radar there. We have the missile fields protecting every city from New York to L.A., to Miami, all based in the great State of Alaska.

So what are we doing this year? Well, we have an entire new section in the NDAA that builds on what we did last year to dramatically increase our Nation's missile defense even more because you can never be too sure on this. This is an insurance policy that is going to protect every city in America.

So this year, in the current NDAA we are debating right now, the big issues with regard to missile defense are that this bill calls for the development and deployment of space-based sensors. It mandates these within the next couple of years—critical. It also promotes a more integrated missile defense, accelerates our defenses against what are called hypersonic threats—not ballistic missiles but hypersonic threats. Importantly, in terms of missile defense, this bill focuses on our allies, working together with our allies in Korea, in

Japan, and other places in Europe to share these missile defense capabilities so we, as our allies, have a much more robust system.

Let me talk briefly on the very important issue of space-based sensors. Every expert who has testified in front of the Armed Services Committee, whether the current Director of the Missile Defense Agency, General Greaves; whether the four-star general in charge of strategic command, General Hyten; or whether the former Director of the Missile Defense Agency, Admiral Syring, they have all said space-based sensors are critical. The time is now.

What does that mean? What does that do? Well, we have different systems in different parts of the country or different parts of the world. In South Korea, we have the THAAD system. Off the coast of Japan with our Navy, we have the Aegis system ashore and on our Navy ships. Then, back home, we have the home-based system, and that is mostly based in Alaska.

What a space-based sensor program does is it integrates all these systems and has the ability to track—what the military calls an unblinking eye—the ability to track a missile that is shot at our country or shot at our troops from the moment it is shot until the end. We don't have that yet, but we need it to integrate these different systems. Importantly, that is what the NDAA we are debating this year will do to further bolster our Nation's missile defense.

Why do we need that? There has been a lot of recent good will with regard to Kim Jong Un. I want to read a quote by him from this past January. It is a New Year's Day quote. He said:

The whole of [the U.S.] mainland is within the range of our nuclear strike and the nuclear button is on my office desk all the time; the United States needs to be clearly aware that this is not merely a threat but a reality. . . . This year we should focus on mass producing nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles for operational deployment.

That is from Kim Jong Un just a couple of months ago. So let's not be taken by this dictator too much as he meets with the President. For decades, he and his dad and his grandfather have been threatening the United States and our troops on the peninsula and our allies in Korea and Japan.

With this state-of-the-art technology, this missile defense system, we are giving the President additional leverage in his negotiations. Indeed, people are asking: Why did Kim Jong Un come to the table? He has been very belligerent. He is saying things like he said on his New Year's Day address. It is really three things: the maximum pressure campaign; the diplomatic campaign by the President, by the administration, by this Congress—we have passed very aggressive legislation on sanctions; and it has been the development by Secretary Mattis of credible military options in the event diplomacy doesn't work.

The Koreans know we are serious. That is ongoing. And with the Secretary of Defense—a former four-star Marine general, Secretary Mattis—I don't think anyone thinks he is bluffing. So that is putting pressure on the North Koreans, and it is this system—this system. The North Koreans know we are now developing technology, so if Kim Jong Un does want to go out in a flame of glory and tries to fire one or two or three intercontinental ballistic missiles at New York or Chicago or L.A., the system we have here, which we are further bolstering, will shoot it down. This is going to give the President more leverage.

We are confident that section 1249 of the NDAA will increase the President's leverage. It involves the critical issue of our U.S. military forces on the Korean Peninsula. This section expresses the will of the Senate by highlighting some key points as they relate to our military on the Korean Peninsula and the history of that military.

What is in this section? It talks about how the United States and South Korea have been allies for decades and how our military forces on the Korean Peninsula, working closely in conjunction with the South Korean military and our alliance, have been the linchpin of peace and security, not just on the Korean Peninsula but in the entire Indo-Pacific region.

This provision of the NDAA focuses on how South Korea has contributed heavily not only to its own defense but also to what our military forces are doing on the Korean Peninsula. It emphasizes that U.S. military forces, pursuant to international law since the outbreak of the Korean war in 1950, have been lawfully deployed on the Korean Peninsula. Yet the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of North Korea are in clear and consistent violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and international law. Importantly, this provision focuses on the fact that China, Russia, and North Korea have had as their long-term strategic goals the removal of U.S. military forces on the Korean Peninsula. That is what they want.

Indeed, there are reports in the media and other places that President Xi Jinping of China may be trying to coach Kim Jong Un, saying: When you go to these negotiations with President Trump, one thing to shoot for is to get rid of those American forces on the Korean Peninsula. Make that one of your goals.

This provision ends by saying it is the bipartisan sense of the Senate that the significant removal of U.S. military forces from the Korean Peninsula is a nonnegotiable item with Kim Jong Un for his nukes. We are not going to trade lawfully deployed U.S. military forces on the Peninsula for illegal nukes that the North Koreans have developed.

What are we trying to do here? First of all, this is a point that Secretary Mattis has been emphasizing. As a

matter of fact, last week I led a CODEL of Senators to a defense ministers' conference in Singapore. This is the biggest military conference of defense ministers, foreign ministers, in the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Secretary Mattis and his team, the Secretary of the Navy, and the admiral in charge of the Indo-Pacific were all there. We met with them and strategized with them. Secretary Mattis gave a great speech on U.S. strategy in the Indo-Pacific, as we are now calling it. He was asked about this very topic. He said this is not an issue that is on the table with Kim Jong Un, nor should it be. The issue of possibly removing U.S. military forces is not even a subject of negotiation.

You see here in this picture U.S. marines and ROK marines training together. We are not going to talk about the issue of moving our legally deployed forces on the Peninsula in exchange for illegally developed nukes and intercontinental ballistic missiles. This is what Secretary Mattis said last week in front of all the defense ministers of Asia.

What we are trying to do with this provision in the NDAA is strengthen the leverage of the administration and show Kim Jong Un—and let's face it, Russia and China, which also want these forces gone—that the Congress of the United States and the executive branch, the Trump administration, speak with one voice on this issue. What this provision in the NDAA says is exactly what Secretary Mattis said last week. So we are speaking with one voice on this very important issue that is likely going to come up in Singapore when the President is there.

Again, we know some of our adversaries in the region want these forces gone. I don't think that makes strategic sense. Fortunately, neither does a very strong, bipartisan group of Senators. When this bill passes the Senate, we are going to have the entire Senate speaking with one voice on this.

I had the opportunity to talk to Secretary Mattis, Secretary Pompeo, Ambassador Bolton, who is the National Security Advisor, and the President about this provision in the NDAA and how it is the Senate's intent to give them more leverage in the upcoming negotiations with North Korea. I think they are all appreciative of what we are trying to do in the Senate with this important section in the National Defense Authorization Act.

Let me conclude by making a bit of a historical point, but it is actually quite an important point, as we talk about this topic. The Senate has actually played a critical role on this very issue previously. Some might recall that President Jimmy Carter, when he was elected, actually ran on this topic. One of the campaign promises he made, remarkably—I think it was strategically very misguided—was to run on this issue: When I get elected, I am going to remove U.S. military forces out of South Korea. That is what Jimmy Carter campaigned on.

When he got in, he started to look at ways to implement that. Then the Senate reacted. You have long-term strategic interests represented by this body, and a very famous Senator of the President's own party—Jimmy Carter was a Democrat, and Senator Scoop Jackson of Washington State was a well-known Senator and well-known foreign policy national security expert. He led a delegation of Senators to South Korea. They looked at this issue in detail after President Carter was elected. They came back to Washington after this trip, and they said: It is not a good idea to remove our forces, which have kept the peace on the Korean Peninsula since 1953. We don't think this is a good idea.

The story goes that Scoop Jackson actually went to the White House, talked to President Carter, and said: The Senate is going to oppose this. You are going to have a hard time removing these troops.

So we have a role to play here; we have had a role to play here; and we have played this role.

I want to end with one final anecdote from that trip. The Senate Navy liaison officer who helped lead that delegation of Senators in the late 1970s to South Korea was a Navy captain by the name of JOHN MCCAIN. Yes, that is right; the JOHN MCCAIN whom I mentioned we are all praying for, and by the way, we named this bill after him. This is the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act. The current chairman of the Armed Services Committee who wrote this bill was on that trip as a captain in the U.S. Navy. I think that historical fact makes this provision in the current bill we are debating now, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, even more powerful.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I was unable to appear in the Chamber today to vote on the nomination of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education due to official business away from the Senate. I

would like the record to show that I oppose his nomination and would have voted against his confirmation.

Throughout his confirmation process and career, Mr. Marcus has demonstrated consistent disregard for the rights of the very students he would be expected to protect in this role: women, LGBTQ individuals immigrants, and students of color. It is clear that Mr. Marcus is in lockstep with the Department of Education in this regard. He has supported the Department's decision to dismantle critical title IX protections for survivors of sexual assault, stood in the way of LGBTQ students seeking an educational atmosphere free from discrimination, and refused to commit to protecting a child's constitutional right to an education regardless of immigration status.

Mr. Marcus has made abundantly clear that he is unfit to serve as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education. I would like the record to show that I oppose his nomination and would have voted nay during today's confirmation vote.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 118 on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 603, the nomination of Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education. On vote No. 118, had I been present, I would have voted nay on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 603.●

#### TAX REFORM

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as you may know, I supported the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that became law in December of last year. We hear stories every day of the positive impact this law has had on the economy at large and in the lives of Americans who are seeing more money in their paycheck. What we don't hear are enough stories about the small businesses that have benefited from this law. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I supported this legislation because I believed that it would spark investment, increase economic growth, and reduce taxes for millions of small businesses whose work ethic and perseverance shows that the American Dream is still possible. I also saw the potential that the legislation would have, not just to help small business owners and their employees in my home State of Idaho, but to positively affect small businesses across the country. A couple of weeks ago, I began this series of speeches highlighting small businesses that have benefited from this legislation.

While there are numerous stories about the benefits of tax reform, I rise

today to talk about the story of the Don Ramon Restaurante Cubano and Social Club located in West Palm Beach, FL. Dina and Juan Rubio are the operators of this successful restaurant that offers traditional and affordable Cuban dishes in charming surroundings. Don Ramon Restaurant also offers catering services, provides live music, and hosts private events. Often, Juan will take the stage with his keyboard and entertain patrons with his rollicking renditions of traditional Cuban dances such as the salsa, son, and guaracha. This dedication to an authentic Cuban experience over the last 27 years is what has made this restaurant a popular culinary destination and landmark for people all over south Florida.

From Cuba and Nicaragua respectively, Dina and Juan appreciate the opportunities afforded everyone by the American Dream and have worked hard to realize their goal of becoming successful entrepreneurs. New tax law changes implemented under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act have allowed Dina and Juan Rubio to give their employees pay increases and larger holiday bonuses than normal. This law has also allowed them to begin planning capital improvements for their restaurant. They are planning to renovate their restaurant, open a take-out window, install new refrigerators and coffee machines, and hire up to eight new employees. Stories like the Rubio's demonstrate the benefits that tax reform has already had on numerous small businesses. Overall, it can be said that tax reform was a worthy goal that has increased small businesses' optimism, employee bonuses and wages, lowered taxes, and driven new capital investment.

#### REMEMBERING EMMETT PUGH III

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge the recent loss of one of West Virginia's best and brightest and recognize the life of a good man, kind friend, and dedicated public servant, Emmett Pugh III.

Emmett was widely known for his accomplishments as the city of Beckley's longest serving mayor, and while his positive impact on the city was immeasurable, Emmett was the sort of person who had a positive impact on the lives of everyone he met. Countless people benefited from the work, words, and kindness of Emmett Pugh throughout his life.

Emmett was a native son of Beckley, WV, and came from a long tradition of public service that followed him to the University of Alabama. While at Alabama, he cultivated a deep love for two things: the Crimson Tide and his hometown. After earning a degree in political science, with a focus on State and local government, Emmett returned home to serve as the president of Bowl-Wick, Inc., a bowling center that brought joy and entertainment to the citizens of Beckley for many years.

In 1979, Emmett began his long career in public service as a councilman-at-large. In 1988, upon the death of the current mayor, Emmett stepped up and began his tenure as the longest serving mayor in Beckley's history. During his time in office, he expanded city limits, led a razing campaign on deteriorated properties, and established two new fire stations. He also helped lead the development of the Beckley Intermodal Gateway, the Rahall Company Store at New River Park, Thornhill Courts, Freedom Park, Jim Word Memorial Park, and the Lewis McManus Trail, among other accomplishments. In 1988, he was named Mayor of the Year for his efforts.

When Mayor Pugh left office in 2013, his positive impact on the community and State did not stop. He continued to inspire all whom he encountered and acted as a mentor to his successors and any who sought his advice. He also continued in his role as a family man, and he is survived by his wife, their three children, two step-children, and eight grandchildren. Emmett's passion for Beckley and West Virginia lives on, and I think I speak for many when I say that he will be sorely missed.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RED SCHOENDIENST

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Red Schoendienst, who in passing leaves behind a lifetime of commitment to baseball, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the St. Louis community.

Red Schoendienst began his major league career with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1945, after spending only 2 years with the Albany Cardinals, the franchise's minor league affiliate. His star rose quickly within the franchise and the league, winning the 1946 Home Run Derby and, in the same year, participating in the Cardinals' World Series victory over the Sox.

In his 19 seasons as a player, Red compiled a storied list of accomplishments, including being named to 10 All Star teams, but his contributions to the sport did not end when he retired his bat. He would return to the Cardinals as a coach in 1964 and managed the team from 1965–1976. He led the team to multiple World Series victories and National League pennants, and he was named National League manager of the year in both 1967 and 1968. After 2 years coaching the Oakland Athletics, he returned to the Cardinals to coach from 1977–1995. For the next two decades, Schoendienst would wear the Cardinals "Birds on the Bat" before home games and in spring training as a special assistant to the general manager.

Red Schoendienst was one of the greatest Cardinals of all time, having been a Red Bird as a player, coach, and manager. The Cardinals retired his No.

2 in 1996. St. Louis recognized him with his induction into the St. Louis Walk of Fame in 1998. His legacy was not only engrained in the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 1989, but also in the memories of teammates, colleagues, and fans who had the privilege of seeing his accomplishments and his great smile.

To quote the Schoendienst family upon his passing: "He inspired all that knew him to always do their best. Red was a great ball player, but his legacy is that of a great gentleman who had respect for all. He loved his family, friends, teammates, the community and his country. He will be greatly missed."

To Red Schoendienst's family, thank you for sharing him with the St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis community, baseball, and baseball fans. Red Schoendienst was a great gentleman, a great sportsman, a great competitor, and he will be greatly missed.●

##### TRIBUTE TO GARY DENT

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Gary Dent of Pondera County for his over 42 years of service in law enforcement.

Gary Dent was born and raised in Miles City. After high school and college, Gary discussed entering the police force with a family friend, and from there, he began his career in law enforcement. After 11 years of serving around Montana, he landed in the Conrad City Police Department where he spent over 30 years as their police chief. He and his wife have one son named GR.

Gary's passion for his job is clear; yet it is his passion for the community that sets him apart. While serving as police chief, he filled his spare time by serving Conrad in any way he could, including by spending time coaching middle school and high school sports teams.

Gary's legacy in the Conrad City Police Department will survive long after his retirement. His favorite part of serving in law enforcement was the interaction with folks in the community, and that did not go unnoticed. He impacted many around Conrad and the greater Pondera County community. I congratulate Gary on a career well spent, and I wish him the best of luck in retirement.●

##### REMEMBERING ERIC ENGLAND

• Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, it is an honor today to pay my final respects to Eric Roy England, a great Georgian and American, who passed away on April 7, 2018, after a lifetime of service to our State and Nation.

Eric England was born on April 15, 1933, in Blairsville, GA, in Union County, the son of the late Augustus and Mary Nix England. A few short years later, in 1950, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, and his extraordinary career was launched.

MSgt Eric England served as a scout sniper for the U.S. Marine Corps 3rd Marine Division while serving in the Vietnam war. He is credited with 98 confirmed kills on record, likely saving untold numbers of American lives. By age 19, he was a nationals rifle-shooting champion, and he set a record as a long-range champion at Fort Benning in 1968. Master Sergeant England served as a member and coach of the U.S. Marine Corps Rifle Team for 24 years, setting records both nationally and internationally.

After his military retirement and for the next 14 years, Master Sergeant England coached the Blairsville 4-H program's BB gun team, which was comprised of boys and girls in grades four through eight. These young Georgians benefited from his exemplary leadership and dedicated training and by winning competitions at the State and national level.

During his life, his talents were recognize and celebrated. They even made him the subject of a book, "Phantom of Phu Bai," written by Dr. J. B. Turner, and his military rifle is displayed in the National Rifle Association museum. The courthouse in Union County, GA, features a bronze sculpture in England's likeness that was erected in 2006.

On November 4, 2017, Master Sergeant England was one of 17 veterans inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame for his outstanding achievement while serving his country. Other notable Hall of Fame inductees are Master Sergeant England's cousin, our former U.S. Senator and Georgia Governor Zell Miller, and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn.

MSgt Eric England was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on June 4, 2018, with full military honors.

I send my condolences to his wife, Glenda Sue Berrong England, his stepson, Howard Beck, Jr., his sister, Edna Ruth Rich, and to his niece, nephew, grandchildren, and other friends and love ones.

I am very proud to share a bit of MSgt Eric England's story for the Record, to honor this great patriot and help more Georgians and Americans learn of his great legacy for our country.●

##### TRIBUTE TO STEPHANIE BELLINO

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am pleased to recognize Stephanie Bellino, the Duval County Teacher of the Year from Garden City Elementary School in Jacksonville, FL.

Stephanie was named Teacher of the Year for successfully pushing a growing number of disadvantaged students to achieve grade-level performance or better in reading and language arts. She helps students by taking scripted lesson plans and adapting them to fit each of their individual needs. Stephanie is credited with helping Garden City improve from a D to a B school.

While teachers typically stay at one grade level, Stephanie loops with her

students. Many of her current fifth grade students were also in her third grade class. About 16 of these students were a year or two behind their grade level but have now caught up, with Stephanie being credited for this accomplishment.

Stephanie has worked at Garden City Elementary School for 3 years and was a Teach for America recruit. She taught reading and writing to the entire fourth grade and pushed students to a 48 percent passing rate, a 15 percentage point increase in 1 year.

I extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Stephanie for her work and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SHANNON ELLISON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I honor Shannon Ellison, the Dixie County Teacher of the Year from Dixie County High School in Cross City, FL.

Shannon's colleagues attest that of the many excellent teachers in her district, she stands above the rest due to her commitment to excellence and passion for helping every student develop a love for learning. She designed a rigorous curriculum to equip her students with the necessary skills for success in college and the workplace.

She is passionate about helping her students reach their academic potential by maintaining relationships with her students, their parents, and her community by inspiring trust and confidence in both her instructional skills and leadership abilities.

Shannon's teaching skills as an advanced placement teacher helped her school earn national recognition from the College Board. She has attended the advanced placement summer institutions for the past 5 years, qualifying her ability to teach AP world history, AP psychology, and AP art history.

Shannon earned her bachelors of arts degree in history from the University of Florida in 1993 and her master of arts/education in arts and academic interdisciplinary education from Southeastern University in 2011. She has been a teacher at Dixie County High School since 1994, having served as social studies department chair, Beta Club State sponsor, and grade level department chair.

I am pleased to learn of the hard work and dedication Shannon has for her students. I express my best wishes to her on her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO TRACY HALL

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I honor Tracy Hall, the Taylor County Teacher of the Year from Taylor County Elementary School in Perry, FL.

Tracy's inspiration for her students and enthusiasm for teaching led to this important recognition. Her students recognize that she goes above and beyond her required duties to be the best teacher for them. She focuses on put-

ting her students first and believes their emotions are as important as their schoolwork. She teaches them to believe in themselves and their ability to achieve. She is especially proud that two former students were inducted into the National Honor Society after they previously had difficulty learning and adapting while in third grade. They are now extraordinary students.

Tracy has been a teacher for 21 years. She graduated from Florida State University with honors in 1997 and currently teaches third grade reading at Taylor County Elementary School. She has also taught at the primary and elementary levels with the Florida Virtual Academy.

I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Tracy for her hard work and extend my best wishes for her continued success in the years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN McNULTY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Susan McNulty, the Pasco County Teacher of the Year from J.W. Mitchell High School in New Port Richey, FL.

As a journalism teacher, Susan's students state she deserved this award not just for what she does in the classroom, but because she helps her students before, during, and after school. Susan is a caring teacher and is always available to lend a hand when they need it the most. She is viewed as a person to confide in, with her students knowing instantly that they could depend on her.

I extend my best wishes to Susan for her perseverance as a dedicated teacher for her students. I look forward to hearing of her continued success in the years ahead.●

#### TRIBUTE TO TRISHA PUMPHREY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Trisha Pumphrey, the Jackson County Teacher of the Year from Cottondale Elementary School in Cottondale, FL.

Trisha was awarded Teacher of the Year for her passion to education and commitment to making sure her students feel important. She believes this helps enhance their educational performance.

Trisha prides herself on her teaching practices and designs lesson plans that make sure her students are learning in a way that is suitable to their needs, and was able to bring her class to grade level for reading comprehension. She also looks for ways to help students that are not in her class by helping other teachers locate resources and install new technology to improve the overall culture and performance of her school.

Trisha is a first grade teacher at Cottondale Elementary, where she began teaching in 2016. She has been a teacher for 20 years, previously teaching at Grand Ridge Elementary School and Kate Smith Elementary School.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in Early Childhood Education from Troy State University.

I express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Trisha for all of the great work she has done for her students and congratulate her for winning this award.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. LINDA L.M. BENNETT

● Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, today I wish to thank Dr. Linda L.M. Bennett for her remarkable career as president of the University of Southern Indiana, USI. Dr. Bennett started with the university in 2003 and became its third president on July 1, 2009. She will be retiring on June 30, 2018, after 15 years of dedicated service.

Dr. Bennett truly exemplifies the university's vision, "shaping the future through learning and innovation," and her work hasn't gone unheeded. Under her leadership, the University of Southern Indiana established its first two strategic plans, raising the academic standards, community engagement, and faculty development.

Throughout her career, President Bennett has served with the American Association of Colleges and Universities, Indiana Campus Compact Board, the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Valley Conference Council of Presidents, and the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Executive Committee. During her tenure as president, USI implemented its first doctoral program, doctor of nursing practice, and expanded its engineering and MBA programs.

In addition to her time as president, Dr. Bennett has contributed to a wide variety of local organizations, including the Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Evansville, the Diversity Lecture Series, the Indiana University School of Medicine Advisory Board of Directors, the Red Cross, the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, United Way, Mesker Park Zoo Planning Committee, Holly's House, Joshua Academy, the Wellborn Baptist Foundation, the Mayor's Education Roundtable, the Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana, and the Rotary Club of Evansville. Over the past few years, Dr. Bennett has received several awards, including the 2015 Rotary Civic Award, the Boy Scouts of America Buffalo Trace Council Distinguished Citizen Award, 2017, the Indiana Commission for Women Torchbearer Award, 2017, and the Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana Women of Distinction award in 2018.

Although Dr. Bennett's retirement marks the end of a chapter, it also presents the opportunity for an exciting new beginning. I congratulate her on all of her achievements as USI's president and look forward to her further contributions to the Hoosier community.●

## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:14 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3249) to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes.

## ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 3249. An act to authorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

## 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-5466. A communication from the Acting Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Simplified Cost Accounting and Other Actions To Reduce Paperwork in the Summer Food Service Program" (RIN0584-AD84) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5467. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Acephinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9978-20-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5468. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of eight (8) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5469. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John B. Cooper, United States Air Force, and his ad-

vancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-5470. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 104th Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Board covering operations for calendar year 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5471. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the St Johns County, Florida—South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summer Haven Reaches—Coastal Storm Risk Management Project; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5472. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2017 Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5473. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Douglas, Arizona; Second 10-Year Sulfur Dioxide Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9979-18-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5474. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Regional Haze Plan and Prong 4 (Visibility) for the 2006 and 2012 PM2.5, 2010 NO2, 2010 SO2, and 2008 Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 9977-69-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5475. A communication from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2018 Annual Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5476. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation of a group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the Secretary of State (OSS-2018-0547); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5477. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Operation of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative and the Tropical Forest Conservation Act 2017 Annual Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-5478. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5479. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report for the period from October 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5480. A communication from the Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2017

through March 31, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5481. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-484, "Sense of the Council in Opposition to Concealed Carry Reciprocity Resolution of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5482. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Desert Hills, Arizona)" (MB Docket No. 18-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. COLLINS, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3023. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-268).

By Mr. BOOZMAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, without amendment:

S. 3024. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-269).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1305. A bill to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with adequate flexibility in its employment authorities (Rept. No. 115-270).

S. 2296. A bill to increase access to agency guidance documents (Rept. No. 115-271).

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany S. 2527, a bill to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies (Rept. No. 115-272).

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ryan Wesley Bounds, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

J. Campbell Barker, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Susan Brnovich, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Chad F. Kenney, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Jeremy D. Kernodle, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Maureen K. Ohlhausen, of Virginia, to be Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE—TREATIES

The following executive reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Treaty Doc. 115-1: Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Serbia with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 115-4); and

Treaty Doc 115-2: Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Kosovo with 1 declaration (Ex. Rept. 115-5)

The text of the committee-recommended resolutions of advice and consent to ratification are as follows:

[Treaty Doc. 115-1 Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Serbia]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),*

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Treaty Between the United States of America and the Republic of Serbia on Extradition, signed at Belgrade on August 15, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115-1), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

[Treaty Doc. 115-2 Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Kosovo]

As reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),*

Section 1. Senate Advice and Consent Subject to a Declaration.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Extradition Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, signed at Pristina on March 29, 2016 (Treaty Doc. 115-2), subject to the declaration of section 2.

Sec. 2. Declaration.

The Senate's advice and consent under section 1 is subject to the following declaration: The Treaty is self-executing.

### 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. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BROWN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 3020. A bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for the Human Rights of LGBTI Peoples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3021. A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 300 South Fourth Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the "Diana E. Murphy United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. HELLER):

S. 3022. A bill to amend subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to repeal increases in duty and a tariff-rate quota on certain crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. COLLINS:

S. 3023. An original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BOOZMAN:

S. 3024. An original bill making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Appropriations; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 3025. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prevent the illegal trafficking of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits by requiring all program beneficiaries to show valid photo identification when purchasing items with program benefits; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL:

S. 3026. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require air carriers to disclose the date and location of the most recent aircraft maintenance; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. JONES, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 3027. A bill to save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3028. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an income tax credit for eldercare expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3029. A bill to revise and extend the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act (PREEMIE Act); to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3030. A bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JONES, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 3031. A bill to amend chapter 5 of title 40, United States Code, to improve the management of Federal personal property; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. PAUL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3032. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regard-

ing the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3033. A bill to require a study and report on matters concerning best practices in mortality counts as a result of a major disaster; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3034. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize the rural business investment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3035. A bill to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY,

Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. NELSON, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Mr. KAINE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. UDALL, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3036. A bill to limit the separation of families at or near ports of entry; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN)):

S. 3037. A bill to require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a premise plumbing research laboratory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. NELSON, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3038. A bill to assist in the conservation of the North Atlantic right whale by supporting and providing financial resources for North Atlantic right whale conservation programs and projects of persons with expertise required for the conservation of North Atlantic right whales; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 3039. A bill to provide funding for the development of a predictive analytics pilot program to help children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 537. A resolution commending the Yale University Men's Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 538. A resolution commending the Wesleyan University Men's Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Con. Res. 38. A concurrent resolution recognizing and supporting the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 177

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to provide for congressional review of the imposition of duties and other trade measures by the executive branch, and for other purposes.

S. 220

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 220, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 478

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 478, a bill to amend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to prohibit baiting exemptions on certain land.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 802

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 802, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Lawrence Eugene "Larry" Doby in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American major league athletics, civil rights, and the Armed Forces during World War II.

S. 910

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 910, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to provide family members of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others, and law enforcement, with new tools to prevent gun violence.

S. 1278

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1278, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of Washington, D.C. into the Union.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 1561

At the request of Mr. FLAKE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, a bill to repeal the Jones Act restrictions on coastwise trade, and for other purposes.

S. 1682

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1682, a bill to facilitate a national pipeline of spectrum for commercial use, and for other purposes.

S. 1689

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1689, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marihuana, and for other purposes.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2101, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the crew of the USS Indianapolis, in recognition of their perseverance, bravery, and service to the United States.

S. 2144

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor 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. 2423

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2423, a bill to reinstate Federal Pell Grant eligibility for individuals incarcerated in Federal and State penal institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2463, a bill to establish the United States International Development Finance Corporation, and for other purposes.

S. 2487

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2487, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain data on conservation practices, and for other purposes.

S. 2520

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2520, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to require the Federal Communications Commission to ensure just and reasonable charges for inmate telephone and advanced communications services.

S. 2524

At the request of Mr. DONNELLY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2524, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for substance use disorder treatment employees, and for other purposes.

S. 2554

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2554, a bill to ensure that health insurance issuers and group health plans do not prohibit pharmacy providers from providing certain information to enrollees.

S. 2652

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. GARDNER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2652, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Stephen Michael Gleason.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2740, a bill to authorize the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a Climate Change Education Program, and for other purposes.

S. 2790

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2790, a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a community wood energy

and wood innovation program, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill to require a study of the well-being of the newsprint and publishing industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2886

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2886, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to reinstate the ban on the export of crude oil and natural gas produced in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2897

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2897, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the reduction in Federal medical assistance percentage for Medicaid personal care services furnished without an electronic visit verification system.

S. 2922

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2922, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to help improve access to care for pregnant and postpartum women receiving substance use disorder treatment, including for opioid use disorders, in an institution for mental diseases.

S. 2938

At the request of Mr. SASSE, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2938, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of livestock and insects, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2957, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 2983

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2983, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the essential air service program.

S. 3010

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3010, a bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to provide

vide for necessary payments from the Spectrum Relocation Fund for costs of spectrum research and development and planning activities.

S. 3011

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3011, a bill to ban the exportation of crude oil or refined petroleum products derived from Federal land, and for other purposes.

S. 3013

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3013, a bill to amend the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to require Congressional approval before the President adjusts imports that are determined to threaten to impair national security.

S. RES. 435

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 435, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the 85th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine.

AMENDMENT NO. 2270

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2270 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2273

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2273 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2285

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2285 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2293

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from California

(Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2293 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2309

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2309 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2335

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2335 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2366

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2366 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2367

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2367 intended to be proposed to H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3035. A bill to designate a mountain ridge in the State of Montana as "B-47 Ridge"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, on July 23, 1962, a B-47 Bomber carrying four

men on a routine training mission crashed into the southwestern slope of Emigrant Peak, killing all on board. Crash debris still remains on the unnamed ridge where these men lost their lives. After over half a century, it is time that these men are memorialized for their service so their families may have closure. Capt. Bill Faulconer, Lt. Lloyd Sawyers, Lt. David Sutton, and Lt. Fred Hixenbaugh lost their lives while serving our country. Naming the ridge in their memory will forever remind Montanans and visitors of their sacrifice.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 537—COM-MENDING THE YALE UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2018 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 537

Whereas, on May 28, 2018, the Yale University Men's Lacrosse Team (referred to in this preamble as "Yale") won the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship with a 13-11 win over the Duke University Blue Devils at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts;

Whereas this is the first time that Yale has won an NCAA lacrosse national championship;

Whereas Yale finished the 2018 season with a record of 17 wins and 3 losses; and

Whereas Yale has an overall record of 103 wins and 40 losses during the past 9 seasons: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Yale University Men's Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship;

(2) congratulates the fans, students, and faculty of Yale University; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Yale University, Peter Salovey; and

(B) the Head Coach of the Yale University Men's Lacrosse Team, Andy Shay.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 538—COM-MENDING THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2018 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION III MEN'S LACROSSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 538

Whereas, on Sunday, May 27, 2018, the Wesleyan University Men's Lacrosse Team (referred to in this preamble as "Wesleyan") won the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic As-

sociation (referred to in this preamble as the "NCAA") Division III title with an 8-6 win over the Salisbury Sea Gulls at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts;

Whereas this is the first NCAA lacrosse national championship for Wesleyan; and

Whereas Wesleyan finished the 2018 season with a record of 19-3: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Wesleyan University Men's Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III title;

(2) congratulates the fans, students, and faculty of Wesleyan University; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Wesleyan University, Michael S. Roth; and

(B) the Head Coach of the Wesleyan University Men's Lacrosse Team, John Raba.

#### SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 38—RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED BID COMMITTEE TO BRING THE 2026 FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) WORLD CUP COMPETITION TO CANADA, MEXICO, AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. CON. RES. 38

Whereas soccer is one of the fastest growing and most popular sports in the world and the FIFA World Cup competition is the single most important event in that sport;

Whereas the United States successfully hosted in nine cities throughout the Nation the 1994 FIFA World Cup competition, which was broadcast to billions of fans around the world and set an attendance record of nearly 3.6 million, which remains unbroken today;

Whereas the 1994 FIFA World Cup competition served as a catalyst for the increased popularity and development of the game throughout the United States, as well as the introduction of Major League Soccer, the United States national first division professional soccer league;

Whereas United States Soccer Federation and its counterparts in Canada and Mexico have established a United Bid Committee to prepare and submit an unprecedented joint bid to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition in North America;

Whereas Canada, the United States, and Mexico share core beliefs in justice, freedom, equality, and opportunity, and have a long history of partnership, innovation, and growth together on our shared continent;

Whereas for the first time in history the 2026 FIFA World Cup will include teams from 48 nations and presents an opportunity for Canada, Mexico, and the United States as host countries to demonstrate the highest achievable standards and serve as a benchmark for future organizers;

Whereas North America is home to one of the most competitive and advanced professional sports landscapes in the world that is continually updating to take advantage of the latest innovations and modernizations;

Whereas numerous American cities have been named by the United Bid Committee as candidates to serve as hosts to FIFA World Cup matches in 2026, with each of these cities embodying the diversity and enthusiasm

shared by the entire Nation and guaranteeing each participating team and its followers a "home team" atmosphere;

Whereas the United States and its neighbors offer FIFA a valuable and receptive market within which to further develop the sport of soccer, which in turn will have significant impact on and off the field in both the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas the United States possesses all necessary state-of-the-art infrastructure in its stadiums and potential host cities to ensure that the competition sets a new standard of quality, comfort, security, and safety for players, officials, spectators, media, and sponsors alike;

Whereas hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Canada, Mexico, and the United States promises record-setting attendance and financial performance, allowing revenues and tourism generated by the competition to be used for the further development of soccer, FIFA's objectives of positive social and environmental change, and further economic growth throughout our Nation;

Whereas hosting the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition in Canada, Mexico, and the United States would serve as a tremendous impetus to national and international goodwill, as the competition would bring people from many nations, along with a diverse public, together under one banner of peace, friendship, and spirited and fair competition;

Whereas the historical tradition of inclusivity in the United States is shared by Canada and Mexico and the three countries are eager to welcome the players, spectators, and visitors who may travel to North America for the 2026 FIFA World Cup games; and

Whereas pursuant to FIFA bidding procedures, the President of the United States and certain Federal agencies have been asked to issue guarantees that upon authorization or appropriation, would establish the conditions required to help make the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition the most successful in history: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring)*, That the Congress—

(1) recognizes and supports the efforts of the United Bid Committee to bring the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition to Canada, Mexico, and the United States;

(2) encourages the President of the United States and appropriate Federal agencies to support the United Bid Committee in its efforts to meet all requirements for the United States to jointly host with Canada and Mexico the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition; and

(3) stands prepared to give full consideration to legislative proposals or other requests by the President to provide support related to the 2026 FIFA World Cup competition, if Canada, Mexico, and the United States are selected to host this event.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2371. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2372. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2373. Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

SA 2417. Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2462. Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

be proposed to the SM. H.R. 5018, supra, which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2552. Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2553. Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2554. Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2555. Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2556. Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2557. Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2558. Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2559. Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2560. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2561. Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2562. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2563. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2564. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2565. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2566. Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2567. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2568. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2569. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2570. Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2571. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2572. Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2573. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2574. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2575. Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2576. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2577. Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2578. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2371.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) According to a report by the Federal Communications Commission entitled “Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan”, dated March 2010, the Commission recommends that—

(A) “To fully implement next-generation technology within its operations, the SBA should also appoint a broadband and emerging IT coordinator. This individual would ensure that SBA programs maintain the requisite broadband expertise, tools and training courses to serve small businesses.”;

(B) “Congress should consider ways to leverage existing assistance provided through” entrepreneurial development programs, “to focus training on advanced IT and broadband applications”;

(C) “Congress could also consider ways to support technology training among women entrepreneurs through” women’s business centers;

(D) “The training programs should include an entry-level ‘Broadband 101’ course to give small businesses an introduction to how to capitalize on broadband connectivity, as well as more advanced applications for IT staff.”; and

(E) small and medium enterprise “IT training should include resources for non-IT staff, such as how to use e-commerce tools for sales, streamline finance with online records or leverage knowledge management across an organization.”.

(2) According to a report by the Broadband Opportunity Council, dated August 20, 2015, the availability of and access to broadband technology enables—

(A) greater civic participation, by providing tools for open government and streamlining government process;

(B) changes in how people access educational resources, collaborate in the educational process, conduct research, and continue to learn anytime, anyplace, and at any pace;

(C) improved healthcare access, treatments, and information;

(D) new business models that create business efficiencies, drive job creation, and connect manufacturers and store-fronts to clients and partners worldwide; and

(E) bringing communities together and improvements to public safety, creating a greener planet, and make transportation systems more resilient and efficient.

(3) According to a report entitled “The State of the App Economy”, dated October 2014—

(A) “More than three-quarters of the highest grossing apps are produced by startups and small companies.”; and

(B) “Seventy-eight percent of the leading app companies are located outside Silicon Valley.”.

(4) According to a report entitled, “Developer Economics Q1 2015: State of the Developer Nation”, dated February 2015, “The emergence of the app industry over the past eight years has grown to a \$120 billion economy.”.

(b) BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 47 as section 48; and

(2) by inserting after section 46 the following:

#### “SEC. 47. BROADBAND AND EMERGING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘Associate Administrator’ means the Associate Administrator for the Office of Investment and Innovation; and

“(2) the term ‘broadband and emerging information technology coordinator’ means the employee designated to carry out the broadband and emerging information technology coordination responsibilities of the Administration under subsection (b)(1).”

“(b) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—

“(1) ASSIGNMENT OF COORDINATOR.—The Associate Administrator shall designate a senior employee of the Office of Investment and Innovation to serve as the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator, who—

“(A) shall report to the Associate Administrator;

“(B) shall work in coordination with—

“(i) the chief information officer, the chief technology officer, and the head of the Office of Technology of the Administration; and

“(ii) any other Associate Administrator of the Administration determined appropriate by the Associate Administrator;

“(C) has experience developing and implementing telecommunications policy in the private sector or government; and

“(D) has demonstrated significant experience in the area of broadband or emerging information technology.

“(2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COORDINATOR.—The broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall—

“(A) coordinate programs of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies;

“(B) serve as the primary liaison of the Administration to other Federal agencies involved in broadband and emerging information technology policy, including the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Communications Commission;

“(C) identify best practices relating to broadband and emerging information technology that may benefit small business concerns; and

“(D) identify and catalog tools and training available through the resource partners of the Administration that assist small business concerns in adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and emerging technologies.

“(3) TRAVEL.—Not more than 20 percent of the hours of service by the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator during any fiscal year shall consist of travel outside the United States to perform official duties.

“(c) BROADBAND AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING.—

“(1) TRAINING.—The Associate Administrator shall provide to employees of the Administration training that—

“(A) familiarizes employees of the Administration with broadband and other emerging information technologies;

“(B) includes—

“(i) instruction on counseling small business concerns regarding adopting, making innovations in, and using broadband and other emerging information technologies; and

“(ii) information on programs of the Federal Government that provide assistance to small business concerns relating to broadband and emerging information technologies; and

“(C) to maximum extent practicable, uses the tools and training cataloged and identified under subsection (b)(2)(D).

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) BIENNIAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which

the Associate Administrator makes the first designation of an employee under subsection (b), and every 2 years thereafter, the broadband and emerging information technology coordinator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report regarding the programs and activities of the Administration relating to broadband and other emerging information technologies.

“(2) IMPACT OF BROADBAND SPEED AND PRICE ON SMALL BUSINESSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to appropriations, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall conduct a study evaluating the impact of broadband speed and price on small business concerns.

“(B) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, the Chief Counsel for Advocacy shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study under subparagraph (A), including—

“(i) a survey of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

“(ii) a survey of the cost of broadband speeds available to small business concerns;

“(iii) a survey of the type of broadband technology used by small business concerns; and

“(iv) any policy recommendations that may improve the access of small business concerns to comparable broadband services at comparable rates in all regions of the United States.”

(c) ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT.—Section 21(c)(3)(B) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “accessing broadband and other emerging information technology,” after “technology transfer.”;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in clause (iii), by adding “and” at the end; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) increasing the competitiveness and productivity of small business concerns by assisting entrepreneurs in accessing broadband and other emerging information technology.”

**SA 2372.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “National Guard and Reserve Entrepreneurship Support Act”.

(b) **EXTENSION OF LOAN ASSISTANCE AND DEFERRAL ELIGIBILITY TO RESERVISTS BEYOND PERIODS OF MILITARY CONFLICT.**—

(1) **SMALL BUSINESS ACT AMENDMENTS.**—Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking clause (ii);

(II) by redesignating clause (i) as clause (ii);

(III) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following:

“(i) the term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code;”;

(IV) in clause (ii), as so redesignated, by adding “and” at the end;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “being ordered to active military duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “being ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”; (iii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(iv) in subparagraph (G)(ii)(II), by striking “active duty” and inserting “active service”; and

(B) in subsection (n)—

(i) in the subsection heading, by striking “ACTIVE DUTY” and inserting “ACTIVE SERVICE”; (ii) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking subparagraph (C);

(II) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as subparagraphs (B) and (C), respectively;

(III) by inserting before subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, the following:

“(A) **ACTIVE SERVICE.**—The term ‘active service’ has the meaning given that term in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code.”;

(IV) in subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, by striking “ordered to active duty during a period of military conflict” and inserting “ordered to perform active service for a period of more than 30 consecutive days”; and

(V) in subparagraph (D), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”; and

(iii) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “active duty” each place it appears and inserting “active service”.

(2) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by paragraph (1)(A) shall apply to an economic injury suffered or likely to be suffered as the result of an essential employee being ordered to perform active service (as defined in section 101(d)(3) of title 10, United States Code) for a period of more than 30 consecutive days who is discharged or released from such active service on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **SEMIANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and semiannually thereafter, the President shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the number of loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the dollar volume of those loans. The report shall contain the subsidy rate of the disaster loan program as authorized under section 7(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) with the loans made under the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and without those loans included.

(4) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 8(l) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(l)) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Administration” and inserting the following:

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

(B) by striking “(as defined in section 7(n)(1))”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) DEFINITION OF PERIOD OF MILITARY CONFLICT.—In this subsection, the term ‘period of military conflict’ means—

“(A) a period of war declared by the Congress;

“(B) a period of national emergency declared by the Congress or by the President; or

“(C) a period of a contingency operation, as defined in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.”.

(C) NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM.—

(1) EXPANSION OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION OUTREACH PROGRAMS.—Section 8(b)(17) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(17)) is amended by striking “and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces” and inserting “members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, and the spouses of veterans and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces”.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND BUSINESS TRAINING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In making grants carried out under section 8(b)(17), the Associate Administrator shall establish a program, to be known as the ‘National Guard and Reserve Deployment Support and Business Training Program’, to provide training, counseling and other assistance to support members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and their spouses.

“(2) AUTHORITIES.—In carrying out this subsection, the Associate Administrator may—

“(A) modify programs and resources made available under section 8(b)(17) to provide pre-deployment and other information specific to members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and their spouses;

“(B) collaborate with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or the Chief’s designee, State Adjunct Generals or their designees, and other public and private partners; and

“(C) provide training, information and other resources to the Chief of the National Guard Bureau or the Chief’s designee and State Adjunct Generals or their designees for the purpose of supporting members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces and the spouses of veterans and members of a reserve component of the Armed Forces.”.

**SA 2373.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. STABENOW) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. REPORT ON USE BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF QUALITY MEASURES TO ASSESS MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SERIOUS MORBIDITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the use by the Department of Defense of quality measures in assessing maternal mortality

and serious morbidity for active duty members of the Armed Forces.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include a comparison between care provided through military treatment facilities and care provided by the Department of Defense through contracts as well as a comparison with quality measurement between care provided by the Department and care provided to civilian populations.

**SA 2374.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . . . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT OR MODIFY FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES TO HOUSE UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—No amounts authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense may be used during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on December 31, 2019, to construct or modify any facility in the United States or in a territory or possession of the United States to house 1 or more unaccompanied alien children for the purpose of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, or the Department of Health and Human Services unless expressly authorized by an Act of Congress.

(b) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN DEFINED.—In this section, the term “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given the term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

**SA 2375.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1107. CLARIFICATION OF SCOPE OF TEMPORARY DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR DOMESTIC DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE FACILITIES AND THE MAJOR RANGE AND TEST FACILITIES BASE.**

Section 1125(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (10 U.S.C. 1580 note prec.) is amended by inserting “plant,” after “arsenal.”.

**SA 2376.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. . . . UNITED STATES CYBER STRATEGY.**

(a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2019, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency national strategy for cyberspace.

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

(A) A government-wide and accepted glossary of definitions and terms for cyberspace and cyber-related activities.

(B) Criteria for the types of malicious cyber activities that the United States Government will seek to deter and will respond to.

(C) Processes, mechanisms, and authorities for attribution of malicious cyber activities.

(D) Menu of options for deterrence denial and response to malicious cyber activities using the range of national power to conduct.

(E) Tasks, roles, and responsibilities of the following entities in regards to cyberspace:

(i) Department of Homeland Security for domestic cyber security concerns and defense of critical infrastructure.

(ii) Department of Defense for military cyber activities and offensive cyber operations.

(iii) Department of State for cyber diplomacy and promotion of United States values on fair use of cyberspace and related activities.

(iv) Any other agency deemed appropriate by the President to be a primary stakeholder for a cyber activity or related policy.

(F) Specific tasks, roles, and responsibilities of the above entities in regards to specific cyber event scenarios that are determined to impact United States national security, which should include—

(i) a cyber attack that damages or degrades the use of critical infrastructure within United States territory;

(ii) a cyber attack that influences economic systems to any degree determined detrimental to national security;

(iii) a cyber attack targeting United States military abroad that degrades their capability to respond to crises or to conduct military operations; and

(iv) cyber espionage that steals a significant amount of data deemed to be a threat to United States national security.

(G) Use of, coordination with, or liaison to international partners, nongovernmental organizations, or commercial entities that support United States policy goals in cyberspace.

(H) Synchronization processes for the use of interagency tools for cyberspace operations, including the role of the National Security Council in coordinating interagency tools.

(I) The establishment of a permanent interagency commission to continually implement, study, and revise the cyber strategy for the whole of Government to meet emerging threats and trends.

(J) The appointment of an individual from within the body established in subclause (I) as the leader for interagency cyber strategy and execution of said strategy.

(K) The development of a semiannual or biennial war game involving all Federal agencies to determine best practices for domestic and global responses to cyber events.

(L) Cyber operations plans for possible cyber events to supplement current operations plans of the unified combatant command.

(M) Mechanisms for continuous information sharing among Government agencies relating to the range of cyber operations.

(N) Such other matters as the President considers appropriate.

(b) **ASSESSMENT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the submission of the strategy required by subsection (a), and annually after that, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an assessment of the strategy, including—

(1) the status of implementation of the strategy;

(2) notes and minutes from any meeting of the permanent interagency commission;

(3) brief and results of semiannual or biennial war games prescribed in subsection (a)(2)(J); and

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

(c) **FORM.**—The strategy and assessment required by this section shall each be submitted in classified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2377.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INCREASES IN DEFENSE CAPABILITIES OF UNITED STATES ALLIES.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) For over six decades, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been a successful intergovernmental, political, and military alliance.

(2) The collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization acts as a deterrent to aggression in which the alliance defends member countries (referred to in this section as “NATO allies”) against external security threats.

(3) The North Atlantic Treaty Organization strengthens the security of the United States by using an integrated military coalition.

(4) While the Federation of Russia has continued to threaten the sovereignty of countries in Europe and exhibit threatening behavior toward the military assets of the United States, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization sends a clear collective message that the alliance will not tolerate provocation by Russia.

(5) Article 3 of the North Atlantic Treaty states that “in order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack”.

(6) The first defense-spending target of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was issued over 40 years ago in the 1977 NATO Ministerial Guidance, which set a 3 percent target for growth in defense expenditures to answer the nearly three times larger defense resource allocations of the Soviet Union.

(7) At the 2002 NATO Prague Summit, NATO allies entered into a nonbinding agreement to raise defense spending to 2 percent of the gross domestic product of the member states to meet the goals set forth in the Prague Capabilities Commitment.

(8) One month before the 2006 NATO Riga Summit, United States ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Victoria Nuland, called the 2 percent metric the “unofficial floor” on defense spending in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(9) At the 2006 NATO Riga Summit, NATO allies declared “we encourage nations whose defense spending is declining to halt that decline and to aim to increase defense spending in real terms”.

(10) In 2008, at the NATO Bucharest Summit, NATO allies reaffirmed their defense spending agreement.

(11) In 2014, at the NATO Wales Summit, NATO allies officially declared to increase their defense spending to 2 percent of their gross domestic product by 2024.

(12) The Wales Summit Declaration stated, “Allies currently meeting the NATO guideline to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense will aim to continue to do so. Likewise, Allies spending more than 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including related Research & Development, will continue to do so. Allies whose current proportion of GDP spent on defense is below this level will: halt any decline in defense expenditure; aim to increase defense expenditure in real terms as GDP grows; aim to move towards the 2 percent guideline within a decade with a view to meeting their NATO Capability Targets and filling NATO’s capability shortfalls.”.

(13) The 2016 Warsaw Summit Communiqué stated, “Today, five Allies meet the NATO guideline to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product on defense. Ten Allies meet the NATO guideline to spend more than 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including related Research & Development.”.

(14) As of June 2018, 15 of the 29 NATO allies are expected to reach the goal of spending two percent of gross domestic product on defense by 2024.

(15) It is the sense of Congress that the President, in furtherance of increased unity, equitable sharing of the common defense burden, and international stability, should—

(A) encourage all NATO allies to fulfill their commitments to levels and composition of defense expenditures as agreed at the NATO 2014 Wales Summit and NATO 2016 Warsaw Summit;

(B) call on NATO allies to finance, equip, and train their armed forces to fulfill their national and regional security interests; and

(C) recognize NATO allies that are meeting their defense spending commitments or otherwise providing adequately for their national and regional security interests.

**SA 2378.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr.

INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1226. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN MILITIAS IN IRAQ THAT ARE BACKED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.**

(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 block and prohibit, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), all transactions in all property and interests in property of As-Saib Ahl al-Haq, Harakat Hizballah al-Nujaba, and any foreign person that the President determines is an official, agent, or affiliate of, or owned or controlled by, As-Saib Ahl al-Haq or Harakat Hizballah al-Nujaba, if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—The requirement to impose sanctions under paragraph (1) shall not include the requirement or the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods (as that 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.))).

(3) **UNITED STATES PERSON DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “United States person” means—

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

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

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a report that includes a detailed list of entities in which there is a reasonable basis to determine that Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of not less than 33 percent to—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

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

**SA 2379.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for

other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XI, add the following:

**SEC. 1126. IMPROVED AUTHORITIES OF SECRETARIES OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—(1) The Secretary of a military department may, as provided in this section, reprimand or suspend, involuntarily reassign, demote, or remove a covered individual from a senior executive position at the military department if the Secretary determines that the misconduct or performance of the covered individual warrants such action.

(2) If the Secretary so removes such an individual, the Secretary may remove the individual from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code).

(b) **RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES.**—(1) A covered individual who is the subject of an action under subsection (a) is entitled to—

(A) advance notice of the action and a file containing all evidence in support of the proposed action;

(B) be represented by an attorney or other representative of the covered individual's choice; and

(C) grieve the action in accordance with an internal grievance process that the Secretary of the applicable military department shall establish for purposes of this subsection.

(2)(A) The aggregate period for notice, response, and decision on an action under subsection (a) may not exceed 15 business days.

(B) The period for the response of a covered individual to a notice under paragraph (1)(A) of an action under subsection (a) shall be 7 business days.

(C) A decision under this paragraph on an action under subsection (a) shall be issued not later than 15 business days after notice of the action is provided to the covered individual under paragraph (1)(A). The decision shall be in writing, and shall include the specific reasons therefor.

(3) The Secretary of the applicable military department shall ensure that the grievance process established under paragraph (1)(C) takes fewer than 21 days.

(4) A decision under paragraph (2) that is not grieved, and a grievance decision under paragraph (3), shall be final and conclusive.

(5) A covered individual adversely affected by a decision under paragraph (2) that is not grieved, or by a grievance decision under paragraph (3), may obtain judicial review of such decision.

(6) In any case in which judicial review is sought under paragraph (5), the court shall review the record and may set aside any military department action found to be—

(A) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with a provision of law;

(B) obtained without procedures required by a provision of law having been followed; or

(C) unsupported by substantial evidence.

(c) **RELATION TO OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.**—Section 3592(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and the procedures under section 7543(b) of such title do not apply to an action under subsection (a).

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered individual” means a career appointee (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code).

(2) The term “military department” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “misconduct” includes neglect of duty, malfeasance, or failure to accept a directed reassignment or to accompany a position in a transfer of function.

(4) The term “senior executive position” means with respect to a career appointee (as that term is defined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code), a Senior Executive Service position (as such term is defined in such section).

**SEC. 1127. IMPROVED AUTHORITIES OF SECRETARIES OF MILITARY DEPARTMENTS TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY OF EMPLOYEES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) The Secretary of a military department may remove, demote, or suspend a covered individual who is an employee of a military department if the Secretary determines the performance or misconduct of the covered individual warrants such removal, demotion, or suspension.

(2) If the Secretary so removes, demotes, or suspends such a covered individual, the Secretary may—

(A) remove the covered individual from the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code);

(B) demote the covered individual by means of a reduction in grade for which the covered individual is qualified, that the Secretary determines is appropriate, and that reduces the annual rate of pay of the covered individual; or

(C) suspend the covered individual.

(b) **PAY OF CERTAIN DEMOTED INDIVIDUALS.**—(1) Any covered individual subject to a demotion under subsection (a)(2) shall, beginning on the date of such demotion, receive the annual rate of pay applicable to such grade.

(2)(A) A covered individual so demoted may not be placed on administrative leave during the period during which an appeal (if any) under this section is ongoing, and may only receive pay if the covered individual reports for duty or is approved to use accrued unused annual, sick, family medical, military, or court leave.

(B) If a covered individual so demoted does not report for duty or receive approval to use accrued unused leave, such covered individual shall not receive pay or other benefits pursuant to subsection (d)(5).

(c) **PROCEDURE.**—(1)(A) The aggregate period for notice, response, and final decision in a removal, demotion, or suspension under this section may not exceed 15 business days.

(B) The period for the response of a covered individual to a notice of a proposed removal, demotion, or suspension under this section shall be 7 business days.

(C) Paragraph (3) of subsection (b) of section 7513 of title 5, United States Code, shall apply with respect to a removal, demotion, or suspension under this section.

(D) The procedures in this subsection shall supersede any collective bargaining agreement to the extent that such agreement is inconsistent with such procedures.

(2) The Secretary of the applicable military department shall issue a final decision with respect to a removal, demotion, or suspension under this section not later than 15 business days after the Secretary provides notice, including a file containing all the evidence in support of the proposed action, to the covered individual of the removal, demotion, or suspension. The decision shall be in writing and shall include the specific reasons therefor.

(3) The procedures under chapter 43 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to a removal, demotion, or suspension under this section.

(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B) and subsection (d), any removal or demotion under this section, and any suspension of more than 14 days under this section, may be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board, which shall refer such appeal to an administrative judge pursuant to section 7701(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) An appeal under subparagraph (A) of a removal, demotion, or suspension may only be made if such appeal is made not later than 10 business days after the date of such removal, demotion, or suspension.

(d) **EXPEDITED REVIEW.**—(1) Upon receipt of an appeal under subsection (c)(4)(A), the administrative judge shall expedite any such appeal under section 7701(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and, in any such case, shall issue a final and complete decision not later than 180 days after the date of the appeal.

(2)(A) Notwithstanding section 7701(c)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, the administrative judge shall uphold the decision of the Secretary of the applicable military department to remove, demote, or suspend an employee under subsection (a) if the decision is supported by substantial evidence.

(B) Notwithstanding title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, if the decision of the Secretary of the applicable military department is supported by substantial evidence, the administrative judge shall not mitigate the penalty prescribed by the Secretary.

(3)(A) The decision of the administrative judge under paragraph (1) may be appealed to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

(B) Notwithstanding section 7701(c)(1)(B) of title 5, United States Code, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall uphold the decision of the Secretary to remove, demote, or suspend an employee under subsection (a) if the decision is supported by substantial evidence.

(C) Notwithstanding title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law, if the decision of the Secretary of the applicable military department is supported by substantial evidence, the Merit Systems Protection Board shall not mitigate the penalty prescribed by the Secretary.

(4) In any case in which the administrative judge cannot issue a decision in accordance with the 180-day requirement under paragraph (1), the Merit Systems Protection Board shall, not later than 14 business days after the expiration of the 180-day period, submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a report that explains the reasons why a decision was not issued in accordance with such requirement.

(5) A decision of the Merit Systems Protection Board under paragraph (3) may be appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit pursuant to section 7703 of title 5, United States Code, or to any court of appeals of competent jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B) of such section.

(6) The Merit Systems Protection Board may not stay any removal or demotion under this section, except as provided in section 1214(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(7) During the period beginning on the date on which a covered individual appeals a removal from the civil service under subsection (c) and ending on the date that the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit issues a final decision on such appeal, such covered individual may not receive any pay, awards, bonuses, incentives, allowances, differentials, student loan repayments, special payments, or benefits related to the employment of the individual by the military department.

(8) To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary of the applicable military department shall provide to the Merit Systems Protection Board such information and assistance as may be necessary to ensure an appeal under this subsection is expedited.

(9) If an employee prevails on appeal under this section, the employee shall be entitled

to backpay (as provided in section 5596 of title 5, United States Code).

(10) If an employee who is subject to a collective bargaining agreement chooses to grieve an action taken under this section through a grievance procedure provided under the collective bargaining agreement, the timelines and procedures set forth in subsection (c) and this subsection shall apply.

(e) **WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.**—(1) In the case of a covered individual seeking corrective action (or on behalf of whom corrective action is sought) from the Office of Special Counsel (established by section 1211 of title 5, United States Code) based on an alleged prohibited personnel practice described in section 2302(b) of title 5, United States Code, the Secretary of the applicable military department may not remove, demote, or suspend such covered individual under subsection (a) without the approval of the Special Counsel under section 1214(f) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) In the case of a covered individual who has made a whistleblower disclosure to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Secretary of the applicable military department may not remove, demote, or suspend such covered individual under subsection (a) until—

(A) in the case in which the Inspector General of the Department of Defense determines to refer the whistleblower disclosure to an office or other investigative entity, a final decision with respect to the whistleblower disclosure has been made by such office or other investigative entity; or

(B) in the case in which the Inspector General of the Department of Defense determines not to refer the whistleblower disclosure under such section, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense makes such determination.

(f) **TERMINATION OF INVESTIGATIONS BY OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL.**—(1) The Special Counsel (established by section 1211 of title 5) may terminate an investigation of a prohibited personnel practice alleged by an employee or former employee of a military department after the Special Counsel provides to the employee or former employee a written statement of the reasons for the termination of the investigation.

(2) Such statement may not be admissible as evidence in any judicial or administrative proceeding without the consent of such employee or former employee.

(g) **VACANCIES.**—In the case of a covered individual who is removed or demoted under subsection (a), to the maximum extent feasible, the Secretary of the applicable military department shall fill the vacancy arising as a result of such removal or demotion.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered individual” means an individual occupying a position at a military department, but does not include—

(A) a career appointee (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code);

(B) a Senior Executive Service position (as that term is defined in section 3132(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code);

(C) an individual who has not completed a probationary or trial period; or

(D) a political appointee.

(2) The term “military department” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “suspend” means the placing of an employee, for disciplinary reasons, in a temporary status without duties and pay for a period in excess of 14 days.

(4) The term “grade” has the meaning given such term in section 7511(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(5) The term “misconduct” includes neglect of duty, malfeasance, or failure to ac-

cept a directed reassignment or to accompany a position in a transfer of function.

(6) The term “political appointee” means an individual who is—

(A) employed in a position described under sections 5312 through 5316 of title 5, United States Code (relating to the Executive Schedule);

(B) a limited term appointee, limited emergency appointee, or noncareer appointee in the Senior Executive Service, as defined under paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively, of section 3132(a) of title 5, United States Code; or

(C) employed in a position of a confidential or policy-determining character under schedule C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation.

**SA 2380.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . BRIEFING ON CYBER EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

(a) **SENSE OF THE SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) traditional approaches to cyber training focused solely on tactics, techniques, and procedures that hackers have used in the past may be inadequate for the challenges facing the cyber workforce of the Department of Defense because they fail to focus on future threats;

(2) such workforce encounters an information gap when conducting training derived from events that have already occurred rather than training developed for the evolving nature of cyber threats in real time, and cyber certifications such as Security + and CISSP are based on preventing vulnerabilities, exploits, and gaps identified in the past and lose relevance depending on when the courseware was updated;

(3) bridging the gap in cyber training between curriculum that has been built on legacy data versus training built on current real world cyberattacks is a meaningful area of cyber training research, curriculum development, and instruction delivery that should be addressed; and

(4) universities and private industry are, and will continue to be, critical partners in the education and training of our future cyber force, and developing partnerships with such universities and industry will be crucial in staying informed of the latest best practices in the cyber domain.

(b) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall brief the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives on how the Department of Defense can leverage and partner with universities and industry on cyber education and training.

(c) **ELEMENTS.**—The briefing required by subsection (a) shall include discussion of the following:

(1) Current partnerships and ability to expand and leverage such partnerships to improve cyber education and training.

(2) Existing curriculum relating to cyber education and training and recommendations for changes to ensure relevance of such education and training to future threats.

(3) Joint development of curriculum, courseware, and research projects.

(4) Joint use of instructors and of facilities.

(5) Recommendations for legislative or administrative action to improve cyber education and training partnerships.

**SA 2381.** Mr. CORKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BEFORE ADJUSTMENT BY PRESIDENT OF IMPORTS DETERMINED TO THREATEN TO IMPAIR NATIONAL SECURITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking subparagraph (B);

(ii) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “(A) Within” and inserting “Within”;

(iii) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively; and

(iv) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated by clause (iii)—

(I) by striking “determine” and inserting “submit to Congress, not later than 15 days after making that determination, a proposal regarding”; and

(II) by striking “must” and inserting “should”; and

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

“(2) The President shall submit to Congress for review under subsection (f) a report describing the action proposed to be taken under paragraph (1) and specifying the reasons for such proposal. Such report shall be included in the report published under subsection (e).”;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(3) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) **CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF PRESIDENTIAL ADJUSTMENT OF IMPORTS; JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—An action to adjust imports proposed by the President and submitted to Congress under subsection (c)(2) shall have force and effect only upon the enactment of a joint resolution of approval, provided for in paragraph (3), relating to that action.

“(2) **PERIOD FOR REVIEW BY CONGRESS.**—The period for congressional review of a report required to be submitted under subsection (c)(2) shall be 60 calendar days.

“(3) **JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL.**—

“(A) **JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘joint resolution of approval’ means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress—

“(i) the title of which is as follows: ‘A joint resolution approving the proposal of the President to take an action relating to the adjustment of imports entering into the United States in such quantities or under such circumstances as to threaten or impair the national security.’; and

“(ii) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is the following: ‘Congress approves of the recommendation of the President to Congress relating to the adjustment of imports to protect the national security as proposed by the President in the report submitted to Congress under section 232(c)(2) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862(c)(2)) on \_\_\_\_\_ relating to \_\_\_\_\_’, with the first blank space being filled with the appropriate date and the second blank space being filled with a short description of the proposed action.

“(B) INTRODUCTION.—During the period of 60 calendar days provided for under paragraph (2), a joint resolution of approval may be introduced and shall be referred to the appropriate committee.

“(C) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—If a committee of the House of Representatives to which a joint resolution of approval has been referred has not reported the joint resolution within 10 calendar days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

“(D) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

“(i) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint resolution of approval introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Finance.

“(ii) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval was referred has not reported the joint resolution within 10 calendar days after the date of referral of the joint resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

“(iii) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Finance reports a joint resolution of approval or has been discharged from consideration of such a joint resolution to move to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order.

“(iv) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a joint resolution of approval shall be decided by the Senate without debate.

“(E) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(i) TREATMENT OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION IN HOUSE.—In the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply to a joint resolution of approval received from the Senate (unless the House has already passed a joint resolution relating to the same proposed action):

“(I) The joint resolution shall be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

“(II) If the Committee on Ways and Means has not reported the joint resolution within 2 calendar days after the date of referral, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution.

“(III) Beginning on the third legislative day after each committee to which a joint resolution has been referred reports the joint resolution to the House or has been discharged from further consideration thereof, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the joint resolution in the House. All points of order against the motion are waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to proceed on the joint resolution. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on

the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall not be in order.

“(IV) The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against the joint resolution and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the sponsor of the joint resolution (or a designee) and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the vote on passage of the joint resolution shall not be in order.

“(ii) TREATMENT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION IN SENATE.—

“(I) If, before the passage by the Senate of a joint resolution of approval, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply:

“(aa) That joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee.

“(bb) With respect to that joint resolution—

“(AA) the procedure in the Senate shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the House of Representatives; but

“(BB) the vote on passage shall be on the joint resolution from the House of Representatives.

“(II) If, following passage of a joint resolution of approval in the Senate, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, that joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate Senate calendar.

“(III) If a joint resolution of approval is received from the House, and no companion joint resolution has been introduced in the Senate, the Senate procedures as described in subparagraph (D) shall apply to the House joint resolution.

“(F) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.—This paragraph is enacted by Congress—

“(i) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

“(ii) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to any proposed action covered by subsection (c) of section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862), as so amended, on or after the date that is two years before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) TIMING OF CERTAIN PROPOSALS.—If the President makes a determination described in subsection (c)(1)(A) of such section, as so amended, during the period beginning on the date that is two years before the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the day before such date of enactment, the submission to Congress of the proposal described in subsection (c)(1)(B) of such section, as so amended, shall be required not later than 15 days after such date of enactment.

(3) MODIFICATION OF DUTY RATE AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any rate of duty modified under section 232(c) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862(c)) during the period specified in paragraph (2) shall on the date of the enactment of this Act revert to

the rate of duty in effect before such modification.

(B) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN LIQUIDATIONS AND RELIQUIDATIONS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (ii), any entry of an article that—

(I) was made—

(aa) on or after the date that is two years before the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(bb) before such date of enactment, and

(II) to which a lower rate of duty would be applicable due to the application of subparagraph (A), shall be liquidated or reliquidated as though such entry occurred on such date of enactment.

(ii) REQUESTS.—A liquidation or reliquidation may be made under clause (i) with respect to an entry only if a request therefor is filed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act that contains sufficient information to enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

(I) to locate the entry; or

(II) to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(iii) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of an entry of an article under clause (i) shall be paid, without interest, not later than 90 days after the date of the liquidation or reliquidation (as the case may be).

**SA 2382.** Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1107. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION ON AUTHORITY TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE CIVILIAN WORKFORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

No provision of this Act or amendment made by this Act may be construed to provide the Secretary of Defense any authority to reduce the size of the civilian workforce of the Department of Defense in a manner not otherwise authorized by section 1597 of title 10, United States Code.

**SA 2383.** Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 215, line 17, insert before the period at the end the following: “, that is specifically designed for the professional military education of commissioned officers”.

**SA 2384.** Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

**SEC. 1636A. APPOINTMENT OF CYBERSECURITY COORDINATOR.**

(a) **APPOINTMENT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall appoint a Cybersecurity Coordinator within the Executive Office of the President.

(b) **DUTIES.**—The Cybersecurity Coordinator appointed under subsection (a) shall be responsible for—

(1) developing and coordinating the cybersecurity strategy and policies of the Federal Government; and

(2) providing oversight and assessment of the implementation of such strategy and policies across the Federal Government.

**SA 2385.** Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 340. STARBASE PROGRAM.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The budget of the President for fiscal year 2019 requested no funding for the Department of Defense STARBASE program.

(2) The purpose of the STARBASE program is to improve the knowledge and skills of students in kindergarten through 12th grade in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects, to connect them to the military, and to motivate them to explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and possible military careers as they continue their education.

(3) The STARBASE program currently operates at 76 locations in 40 States and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, primarily on military installations.

(4) To date, nearly 750,000 students have participated in the STARBASE program.

(5) The STARBASE program is a highly effective program run by dedicated members of the Armed Forces and strengthens the relationships between the military, communities, and local school districts.

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the STARBASE program should continue to be funded by the Department of Defense.

(c) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 for the

Department of Defense by section 301 is hereby increased by \$25,000,000, with the amount of the increase to be available for Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide, for Civil Military Programs for the STARBASE program.

(2) **OFFSET.**—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Defense by section 301 is hereby reduced by \$25,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be taken from amounts available for Operation and Maintenance, Navy, for Operating Forces for Enterprise Information (Line 300).

**SA 2386.** Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. UDALL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 3119. PLUTONIUM PIT PRODUCTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator for Nuclear Security shall continue the design of the facility described in subsection (b) to 90 percent design completion with an independent cost estimate described in subsection (c) before approval of a combined critical decision-2 and critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B (relating to program management and project management for the acquisition of capital assets), or a successor order, in order to ensure the suitability of the facility for plutonium pit production.

(b) **FACILITY DESCRIBED.**—The facility described in this subsection is a plutonium pit production facility—

(1) authorized pursuant to section 3114(c)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (50 U.S.C. 2535 note);

(2) described in the document entitled the “Engineering Assessment Report—Pu Pit Production Engineering Assessment”, dated April 13, 2018; and

(3) capable of producing an additional 31 to 80 pits annually, as required by section 4219 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2538a).

(c) **INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATES DESCRIBED.**—An independent cost estimate described in this subsection shall include an evaluation of the suitability of the facility described in subsection (b) for plutonium pit production, including an evaluation of the following:

(1) Life cycle costs.

(2) Program acquisition unit costs for pit production.

(3) Average program unit costs for pit production.

(4) The costs of start up to full operations capable of producing 31 to 80 pits annually, as required by section 4219 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2538a).

(5) A quantitative risk assessment of pit production.

(d) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Combined critical decision-2 and critical decision-3 for the facility described in subsection (b) may not commence until the date that is 30 days after the Administrator submits to the congressional defense committees a report on the independent cost estimate conducted under subsection (c).

(e) **PLAN FOR OVERSIGHT OF PIT PRODUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Nuclear Weapons Council established under section 179 of title 10, United States Code, shall—

(A) establish a plan for oversight of current and future plutonium pit production capabilities to meet the requirements of the Department of Defense, including the development of a future plutonium pit production facility; and

(B) submit the plan to the congressional defense committees.

(2) **SIGNATURES.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall be signed by all members of the Nuclear Weapons Council.

(f) **BRIEFING ON PLUTONIUM STRATEGY.**—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 Senate and the House of Representatives, 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 the strategy for the Department of Defense and the congressional defense committees.

**SA 2387.** Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. TRAINING ON CONTRACTOR WORKPLACE SAFETY AND HEALTH PRACTICES.**

The Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a training program for Department of Defense contracting officers on contractor workplace safety and health practices. The training shall cover—

(1) how to review publicly available Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) databases and identify and evaluate prospective contractors' violations of workplace safety and health regulations during the contract evaluation phase, including whether measures to avoid further violations are warranted;

(2) how to evaluate and understand prospective contractors' Accident Prevention Programs, as required by section 36.513 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation during the contractor evaluation phase;

(3) how to evaluate workplace safety incidents and violations of workplace safety and health regulations by the contractor during contract performance; and

(4) any other information or processes that the Secretary of Defense determines relevant for purposes of evaluating the workplace safety records, plans, and performance of contractors and prospective contractors.

**SA 2388.** Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mrs. ERNST) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr.

INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. DOCUMENTATION OF INFORMATION ON BLAST EXPOSURES IN SERVICE RECORDS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with such guidance as the Secretary of Defense shall issue for purposes of this section, each Secretary of a military department shall include in the military service records of members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary appropriate documentation of information on any blasts to which such members are exposed during service in the Armed Forces (whether in combat or training), including the following:

- (1) The month and year of exposure.
- (2) The severity of the exposure, which may include the blast pressure experienced during exposure and other features as determined by the Secretary.
- (3) Whether exposure occurred during combat or training.
- (4) Whether a weapon was the source of the blast, and, if so, the type of weapon.
- (5) Such other information on the exposure as the Secretary of Defense shall specify in the guidance.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on blast pressure exposure of members of the Armed Forces during—

(A) with respect to the initial report, the one-year period ending on the date of such report; and

(B) with respect to each subsequent report, the two-year period ending on the date of such report.

(2) INFORMATION FROM SERVICE RECORDS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include summary descriptions of the information specified in each paragraph of subsection (a) that was included in the records of such members during the period covered by such report.

**SA 2389.** Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1046(a), strike paragraph (4) and all that follows through the end of the subsection and insert the following:

(4) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (10); and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraphs:

“(5) For each military operation covered by such report, whether or not the Depart-

ment conducted any form of post-operation inquiry (including a battle damage assessment, commander-directed inquiry or investigation, or other form of inquiry), and, if so, the form of such inquiry.

“(6) For each combatant command for which such report covers one or more military operations, the remedial actions, if any, taken by the Department after such operations (including the payment of ex gratia payments to victims or their families or the issuance of a formal apology to such families), set forth—

“(A) by operation; and

“(B) by country in which operations occurred.

“(7) The number, if any, of ex gratia payments made during the period covered by such report, set forth—

“(A) in aggregate;

“(B) by combatant command;

“(C) by operation; and

“(D) by country in which ex gratia payments were paid.

“(8) For the period covered by such report—

“(A) an explanation for the discrepancies, if any, between Department post-operation assessments of civilian casualties in connection with military operations covered by such report and credible reports of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on such casualties, set forth in general and in connection with each military operation covered by such report;

“(B) a description of the manner in which the reliability and accuracy of assessments and reports described in subparagraph (A) were assessed, and the standards used in assessing such reliability and accuracy;

“(C) a description of the manner in which discrepancies between such assessments and reports were addressed, and the standards used in addressing such discrepancies; and

“(D) a description of each case in which such an assessment was updated based on new information.

“(9) Any update or modification to a previous report under this section that the Secretary considers appropriate in order to ensure that the information on civilian casualties in connection with United States military operations provided by reports under this section is fully complete and accurate.”.

At the end of section 1046, add the following:

(c) REPORT ON STAFF AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR FOLLOWING CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN CONNECTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, acting through the official of the Department of Defense whose responsibility is to develop, coordinate, and oversee compliance with the policy of the Department relating to civilian casualties resulting from United States military operations, submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth recommendations for mechanisms to provide appropriate staff and other resources for the assessment, investigation, and tracking by the Department of civilian casualties resulting from United States military operations.

**SA 2390.** Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel

strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. COMPLIANCE WITH DFARS RESTRICTIONS ON CONTRACTOR USE OF MANDATORY ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS.**

(a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall brief the congressional defense committees on steps the Department of Defense has taken to ensure compliance with the provisions of subpart 222.74 of the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, which provides restrictions on the use of mandatory arbitration agreements.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The briefing required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) a description of steps taken to ensure that the Department does not award contracts in excess of \$1,000,000 to contractors that require as a condition of employment that employees enter an agreement to resolve certain claims and torts through arbitration; and

(2) a description of the extent to which the Secretary of Defense has waived the requirements of subpart 222.74.

**SA 2391.** Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PILOT EXTENSIONS AND REPORTING COMPLIANCE; PILOT PROGRAM.**

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in subsection (cc), by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”;

(2) in subsection (gg)(7), by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”;

(3) in subsection (jj)(7), by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”;

(4) in subsection (mm)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “2017” and inserting “2019”;

(ii) in subparagraph (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

“(K) funding for improvements that increase commonality across data systems, reduce redundancy, and improve data oversight and accuracy.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS; FAST PROGRAM.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘covered Federal agency’ means a Federal agency that—

“(i) is required to conduct an SBIR program; and

“(ii) elects to use the funds allocated to the SBIR program of the Federal agency for the purposes described in paragraph (1).

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—Each covered Federal agency shall transfer an amount equal to 15 percent of the funds that are used for the purposes described in paragraph (1) to the Administration—

“(i) for the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program established under subsection (tt);

“(ii) for the Federal and State Technology Partnership Program established under section 34; and

“(iii) to support the Office of the Administration that administers the SBIR program and the STTR program, subject to agreement from other agencies about how the funds will be used, in carrying out those programs and the programs described in clauses (i) and (ii).

“(8) PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Of amounts provided to the Administration under paragraph (7), not less than \$5,000,000 shall be used to provide awards under the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program established under subsection (tt) for each fiscal year in which the program is in effect.

“(B) DISBURSEMENT FLEXIBILITY.—The Administration may use any unused funds made available under subparagraph (A) as of April 1 of each fiscal year for awards to carry out clauses (ii) and (iii) of paragraph (7)(B) after providing written notice to—

“(i) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Committee on Small Business and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(tt) REGIONAL SBIR STATE COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) a research institution; and

“(ii) a small business concern;

“(B) the term ‘eligible State’ means—

“(i) a State that the Administrator determines is in the bottom half of States, based on the average number of annual SBIR program awards made to companies in the State for the preceding 3 years for which the Administration has applicable data; and

“(ii) an EPSCoR State that—

“(I) is a State described in clause (i); or

“(II) is—

“(aa) not a State described in clause (i); and

“(bb) invited to participate in a regional collaborative;

“(C) the term ‘EPSCoR State’ means a State that participates in the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research of the National Science Foundation, as established under section 113 of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1862g);

“(D) the term ‘FAST program’ means the Federal and State Technology Partnership Program established under section 34;

“(E) the term ‘pilot program’ means the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program established under paragraph (2);

“(F) the term ‘regional collaborative’ means a collaborative consisting of eligible entities that are located in not less than 3 eligible States; and

“(G) the term ‘State’ means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish a pilot program, to be known as the Regional SBIR State Collaborative Initiative Pilot Program, under which the Administrator shall provide awards to regional collaboratives to address the needs of small business concerns in order to—

“(A) be more competitive in the proposal and selection process for awards under the SBIR program and the STTR program; and

“(B) increase technology transfer and commercialization.

“(3) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program are—

“(A) to create regional collaboratives that allow eligible entities to work cooperatively to leverage resources to address the needs of small business concerns;

“(B) to grow SBIR program and STTR program cooperative research and development and commercialization through increased awards under those programs;

“(C) to increase the participation of States that have historically received a lower level of awards under the SBIR program and the STTR program;

“(D) to utilize the strengths and advantages of regional collaboratives to better leverage resources, best practices, and economies of scale in a region for the purpose of increasing awards and increasing the commercialization of the SBIR program and STTR projects;

“(E) to increase the competitiveness of the SBIR program and the STTR program;

“(F) to identify sources of outside funding for applicants for an award under the SBIR program or the STTR program, including venture capitalists, angel investor groups, private industry, crowd funding, and special loan programs; and

“(G) to offer increased one-on-one engagements with companies and entrepreneurs for SBIR program and STTR program education, assistance, and successful outcomes.

“(4) APPLICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A regional collaborative that desires to participate in the pilot program shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

“(B) INCLUSION OF LEAD ELIGIBLE ENTITIES AND COORDINATOR.—A regional collaborative shall include in an application submitted under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) the name of each lead eligible entity from each eligible State in the regional collaborative, as designated under paragraph (5)(A); and

“(ii) the name of the coordinator for the regional collaborative, as designated under paragraph (6).

“(C) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—A regional collaborative shall include in an application submitted under subparagraph (A) an explanation regarding how the activities of the regional collaborative under the pilot program would differ from other State and Federal outreach activities in each eligible State in the regional collaborative.

“(5) LEAD ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible State in a regional collaborative shall designate 1 eligible entity located in the eligible State to serve as the lead eligible entity for the eligible State.

“(B) AUTHORIZATION BY GOVERNOR.—Each lead eligible entity designated under subparagraph (A) shall be authorized to act as the lead eligible entity by the Governor of the applicable eligible State.

“(C) RESPONSIBILITIES.—Each lead eligible entity designated under subparagraph (A) shall be responsible for administering the activities and program initiatives described in paragraph (7) in the applicable eligible State.

“(6) REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE COORDINATOR.—Each regional collaborative shall designate a coordinator from amongst the eligible entities located in the eligible States in the regional collaborative, who shall serve as the interface between the regional collaborative and the Administration with respect to measuring cross-State collaboration and program effectiveness and documenting best practices.

“(7) USE OF FUNDS.—Each regional collaborative that is provided an award under the pilot program may, in each eligible State in

which an eligible entity of the regional collaborative is located—

“(A) establish an initiative under which first-time applicants for an award under the SBIR program or the STTR program are reviewed by experienced, national experts in the United States, as determined by the lead eligible entity designated under paragraph (5)(A);

“(B) engage national mentors on a frequent basis to work directly with applicants for an award under the SBIR program or the STTR program, particularly during Phase II, to assist with the process of preparing and submitting a proposal;

“(C) create and make available an online mechanism to serve as a resource for applicants for an award under the SBIR program or the STTR program to identify and connect with Federal labs, prime government contractor companies, other industry partners, and regional industry cluster organizations;

“(D) conduct focused and concentrated outreach efforts to increase participation in the SBIR program and the STTR program by small business concerns owned and controlled by women, small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8(d)(3)(C)), and historically Black colleges and universities;

“(E) administer a structured program of training and technical assistance—

“(i) to prepare applicants for an award under the SBIR program or the STTR program—

“(I) to compete more effectively for Phase I and Phase II awards; and

“(II) to develop and implement a successful commercialization plan;

“(ii) to assist eligible States focusing on transition and commercialization to win Phase III awards from public and private partners;

“(iii) to create more competitive proposals to increase awards from all Federal sources, with a focus on awards under the SBIR program and the STTR program; and

“(iv) to assist first-time applicants by providing small grants for proof of concept research; and

“(F) assist applicants for an award under the SBIR program or the STTR program to identify sources of outside funding, including venture capitalists, angel investor groups, private industry, crowd funding, and special loan programs.

“(8) AWARD AMOUNT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide an award to each eligible State in which an eligible entity of a regional collaborative is located in an amount that is not more than \$300,000 to carry out the activities described in paragraph (7).

“(B) LIMITATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An eligible State may not receive an award under both the FAST program and the pilot program for the same year.

“(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in clause (i) may be construed to prevent an eligible State from applying for an award under the FAST program and the pilot program for the same year.

“(9) DURATION OF AWARD.—An award provided under the pilot program—

“(A) shall be for a period of not more than 1 year; and

“(B) may be renewed by the Administrator for 1 additional year if the Administrator provides only 1 such renewal with respect to that award.

“(10) TERMINATION.—The pilot program shall terminate on September 30, 2019, except that an entity that receives a 1-year renewal

under paragraph (9)(B) before that date may continue to use the amounts with respect to that renewal at any time during that 1-year period.

“(11) REPORT.—Not later than March 30, 2019, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program, which shall include—

“(A) details regarding the recipient of each award provided under the pilot program, including the amount of each award, the number of small business concerns that received assistance from the award amounts, and the manner in which the award was used to meet the goals described in paragraph (3);

“(B) to the extent practicable, an assessment of the best practices of the pilot program, including an analysis of how the pilot program compares to the FAST program and a single-State approach; and

“(C) recommendations regarding whether any aspect of the pilot program should be extended or made permanent.

“(uu) OUTSTANDING REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 30, 2019, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives—

“(A) each report, evaluation, or analysis, as applicable, described in subsection (b)(7), (g)(9), (o)(10), (y)(6)(C), (eg)(6), (jj)(6), and (mm)(6); and

“(B) metrics regarding, and an evaluation of, the authority provided to the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education under subsection (cc).

“(2) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Not later than December 31, 2018, the head of each agency that is responsible for carrying out a provision described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall submit to the Administrator any information that is necessary for the Administrator to carry out the responsibilities of the Administrator under that paragraph.”.

**SA 2392.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REVIEW OF EFFECT OF OTHER-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGES ON VETERAN EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES.**

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Labor, complete a review of the effect of discharges and releases from service in the active military, naval, or air service under conditions other than honorable on employment outcomes for veterans who were so discharged or released.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the effect of a discharge or release described in subsection (a) on a veteran's employment outcomes.

(2) Development of recommendations for legislative or administrative action to reduce the negative effect of such a discharge or release on employment outcomes, including potential educational campaigns.

(3) An assessment of agency outreach or other relevant efforts to inform veterans of their ability to seek a change to their character of discharge through a discharge review board.

(4) An assessment of the progress of the Secretary of Defense in implementing the recommendations of the Comptroller General published in the Government Accountability Office report GAO-17-260 in May of 2017 on actions needed to ensure post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury are considered in misconduct separations.

(5) A review and development of recommended areas for improvement in the implementation by the Department of Defense of its August 25, 2017, clarifying guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Board for Correction of Military/Naval Records related to mental health conditions, sexual assault, or sexual harassment. Such review shall include identifying statistics on the number of upgrades and discharge reliefs requested and granted and the average time-frame for review of such requests.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Comptroller General completes the review required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the review.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “active military, naval, or air service”, “discharge or release”, and “veteran” have the meaning given such terms in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 2393.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REVIEW OF TAP FOR WOMEN.**

The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a comprehensive review of the Transition Assistance Program to ensure that it addresses the unique challenges and needs of women as they transfer from the Armed Forces to civilian life.

**SA 2394.** Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 622. ELIGIBILITY FOR PAYMENT OF BOTH RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN MILITARY RETIREES WITH COMPENSABLE SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.**

(a) EXTENSION OF CONCURRENT RECEIPT AUTHORITY TO RETIREES WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES RATED LESS THAN 50 PERCENT.—Section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (2) of subsection (a).

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of section 1414 of such title is amended to read as follows:

**“§ 1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans' disability compensation: concurrent payment of retired pay and disability compensation”.**

(2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 71 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“1414. Members eligible for retired pay who are also eligible for veterans' disability compensation: concurrent payment of retired pay and disability compensation.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2019, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

**SEC. 623. COORDINATION OF SERVICE ELIGIBILITY FOR COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION AND CONCURRENT RECEIPT.**

(a) AMENDMENTS TO STANDARDIZE SIMILAR PROVISIONS.—

(1) QUALIFIED RETIREES.—Subsection (a) of section 1414 of title 10, United States Code, as amended by section 622(a), is further amended—

(A) by striking “a member or” and all that follows through “(retiree)” and inserting “a qualified retiree”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) QUALIFIED RETIREES.—For purposes of this section, a qualified retiree, with respect to any month, is a member or former member of the uniformed services who—

“(A) is entitled to retired pay (other than by reason of section 12731b of this title); and

“(B) is also entitled for that month to veterans' disability compensation.”.

(2) DISABILITY RETIREES.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (b) of section 1414 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR RETIREES WITH FEWER THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—The retired pay of a qualified retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service is subject to reduction by the lesser of—

“(A) the amount of the reduction under sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38; or

“(B) the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under such chapter exceeds the amount equal to 2½ percent of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2019, and shall apply to payments for months beginning on or after that date.

**SA 2395.** Mr. HELLER (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations

for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 622. STANDARDIZATION OF APPLICABILITY OF SPECIAL RULES FOR CHAPTER 61 DISABILITY RETIREES IN CONNECTION WITH CONCURRENT RECEIPT OF RETIRED PAY AND VETERANS' DISABILITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 1414(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(2) DISABILITY RETIREES WITH LESS THAN 20 YEARS OF SERVICE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the retired pay of a qualified retiree who is retired under chapter 61 of this title with fewer than 20 years of creditable service is subject to reduction by the lesser of—

“(i) the amount of the reduction under sections 5304 and 5305 of title 38; or

“(ii) the amount (if any) by which the amount of the member's retired pay under such chapter exceeds the amount equal to the retired pay percentage (determined for the member under section 1409(b) of this title) of the member's years of creditable service multiplied by the member's retired pay base under section 1406(b)(1) or 1407 of this title, whichever is applicable to the member.

“(B) PHASED-IN APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraph (A) shall apply to qualified retirees as follows:

“(i) In the case of qualified retirees with a disability rated as 100 percent, or who are compensated at an equivalent rate due to individual unemployability, for months beginning on or after October 1, 2018.

“(ii) In the case of qualified retirees with a disability rated at least 90 percent but less than 100 percent, for months beginning on or after October 1, 2019.

“(iii) In the case of qualified retirees with a disability rated at least 80 percent but less than 90 percent, for months beginning on or after October 1, 2020.

“(iv) In the case of qualified retirees with a disability rated at least 70 percent but less than 80 percent, for months beginning on or after October 1, 2021.

“(v) In the case of qualified retirees with a disability rated at least 60 percent but less than 70 percent, for months beginning on or after October 1, 2022.

“(vi) In the case of qualified retirees with a disability rated at least 50 percent but less than 60 percent, for months beginning on or after October 1, 2023.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2018.

**SA 2396.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 537. IMPROVEMENT OF CERTAIN LEAVE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN CONNECTION WITH CHILDBIRTH.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (i) of section 701 of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (5); and  
(2) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (j)(4) of such section is amended—

(1) by striking “paragraphs (6) through (10)” and inserting “paragraphs (5) through (9)”; and

(2) by striking “paragraph (9)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (8)(B)”.

**SA 2397.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 7. EXPOSURE TO OPEN BURN PITS AND TOXIC AIRBORNE CHEMICALS AS PART OF PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.**

(a) PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that any periodic health assessment provided to members of the Armed Forces includes an evaluation of whether the member has been—

(1) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used; or

(2) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, including any information recorded as part of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

(b) SEPARATION HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.—Section 1145(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) The Secretary concerned shall ensure that each physical examination of a member under subparagraph (A) includes an assessment of whether the member was—

“(i) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit, as defined in subsection (c) of section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note), was used; or

“(ii) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, including any information recorded as part of the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under such section 201.”.

(c) DEPLOYMENT ASSESSMENTS.—Section 1074f(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) An assessment of whether the member was—

“(i) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit, as defined in subsection (c) of section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note), was used; or

“(ii) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, including any information recorded as part of the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under such section 201.”.

(d) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—

(1) DOD-VA.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall

jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding providing for the sharing by the Department of Defense with the Department of Veterans Affairs of the results of covered evaluations regarding the exposure by a member of the Armed Forces to toxic airborne chemicals.

(2) REGISTRY.—If a covered evaluation of a member of the Armed Forces establishes that the member was based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used, or the member was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, the member shall be enrolled in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, unless the member elects to not so enroll.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry” means the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term “covered evaluation” means—

(A) a periodic health assessment conducted in accordance with subsection (a);

(B) a separation history and physical examination conducted under section 1145(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section; and

(C) a deployment assessment conducted under section 1074f(b)(2) of such title, as amended by this section.

(3) The term “open burn pit” has the meaning given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

**SA 2398.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 10. NATIONAL STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) in accordance with Executive Order 13806 (82 Fed. Reg. 34597 (July 26, 2017)), while a healthy manufacturing and defense industrial base and resilient supply chains are essential to the economic strength and national security of the United States, modern supply chains are often long and the ability of the United States to manufacture or obtain goods critical to the national security of the United States could be hampered by an inability to obtain various essential components that may not be directly related to national security;

(2) in accordance with Executive Order 13817 (82 Fed. Reg. 60835 (December 26, 2017)), the United States is heavily reliant on imports of certain mineral commodities that are vital to the security and economic prosperity of the United States;

(3) the dependency of the United States on foreign sources of certain mineral commodities creates a strategic vulnerability for the economy and the military to adverse foreign government actions, natural disasters, and other events that could disrupt the supply of key minerals;

(4) increased private-sector domestic exploration, production, recycling, and reprocessing of critical minerals and support for efforts to identify more commonly available technological alternatives to critical minerals would—

(A) reduce the dependence of the United States on imports of critical minerals;

(B) preserve the leadership of the United States in technological innovation;

(C) support job creation;

(D) improve the national security and balance of trade of the United States; and

(E) enhance the technological superiority and readiness of the Armed Forces, which are among the most significant consumers of critical minerals in the United States;

(5) the industrialization of developing nations has driven demand for nonfuel minerals necessary for telecommunications, military technologies, healthcare technologies, and conventional and renewable energy technologies;

(6) the availability of minerals and mineral materials are essential for economic growth, national security, technological innovation, and the manufacturing and agricultural supply chain;

(7) minerals and mineral materials are critical components of every transportation, water, telecommunications, and energy infrastructure project necessary to modernize the crumbling infrastructure of the United States;

(8) the exploration, production, processing, use, and recycling of minerals contribute significantly to the economic well-being, security, and general welfare of the United States; and

(9) the United States has vast mineral resources but is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign sources of mineral resources, as demonstrated by the fact that—

(A) 25 years ago, the United States was dependent on foreign sources for 45 nonfuel mineral materials, of which—

(i) 8 were imported by the United States to fulfill 100 percent of the requirements of the United States for those nonfuel mineral materials; and

(ii) 19 were imported by the United States to fulfill greater than 50 percent of the requirements of the United States for those nonfuel mineral materials;

(B) by 2015 the import dependence of the United States for nonfuel mineral materials increased from dependence on the import of 45 nonfuel mineral materials to dependence on the import of 47 nonfuel mineral materials, of which—

(i) 19 were imported by the United States to fulfill 100 percent of the requirements of the United States for those nonfuel mineral materials; and

(ii) 22 were imported by the United States to fulfill greater than 50 percent of the requirements of the United States for those nonfuel mineral materials;

(C) according to the Department of Energy, the United States imports greater than 50 percent of the 41 metals and minerals key to clean energy applications;

(D) the United States share of worldwide mineral exploration dollars was 7 percent in 2015, down from 19 percent in the early 1990s;

(E) the 2014 Ranking of Countries for Mining Investment, which ranks 25 major mining countries, found that 7- to 10-year permitting delays are the most significant risk to mining projects in the United States; and

(F) in late 2016, the Government Accountability Office found that—

(i) “the Federal government’s approach to addressing critical materials supply issues has not been consistent with selected key practices for interagency collaboration, such as ensuring that agencies’ roles and responsibilities are clearly defined”; and

(ii) “the Federal critical materials approach faces other limitations, including data limitations and a focus on only a subset of critical materials, a limited focus on domestic production of critical materials, and limited engagement with industry”.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” means—

(A) any agency, department, or other unit of Federal, State, local, or tribal government; or

(B) an Alaska Native Corporation.

(2) ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION.—The term “Alaska Native Corporation” has the meaning given the term “Native Corporation” in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

(3) LEAD AGENCY.—The term “lead agency” means the agency with primary responsibility for issuing a mineral exploration or mine permit for a project.

(4) MINERAL EXPLORATION OR MINE PERMIT.—The term “mineral exploration or mine permit” includes—

(A) an authorization of the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service, as applicable, for premining activities that requires an environmental impact statement or similar analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(B) a plan of operations issued by—

(i) the Bureau of Land Management under subpart 3809 of part 3800 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); or

(ii) the Forest Service under subpart A of part 228 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

(C) a permit issued under an authority described in section 3503.13 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(5) PROJECT.—The term “project” means a project for which the issuance of a permit is required to conduct activities for, relating to, or incidental to mineral exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing, or reclamation activities—

(A) on a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim for any locatable mineral; or

(B) in conjunction with any Federal mineral (other than coal and oil shale) that is leased under—

(i) the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 351 et seq.); or

(ii) section 402 of Reorganization Plan Numbered 3 of 1946 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(c) IMPROVING DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS.—

(1) DEFINITION OF STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MINERALS.—In this subsection, the term “strategic and critical minerals” means minerals that are necessary—

(A) for the national defense and national security requirements, including supply chain resiliency;

(B) for the energy infrastructure of the United States, including—

(i) pipelines;

(ii) refining capacity;

(iii) electrical power generation and transmission; and

(iv) renewable energy production;

(C) for community resiliency, coastal restoration, and ecological sustainability for the coastal United States;

(D) to support domestic manufacturing, agriculture, housing, telecommunications, healthcare, and transportation infrastructure; or

(E) for the economic security of, and balance of trade in, the United States.

(2) CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN DOMESTIC MINES AS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—A domestic mine that, as determined by the lead agency, will provide strategic and critical

minerals shall be considered to be an infrastructure project, as described in Executive Order 13807 (82 Fed. Reg. 40463 (August 24, 2017)).

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LEAD AGENCY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall appoint a project lead within the lead agency, who shall coordinate and consult with cooperating agencies and any other agencies involved in the permitting process, project proponents, and contractors to ensure that cooperating agencies and other agencies involved in the permitting process, project proponents, and contractors—

(A) minimize delays;

(B) set and adhere to timelines and schedules for completion of the permitting process;

(C) set clear permitting goals; and

(D) track progress against those goals.

(2) DETERMINATION UNDER NEPA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To the extent that the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) applies to the issuance of any mineral exploration or mine permit, the requirements of that Act shall be considered to have been procedurally and substantively satisfied if the lead agency determines that any State or Federal agency acting under State or Federal law has addressed or will address the following factors:

(i) The environmental impact of the action to be conducted under the permit.

(ii) Possible adverse environmental effects of actions under the permit.

(iii) Possible alternatives to issuance of the permit.

(iv) The relationship between long- and short-term uses of the local environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.

(v) Any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources that would be involved in the proposed action.

(vi) That public participation will occur during the decisionmaking process for authorizing actions under the permit.

(B) WRITTEN REQUIREMENT.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), not later than 90 days after receipt of an application for the permit, the lead agency, in a written record of decision, shall—

(i) explain the rationale used in reaching the determination;

(ii) state the facts in the record that are the basis for the determination; and

(iii) show that the facts in the record could allow a reasonable person to reach the same determination as the lead agency did.

(3) COORDINATION ON PERMITTING PROCESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The lead agency shall enhance government coordination for the permitting process by—

(i) avoiding duplicative reviews;

(ii) minimizing paperwork; and

(iii) engaging other agencies and stakeholders early in the process.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out subparagraph (A), the lead agency shall consider—

(i) deferring to, and relying on, baseline data, analyses, and reviews performed by State agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed project; and

(ii) to the maximum extent practicable, conducting any consultations or reviews concurrently rather than sequentially if the concurrent consultation or review would expedite the process.

(C) MEMORANDUM OF AGENCY AGREEMENT.—

If requested at any time by a State or local planning agency, the lead agency, in consultation with other Federal agencies with relevant jurisdiction in the environmental review process, may establish memoranda of agreement with the project sponsor, State

and local governments, and other appropriate entities to accomplish the coordination activities described in this paragraph.

(4) SCHEDULE FOR PERMITTING PROCESS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For any project for which the lead agency cannot make the determination described in paragraph (2), at the request of a project proponent, the lead agency, cooperating agencies, and any other agencies involved with the mineral exploration or mine permitting process shall enter into an agreement with the project proponent that sets time limits for each part of the permitting process, including—

(i) the decision on whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(ii) a determination of the scope of any environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(iii) the scope of, and schedule for, the baseline studies required to prepare an environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(iv) preparation of any draft environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(v) preparation of a final environmental impact statement or similar analysis required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(vi) any consultations required under applicable law;

(vii) submission and review of any comments required under applicable law;

(viii) publication of any public notices required under applicable law; and

(ix) any final or interim decisions.

(B) TIME LIMIT FOR PERMITTING PROCESS.—Except if extended by mutual agreement of the project proponent and the lead agency, the time period for the total review process described in subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 30 months.

(5) LIMITATION ON ADDRESSING PUBLIC COMMENTS.—The lead agency shall not be required to address any agency or public comments that were not submitted—

(A) during a public comment period or consultation period provided during the permitting process; or

(B) as otherwise required by law.

(6) FINANCIAL ASSURANCE.—The lead agency shall determine the amount of financial assurance required for reclamation of a mineral exploration or mining site, on the condition that the financial assurance shall cover the estimated cost if the lead agency were to contract with a third party to reclaim the operations according to the reclamation plan, including construction and maintenance costs for any treatment facilities necessary to meet Federal, State, or tribal environmental standards.

(7) PROJECTS WITHIN NATIONAL FORESTS.—With respect to projects on National Forest System land, the lead agency shall—

(A) exempt from the requirements of part 294 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)—

(i) all areas of identified mineral resources in land use designations, other than non-development land use designations, in existence on the date of enactment of this Act; and

(ii) all additional routes and areas that the lead agency determines necessary to facilitate the construction, operation, maintenance, and restoration of an area described in clause (i); and

(B) continue to apply the exemptions described in subparagraph (A) after the date on which approval of the minerals plan of operations described in subsection (b)(4)(B)(ii) for the National Forest System land.

(8) APPLICATION TO EXISTING PERMIT APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection applies to a mineral exploration or mine permit for which an application was submitted before the date of enactment of this Act if the applicant for the permit submits a written request to the lead agency for the permit.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The lead agency shall begin implementing this subsection with respect to an application described in subparagraph (A) not later than 30 days after the date on which the lead agency receives the written request for the permit.

(9) FEDERAL REGISTER PROCESS FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND MINING PROJECTS.—

(1) DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW.—Absent any extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, and except as otherwise required by law, the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, shall ensure that each Federal Register notice associated with the issuance of a mineral exploration or mine permit and required by law shall be—

(A) subject to any required reviews within the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, as applicable; and

(B) published in final form in the Federal Register not later than 45 days after the date of initial preparation of the notice.

(2) PREPARATION.—The preparation of any Federal Register notice described in paragraph (1) shall be delegated to the organizational level within the lead agency.

(3) TRANSMISSION.—All Federal Register notices described in paragraph (1) regarding official document availability, announcements of meetings, or notices of intent to undertake an action shall originate in, and be transmitted to the Federal Register from, the office in which, as applicable—

(A) the documents or meetings are held; or

(B) the activity is initiated.

(F) SECRETARIAL ORDER NOT AFFECTED.—This section shall not apply to any mineral described in Secretarial Order 3324, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on December 3, 2012, in any area to which the order applies.

**SA 2399.** Mr. HELLER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

**TITLE XVIII—MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS**

**SEC. 1801. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Bring Our Heroes Home Act”.

**SEC. 1802. FINDINGS, DECLARATIONS, AND PURPOSES.**

(a) FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.—Congress finds and declares the following:

(1) A vast number of records relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel have not been identified, located, or transferred to the National Archives for review and declassification.

Only in the rarest cases is there any legitimate need for continued protection of records pertaining to Missing Armed Forces Personnel who have been missing for decades.

(2) There has been insufficient priority placed on identifying, locating, transferring, reviewing, or declassifying records relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(3) Mandates for declassification set forth in multiple Executive orders have been broadly written, loosely interpreted, and often ignored by Federal Government officials in possession and control of records related to Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(4) No individual or entity has been tasked with oversight of the identification, collection, review, and declassification of records related to Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(5) The interest, desire, workforce, and funding of Federal agencies to assemble, review, and declassify records relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel have been lacking.

(6) All records of the Federal Government relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel should be preserved for historical and governmental purposes.

(7) All records of the Federal Government relating Missing Armed Forces Personnel should carry a presumption of immediate disclosure, and all such records should be disclosed under this title to enable the fullest possible accounting for Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(8) Legislation is necessary to create an enforceable, independent, and accountable process for the public disclosure of records relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(9) Legislation is necessary because section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Freedom of Information Act), as implemented by the executive branch of the Federal Government, has prevented the timely public disclosure of records relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives; and

(2) to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records.

**SEC. 1803. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) ARCHIVIST.—The term “Archivist” means Archivist of the United States.

(2) COLLECTION.—The term “Collection” means the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection established under section 1804(a).

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency”—

(A) means an agency, as defined in section 552(f) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) includes any Executive department, military department, Government corporation, Government controlled corporation, or other establishment in the executive branch of the Federal Government, including the Executive Office of the President, any branch of the Armed Forces, and any independent regulatory agency.

(4) EXECUTIVE BRANCH MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORD.—The term “executive branch Missing Armed Forces Personnel record” means a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record of an Executive agency, or information contained in such a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record obtained or developed solely within the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(5) GOVERNMENT OFFICE.—The term “Government office” means a department or agency within the executive branch of the

Federal Government, the Library of Congress, and the National Archives.

(6) **IDENTIFICATION AID.**—The term “identification aid” means the standard form prepared under section 1805(d)(1)(A).

(7) **MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL.**—The term “Missing Armed Forces Personnel” means one or more “missing persons” as defined in section 1513 of title 10, United States Code.

(8) **MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORD.**—The term “Missing Armed Forces Personnel record” means a record that relates, directly or indirectly, to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel that was created or made available for use by, obtained by, or otherwise came into the custody, possession, or control of—

- (A) any Government office;
- (B) any Presidential library; or
- (C) any of the Armed Forces.

(9) **NATIONAL ARCHIVES.**—The term “National Archives”—

(A) means the National Archives and Records Administration; and

(B) includes—

(i) any component of the National Archives and Records Administration; and

(ii) a Presidential archival depository established under section 2112 of title 44, United States Code.

(10) **OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.**—The term “official investigation” means a review, briefing, or hearing relating to Missing Armed Forces Personnel conducted by a Presidential commission, committee of Congress, or agency, regardless of whether it is conducted independently, at the request of any Presidential commission or committee of Congress, or at the request of any official of the Federal Government.

(11) **ORIGINATING BODY.**—The term “originating body” means the Government office that created a record or particular information within a record.

(12) **PUBLIC INTEREST.**—The term “public interest” means the compelling interest in the prompt public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records for historical and governmental purposes and for the purpose of fully informing the people of the United States, most importantly families of Missing Armed Forces Personnel, about the fate of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel and the process by which the Federal Government has sought to account for them.

(13) **RECORD.**—The term “record” includes a book, paper, map, photograph, sound or video recording, machine readable material, computerized, digitized, or electronic information, regardless of the medium on which it is stored, and other documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics.

(14) **REVIEW BOARD.**—The term “Review Board” means the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Review Board established under section 1807.

(15) **THIRD AGENCY.**—The term “third agency” means a Government office that originated a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record that is in the custody, possession, or control of another Government office whose review and authorization is required before a record can be designated for disclosure.

#### **SEC. 1804. MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS COLLECTION AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF COLLECTION.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Archives shall commence establishment of a collection of records to be known as the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection.

(b) **REGULATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Review Board shall promulgate rules to es-

tablish guidelines and processes for the maintenance of the Collection.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The rules required to be promulgated under paragraph (1) shall include guidelines and processes for—

(A) transmission of records for inclusion in the Collection;

(B) disclosure of records contained in the Collection;

(C) fees for copying of records contained in the Collection; and

(D) availability and security of records contained in the Collection.

#### **SEC. 1805. REVIEW, IDENTIFICATION, TRANSMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS BY GOVERNMENT OFFICES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **PREPARATION.**—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, and sufficiently in advance of the deadlines established under this title, each Government office shall—

(A) identify, locate, and organize any Missing Armed Forces Personnel records in the custody, possession, or control of the Government office; and

(B) prepare for transmission to the Archivist any Missing Armed Forces Personnel records that have not previously been transmitted to the Archivist by the Government office.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—Each Government office shall submit to the Archivist, under penalty of perjury, a certification indicating—

(A) whether the Government office has conducted a thorough search for all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records in the custody, possession, or control of the Government office; and

(B) whether any Missing Armed Forces Personnel record has been withheld by the office, other than in accordance with this title.

(3) **PRESERVATION.**—No Missing Armed Forces Personnel record shall be destroyed, altered, or mutilated in any way.

(4) **EFFECT OF PREVIOUS DISCLOSURE.**—A Missing Armed Forces Personnel record made available or disclosed to the public before the date of enactment of this Act may not be withheld, redacted, postponed for public disclosure, or reclassified.

(5) **NON-FEDERAL RECORDS.**—Except for the exclusion of names or identities in accordance with section 1806, a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record created by an individual or entity that is not part of the Federal Government may not be withheld, redacted, postponed for public disclosure, or reclassified.

(6) **WITHHELD RECORDS.**—For any Missing Armed Forces Personnel record that is withheld by a Government office from the Archivist or the Review Board, the head of the Government office shall submit an unclassified report to the Review Board and each appropriate committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives explaining the decision to withhold the record.

(b) **CUSTODY OF MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS PENDING REVIEW.**—During the period during which a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record is being reviewed by a Government office and any review activity by the Review Board relating to the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record is pending, the Government office shall retain custody of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record for purposes of preservation, security, and efficiency, unless—

(1) the Review Board requires the physical transfer of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record for purposes of conducting an independent and impartial review; or

(2) transfer is necessary for an administrative hearing or other Review Board function.

(c) **REVIEW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each Government office shall, in accordance with the rules promulgated under paragraph (2)—

(A) identify, locate, review, and organize each Missing Armed Forces Personnel record in the custody, possession, or control of the Government office for transmission to the Archivist and disclosure to the public or, if needed, review by the Review Board; and

(B) identify and review for public disclosure each Missing Armed Services Personnel record previously transferred to the National Archives that remains classified in whole or in part.

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—The Review Board shall promulgate rules for the disclosure of relevant records by Government offices under paragraph (1).

(3) **PRESIDENTIAL ARCHIVAL DEPOSITORIES.**—The Director of each Presidential archival depository established under section 2112 of title 44, United States Code, shall—

(A) have as a priority the expedited review for public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records in the custody, possession, or control of the depository; and

(B) make Missing Armed Forces Personnel records available to the Review Board as required under this title.

(4) **NATIONAL ARCHIVES RECORDS.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Archivist shall—

(A) locate and identify all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records in the custody, possession, or control of the National Archives that remain classified, in whole or in part;

(B) notify a Government office if the Archivist locates and identifies a record of the Government office under subparagraph (A); and

(C) make each Missing Armed Forces Personnel record located and identified under subparagraph (A) available for review by the originating body.

(d) **IDENTIFICATION AIDS.**—

(1) **PREPARATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 45 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Archivist, in consultation with the appropriate Government offices, shall prepare and make available to all Government offices a standard form for collecting information relating to each Missing Armed Forces Personnel record subject to review under this title.

(B) **COMPATIBILITY.**—The Archivist shall prepare and make available identification aids in a manner that results in a uniform and compatible system of electronic records for use by Government offices.

(2) **USE.**—Upon completion of an identification aid, a Government office shall—

(A) attach a printed copy to the record to which the identification aid relates;

(B) transmit to the Review Board a printed copy of the identification aid; and

(C) attach a printed copy to each Missing Armed Forces Personnel record described in the identification aid when the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record is transmitted to the Archivist.

(3) **RECORDS ALREADY PUBLIC.**—A Missing Armed Forces Personnel record that is in the custody, possession, or control of the National Archives on the date of enactment of this Act, and that has been publicly available in its entirety without redaction—

(A) shall be made available in the Collection without any additional review by the Review Board or another Government office under this title; and

(B) shall not be required to have an identification aid, unless required by the Archivist.

(e) **TRANSMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.**—Each Government office shall—

(1) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, transmit to the Archivist, and make available to the public, all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records in the custody, possession or control of the Government office that may be publicly disclosed under the standards under this title, including those that are publicly available on the date of enactment of this Act, without any redaction, adjustment, or withholding; and

(2) transmit to the Archivist upon approval for postponement by the Review Board or upon completion of other action authorized by this title, all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records the public disclosure of which has been postponed, in whole or in part, under the standards under this title, to become part of the protected Collection.

(f) **CUSTODY OF POSTPONED MISSING ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL RECORDS.**—A Missing Armed Forces Personnel record the public disclosure of which has been postponed under the standards under this title shall, pending transmission to the Archivist, be held for reasons of security and preservation by the originating body until such time as an information security program has been established at the National Archives.

(g) **PERIODIC REVIEW OF POSTPONED MISSING ARMED SERVICES PERSONNEL RECORDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—All Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, or information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, the public disclosure of which has been postponed under the standards under this title shall be reviewed periodically by the originating body and by the Archivist consistent with the recommendations of the Review Board under section 1809(c)(3)(B).

(2) **CONTENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A periodic review of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, by the originating body shall address the public disclosure of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record under the standards under this title.

(B) **CONTINUED POSTPONEMENT.**—If an originating body conducting a periodic review of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, the public disclosure of which has been postponed under the standards under this title determines that continued postponement is required, the originating body shall provide to the Archivist and publish in the Federal Register an unclassified written description of the reason for the continued postponement.

(C) **SCOPE.**—The periodic review of postponed Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, or information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, shall serve the purpose stated in section 1802(b)(2), to provide expeditious public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, to the fullest extent possible, subject only to the grounds for postponement of disclosure under section 1806.

(D) **DISCLOSURE ABSENT CERTIFICATION BY PRESIDENT.**—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, shall be publicly disclosed in full, and available in the Collection, unless the President submits to the Archivist a certification that—

(i) continued postponement is necessary because of an identifiable harm to the military defense, intelligence operations, or conduct of foreign relations; and

(ii) the identifiable harm is of such gravity that it outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

(h) **FEES FOR COPYING.**—An Executive agency—

(1) shall charge a fee for copying Missing Armed Forces Personnel records; and

(2) may grant a waiver of such a fee in a manner in accordance with the standards established by the head of the Executive agency for purposes of section 552(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code.

#### **SEC. 1806. GROUNDS FOR POSTPONEMENT OF PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS.**

Disclosure to the public of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record or particular information in a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record may be postponed subject to the limitations under this title if there is clear and convincing evidence that—

(1) the threat to the military defense, intelligence operations, or conduct of foreign relations of the United States posed by the public disclosure of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record or information is of such gravity that it outweighs the public interest, and such public disclosure would reveal—

(A) an intelligence agent whose identity requires continued protection;

(B) an intelligence source or method—

(i) which is in use, or reasonably expected to be used, by the Federal Government;

(ii) which has not been officially disclosed; and

(iii) the disclosure of which would interfere with the conduct of intelligence activities; or

(C) any other matter relating to the current military defense, intelligence operations, or conduct of foreign relations of the United States, the disclosure of which would demonstrably impair the national security of the United States;

(2) the public disclosure of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record would reveal the name or identity of a living person who provided confidential information to the United States and would pose a substantial risk of harm to that person; or

(3) the public disclosure of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and that invasion of privacy is so substantial that it outweighs the public interest.

#### **SEC. 1807. ESTABLISHMENT AND POWERS OF THE MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established as an independent establishment in the executive branch a board to be known as the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Review Board.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **APPOINTMENTS.**—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, 5 individuals to serve as a member of the Review Board to ensure and facilitate the review, transmission to the Archivist, and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The President shall appoint individuals to serve as members of the Review Board—

(A) without regard to political affiliation;

(B) who are citizens of the United States of integrity and impartiality;

(C) who have high national professional reputation in their fields who are capable of exercising the independent and objective judgment necessary to the fulfillment of their role in ensuring and facilitating the identification, location, review, transmission to the Archivist, and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records;

(D) who possess an appreciation of the value of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records to scholars, the Federal Government, and the public, particularly families of Missing Armed Forces Personnel;

(E) not less than one professional historian; and

(F) not less than one attorney.

(3) **DEADLINES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit nominations for all members of the Review Board.

(B) **CONFIRMATION REJECTED.**—If the Senate votes not to confirm a nomination to serve as a member of the Review Board, not later than 90 days after the date of the vote the President shall submit the nomination of an additional individual to serve as a member of the Review Board.

(4) **CONSULTATION.**—The President shall make nominations to the Review Board after considering individuals recommended by the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society of American Archivists, the American Bar Association, veterans' organizations, and organizations representing families of Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(c) **SECURITY CLEARANCES.**—The appropriate departments, agencies, and elements of the executive branch of the Federal Government shall cooperate to ensure that an application by an individual nominated to be a member of the Review Board, seeking security clearances necessary to carry out the duties of the Review Board, is expeditiously reviewed and granted or denied.

(d) **CONFIRMATION.**—

(1) **HEARINGS.**—Not later 30 days on which the Senate is in session after the date on which not less than 3 individuals have been nominated to serve as members of the Review Board, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate shall hold confirmation hearings on the nominations.

(2) **COMMITTEE VOTE.**—Not later than 14 days on which the Senate is in session after the date on which the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs holds a confirmation hearing on the nomination of an individual to serve as a member of the Review Board, the committee shall vote on the nomination and report the results to the full Senate immediately.

(3) **SENATE VOTE.**—Not later than 14 days on which the Senate is in session after the date on which the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs reports the results of a vote on a nomination of an individual to serve as a member of the Review Board, the Senate shall vote on the confirmation of the nominee.

(e) **VACANCY.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a vacancy on the Review Board occurs, the vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as specified for original appointment.

(f) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The members of the Review Board shall elect a member as Chairperson at the initial meeting of the Review Board.

(g) **REMOVAL OF REVIEW BOARD MEMBER.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A member of the Review Board shall not be removed from office, other than—

(A) by impeachment by Congress; or

(B) by the action of the President for inefficiency, neglect of duty, malfeasance in office, physical disability, mental incapacity, or any other condition that substantially impairs the performance of the member's duties.

(2) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—A member of the Review Board removed from office may obtain judicial review of the removal in a civil action commenced in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

(B) **RELIEF.**—The member may be reinstated or granted other appropriate relief by order of the court.

(h) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **BASIC PAY.**—A member of the Review Board shall be compensated at a rate equal

to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Review Board.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Review Board shall be allowed reasonable travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the member's home or regular place of business in the performance of services for the Review Board.

(i) **DUTIES OF THE REVIEW BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Review Board shall consider and render a decision on a determination by a Government office to seek to postpone the disclosure of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, in whole or in part.

(2) **RECORDS.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Review Board shall consider and render a decision regarding—

(A) whether a record constitutes a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record; and

(B) whether a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or particular information in a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, qualifies for postponement of disclosure under this title.

(j) **POWERS.**—The Review Board shall have the authority to act in a manner prescribed under this title, including authority to—

(1) direct Government offices to create identification aids and organize Missing Armed Forces Personnel records;

(2) direct Government offices to transmit to the Archivist Missing Armed Forces Personnel records as required under this title, including segregable portions of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records and substitutes and summaries of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records that can be publicly disclosed to the fullest extent;

(3) obtain access to Missing Armed Forces Personnel records that have been identified and organized by a Government office;

(4) direct a Government office to make available to the Review Board, and if necessary investigate the facts surrounding, additional information, records, or testimony from individuals, which the Review Board has reason to believe is required to fulfill its functions and responsibilities under this title;

(5) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the Review Board considers advisable to carry out its responsibilities under this title;

(6) hold individuals in contempt for failure to comply with directives and mandates issued by the Review Board under this title, which shall not include the authority to imprison or fine any individual;

(7) require any Government office to account in writing for the destruction of any records relating to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel; and

(8) receive information from the public regarding the identification and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records.

(k) **WITNESS IMMUNITY.**—The Review Board shall be considered to be an agency of the United States for purposes of section 6001 of title 18, United States Code.

(l) **OVERSIGHT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives shall have—

(A) continuing oversight jurisdiction with respect to the official conduct of the Review

Board and the disposition of postponed records after termination of the Review Board; and

(B) upon request, access to any records held or created by the Review Board.

(2) **DUTY OF REVIEW BOARD.**—The Review Board shall have the duty to cooperate with the exercise of oversight jurisdiction under paragraph (1).

(m) **SUPPORT SERVICES.**—The Administrator of the General Services Administration shall provide administrative services for the Review Board on a reimbursable basis.

(n) **INTERPRETIVE REGULATIONS.**—The Review Board may issue interpretive regulations.

(o) **TERMINATION AND WINDING UP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Two years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Review Board shall, by majority vote, determine whether all Government offices have complied with the obligations, mandates, and directives under this title.

(2) **TERMINATION DATE.**—The Review Board shall terminate on the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(3) **REPORT.**—Before the termination of the Review Board under paragraph (2), the Review Board shall submit to Congress reports, including a complete and accurate accounting of expenditures during its existence, and shall complete all other reporting requirements under this title.

(4) **RECORDS.**—Upon termination of the Review Board, the Review Board shall transfer all records of the Review Board to the Archivist for inclusion in the Collection, and no record of the Review Board shall be destroyed.

#### **SEC. 1808. MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS REVIEW BOARD PERSONNEL.**

(a) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 45 days after the initial meeting of the Review Board, the Review Board shall appoint an individual to the position of Executive Director.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The individual appointed as Executive Director of the Review Board—

(A) shall be a citizen of the United States of integrity and impartiality;

(B) shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation; and

(C) shall not have any conflict of interest with the mission of the Review Board.

(3) **SECURITY CLEARANCE.**—

(A) **LIMIT ON APPOINTMENT.**—The Review Board shall not appoint an individual as Executive Director until after the date on which the individual qualifies for the necessary security clearance.

(B) **EXPEDITED PROVISION.**—The appropriate departments, agencies, and elements of the executive branch of the Federal Government shall cooperate to ensure that an application by an individual nominated to be Executive Director, seeking security clearances necessary to carry out the duties of the Executive Director, is expeditiously reviewed and granted or denied.

(4) **DUTIES.**—The Executive Director shall—

(A) serve as principal liaison to Government offices;

(B) be responsible for the administration and coordination of the review of records by the Review Board;

(C) be responsible for the administration of all official activities conducted by the Review Board; and

(D) not have the authority to decide or determine whether any record should be disclosed to the public or postponed for disclosure.

(5) **REMOVAL.**—The Executive Director may be removed by a majority vote of the Review Board.

(b) **STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Review Board may, in accordance with the civil service laws, but without regard to civil service law and regulation for competitive service as defined in subchapter 1, chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, appoint and terminate additional employees as are necessary to enable the Review Board and the Executive Director to perform their duties under this title.

(2) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—An individual appointed to a position as an employee of the Review Board—

(A) shall be a citizen of the United States of integrity and impartiality; and

(B) shall not have had any previous involvement with any official investigation or inquiry relating to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel.

(3) **SECURITY CLEARANCE.**—

(A) **LIMIT ON APPOINTMENT.**—The Review Board shall not appoint an individual as an employee of the Review Board until after the date on which the individual qualifies for the necessary security clearance.

(B) **EXPEDITED PROVISION.**—The appropriate departments, agencies, and elements of the executive branch of the Federal Government shall cooperate to ensure that an application by an individual who is a candidate for a position with the Review Board, seeking security clearances necessary to carry out the duties of the position, is expeditiously reviewed and granted or denied.

(c) **COMPENSATION.**—The Review Board shall fix the compensation of the Executive Director and other employees of the Review Board without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay for the Executive Director and other employees may not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

(d) **ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Review Board may create one or more advisory committees to assist in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Review Board under this title.

(2) **APPLICABILITY OF FACA.**—Any advisory committee created by the Review Board shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

#### **SEC. 1809. REVIEW OF RECORDS BY THE MISSING ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL RECORDS REVIEW BOARD.**

(a) **CUSTODY OF RECORDS REVIEWED BY REVIEW BOARD.**—Pending the outcome of the review activity of the Review Board, a Government office shall retain a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record in the custody, possession or control of the Government office for purposes of preservation, security, and efficiency, unless—

(1) the Review Board requires the physical transfer of records for reasons of conducting an independent and impartial review; or

(2) such transfer is necessary for an administrative hearing or other official function of the Review Board.

(b) **STARTUP REQUIREMENTS.**—The Review Board shall—

(1) not later than 90 days after the date on which all members are appointed, publish a schedule for review of all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records in the Federal Register; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, begin reviewing of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records under this title.

(c) **DETERMINATION OF THE REVIEW BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Review Board shall direct that all records that relate, directly or indirectly, to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel be transmitted to the Archivist and disclosed to the

public in the Collection in the absence of clear and convincing evidence that—

(A) the record is not a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record; or

(B) the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or particular information within the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, qualifies for postponement of public disclosure under this title.

(2) **POSTPONEMENT.**—In approving postponement of public disclosure of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, the Review Board shall seek to—

(A) provide for the disclosure of segregable parts, substitutes, or summaries of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel record; and

(B) determine, in consultation with the originating body and consistent with the standards for postponement under this title, which of the following alternative forms of disclosure shall be made by the originating body:

(i) Any reasonably segregable particular information in a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record.

(ii) A substitute record for that information which is postponed.

(iii) A summary of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record.

(3) **REPORTING.**—With respect to a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or information within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, the public disclosure of which is postponed under this title, or for which only substitutions or summaries have been disclosed to the public, the Review Board shall create and transmit to the Archivist a report containing—

(A) a description of actions by the Review Board, the originating body, or any Government office (including a justification of any such action to postpone disclosure of any record or part of any record) and of any official proceedings conducted by the Review Board; and

(B) a statement, based on a review of the proceedings and in conformity with the decisions reflected therein, designating a recommended specified time at which, or a specified occurrence following which, the material may be appropriately disclosed to the public under this title, which the Review Board shall disclose to the public with notice thereof, reasonably calculated to make interested members of the public aware of the existence of the statement.

(4) **ACTIONS AFTER DETERMINATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 14 days after the date of a determination by the Review Board that a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record shall be publicly disclosed in the Collection or postponed for disclosure and held in the protected Collection, the Review Board shall notify the head of the originating body of the determination and publish a copy of the determination in the Federal Register.

(B) **OVERSIGHT NOTICE.**—Simultaneous with notice under subparagraph (A), the Review Board shall provide notice of a determination concerning the public disclosure or postponement of disclosure of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, or information contained within a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, which shall include a written unclassified justification for public disclosure or postponement of disclosure, including an explanation of the application of any standards in section 1806 to the President, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives

(5) **REFERRAL AFTER TERMINATION.**—A Missing Armed Forces Personnel record that is identified, located, or otherwise discovered after the date on which the Review Board

terminates shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives for review, ongoing oversight and, as warranted, referral for possible enforcement action relating to a violation of this title.

(d) **NOTICE TO PUBLIC.**—Every 30 days, beginning on the date that is 60 days after the date on which the Review Board first approves the postponement of disclosure of a Missing Armed Forces Personnel record, the Review Board shall publish in the Federal Register a notice that summarizes the postponements approved by the Review Board, including a description of the subject, originating body, length or other physical description, and each ground for postponement that is relied upon.

(e) **REPORTS BY THE REVIEW BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter until the Review Board terminates, the Review Board shall submit a report regarding the activities of the Review Board to—

(A) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the President;

(D) the Archivist; and

(E) the head of any Government office the records of which have been the subject of Review Board activity.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include the following information:

(A) A financial report of the expenses for all official activities and requirements of the Review Board and its employees.

(B) The progress made on review, transmission to the Archivist, and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records.

(C) The estimated time and volume of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records involved in the completion of the duties of the Review Board under this title.

(D) Any special problems, including requests and the level of cooperation of Government offices, with regard to the ability of the Review Board to carry out its duties under this title.

(E) A record of review activities, including a record of postponement decisions by the Review Board or other related actions authorized under this title, and a record of the volume of records reviewed and postponed.

(F) Suggestions and requests to Congress for additional legislative authority needs.

(G) An appendix containing copies of reports relating to postponed records submitted to the Archivist under subsection (c)(3) since the end of the period covered by the most recent report under paragraph (1).

(3) **TERMINATION NOTICE.**—Not later than 90 days before the Review Board expects to complete the work of the Review Board under this title, the Review Board shall provide written notice to Congress of the intent of the Review Board to terminate operations at a specified date.

#### **SEC. 1810. DISCLOSURE OF OTHER MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL STUDY.**

(a) **MATERIALS UNDER SEAL OF COURT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Review Board may request the Attorney General to petition any court of the United States or of a foreign country to release any information relevant to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel that is held under seal of the court.

(2) **GRAND JURY INFORMATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Review Board may request the Attorney General to petition any court of the United States to release any in-

formation relevant to loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel that is held under the injunction of secrecy of a grand jury.

(B) **TREATMENT.**—A request for disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel materials under this title shall be deemed to constitute a showing of particularized need under rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

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

(1) the Attorney General should assist the Review Board in good faith to unseal any records that the Review Board determines to be relevant and held under seal by a court or under the injunction of secrecy of a grand jury;

(2) the Secretary of State should—

(A) contact the governments of the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to seek the disclosure of all records in their respective custody, possession, or control relevant to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel; and

(B) contact any other foreign government that may hold information relevant to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel, and seek disclosure of such information; and

(3) all agencies should cooperate in full with the Review Board to seek the disclosure of all information relevant to the loss, fate, or status of Missing Armed Forces Personnel consistent with the public interest.

#### **SEC. 1811. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) **PRECEDENCE OVER OTHER LAW.**—When this title requires transmission of a record to the Archivist or public disclosure, it shall take precedence over any other law (except section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), judicial decision construing such law, or common law doctrine that would otherwise prohibit such transmission or disclosure, with the exception of deeds governing access to or transfer or release of gifts and donations of records to the United States Government.

(b) **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to eliminate or limit any right to file requests with any Executive agency or seek judicial review of the decisions under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

(c) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Nothing in this title shall be construed to preclude judicial review under chapter 7 of title 5, United States Code, of final actions taken or required to be taken under this title.

(d) **EXISTING AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this title revokes or limits the existing authority of the President, any Executive agency, the Senate, or the House of Representatives, or any other entity of the Government to publicly disclose records in its custody, possession, or control.

(e) **RULES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—To the extent that any provision of this title establishes a procedure to be followed in the Senate or the House of Representatives, such provision is adopted—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and is deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House, and it supersedes other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent with such rules; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as they relate to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

**SEC. 1812. TERMINATION OF EFFECT.**

(a) PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO THE REVIEW BOARD.—The provisions of this title that pertain to the appointment and operation of the Review Board shall cease to be effective when the Review Board and the terms of its members have terminated under section 1807(o).

(b) OTHER PROVISIONS.—The remaining provisions of this title shall continue in effect until such time as the Archivist certifies to the President and Congress that all Missing Armed Forces Personnel records have been made available to the public in accordance with this title.

**SEC. 1813. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this title, to remain available until expended.

(b) INTERIM FUNDING.—Until such time as funds are appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), the President may use such sums as are available for discretionary use to carry out this title.

**SEC. 1814. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this title, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of this title and the application of that provision to other persons not similarly situated or to other circumstances shall not be affected by the invalidation.

**SA 2400.** Mrs. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. PRESIDENTIAL ALLOWANCE MODERNIZATION.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2018”.

**(b) AMENDMENTS.—**

(1) FORMER PRESIDENTS.—The first section of the Act entitled “An Act to provide retirement, clerical assistants, and free mailing privileges to former Presidents of the United States, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1958 (commonly known as the “Former Presidents Act of 1958”) (3 U.S.C. 102 note), is amended—

(A) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (h) and (i), respectively;

(B) by striking the matter preceding subsection (e) and inserting the following:

“(a) ANNUITIES AND ALLOWANCES.—

“(1) ANNUITY.—Each former President shall be entitled to receive from the United States an annuity, subject to subsections (b) and (c)—

“(A) at the rate of \$200,000 per year; and

“(B) which shall commence on the day after the date on which an individual becomes a former President.

“(2) ALLOWANCE.—The General Services Administration is authorized to provide each former President a monetary allowance, subject to appropriations and subsections (b), (c), and (d), at the rate of—

“(A) \$500,000 per year for 5 years beginning on the day after the last day of the period described in the first sentence of section 5 of

the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note);

“(B) \$350,000 per year for the 5 years following the 5-year period under subparagraph (A); and

“(C) \$250,000 per year thereafter.

“(b) DURATION; FREQUENCY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The annuity and monetary allowance under subsection (a) shall—

“(A) terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the former President dies; and

“(B) be payable by the Secretary of the Treasury on a monthly basis.

“(2) APPOINTEE OR ELECTIVE POSITIONS.—The annuity and monetary allowance under subsection (a) shall not be payable for any period during which a former President holds an appointive or elective position in or under the Federal Government to which is attached a rate of pay other than a nominal rate.

“(c) COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.—Effective December 1 of each year, each annuity and monetary allowance under subsection (a) that commenced before that date shall be increased by the same percentage by which benefit amounts under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.) are increased, effective as of that date, as a result of a determination under section 215(i) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 415(i)).

“(d) LIMITATION ON MONETARY ALLOWANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the monetary allowance payable under subsection (a)(2) to a former President for any 12-month period—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), may not exceed the amount by which—

“(i) the monetary allowance that (but for this subsection) would otherwise be so payable for the 12-month period, exceeds (if at all)

“(ii) the applicable reduction amount for the 12-month period; and

“(B) shall not be less than the amount determined under paragraph (4).

“(2) DEFINITION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable reduction amount’ means, with respect to any former President and in connection with any 12-month period, the amount by which—

“(i) the earned income (as defined in section 32(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the former President for the most recent taxable year for which a tax return is available, exceeds (if at all)

“(ii) \$400,000, subject to subparagraph (C).

“(B) JOINT RETURNS.—In the case of a joint return, subparagraph (A)(i) shall be applied by taking into account both the amounts properly allocable to the former President and the amounts properly allocable to the spouse of the former President.

“(C) COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES.—The dollar amount specified in subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be adjusted at the same time that, and by the same percentage by which, the monetary allowance of the former President is increased under subsection (c) (disregarding this subsection).

“(3) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

“(i) the terms ‘return’ and ‘return information’ have the meanings given those terms in section 6103(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(ii) the term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of the Treasury’s delegate.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—A former President may not receive a monetary allowance under subsection (a)(2) unless the former President discloses to the Secretary, upon the request of the Secretary, any return or return information of the former President or spouse of

the former President that the Secretary determines is necessary for purposes of calculating the applicable reduction amount under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

“(C) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Except as provided in section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may not, with respect to a return or return information disclosed to the Secretary under subparagraph (B)—

“(i) disclose the return or return information to any entity or person; or

“(ii) use the return or return information for any purpose other than to calculate the applicable reduction amount under paragraph (2).

“(4) INCREASED COSTS DUE TO SECURITY NEEDS.—With respect to the monetary allowance that would be payable to a former President under subsection (a)(2) for any 12-month period but for the limitation under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Director of the United States Secret Service, shall determine the amount of the monetary allowance that is needed to pay the increased cost of doing business that is attributable to the security needs of the former President.”;

(C) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

“(f) OFFICE STAFF.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of General Services shall, without regard to the civil service and classification laws, provide for each former President an office staff of not more than 13 individuals, at the request of the former President, on a reimbursable basis.

“(2) COMPENSATION.—The annual rate of compensation payable to any individual under paragraph (1) shall not exceed the highest annual rate of basic pay for positions at level II of the Executive Schedule under section 5313 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) SELECTION; RESPONSIBILITY.—An individual employed under this subsection—

“(A) shall be selected by the former President; and

“(B) shall be responsible only to the former President for the performance of duties.

“(g) OFFICE SPACE AND RELATED FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT.—

“(1) OFFICE SPACE.—The Administrator of General Services (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Administrator’) shall, at the request of a former President, on a reimbursable basis provide for the former President suitable office space, as determined by the Administrator, at a place within the United States specified by the former President.

“(2) FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT.—

“(A) REIMBURSABLE.—The Administrator may, at the request of a former President, provide the former President with suitable office furnishings and equipment on a reimbursable basis.

“(B) WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT.—

“(i) GRANDFATHERED FORMER PRESIDENTS.—In the case of any individual who is a former President on the date of enactment of the Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2018, the former President may retain without reimbursement any furniture and equipment in the possession of the former President.

“(ii) PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ACT.—A former President may retain without reimbursement any furniture or equipment acquired under section 5 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note).

“(iii) EXCESS FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT.—The Administrator may provide excess furniture and equipment to the office of a former President at no cost other than necessary transportation costs.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) APPLICABILITY.—Subsections (f), (g) (other than paragraph (2)(B)(i) of that subsection), and (i) shall apply with respect to a former President on and after the day after the last day of the period described in the first sentence of section 5 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note).”.

(2) SURVIVING SPOUSES OF FORMER PRESIDENTS.—

(A) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF MONETARY ALLOWANCE.—Subsection (e) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958 is amended—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking “\$20,000 per annum,” and inserting “\$100,000 per year (subject to paragraph (4)),”; and

(ii) in the second sentence—

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

(II) in paragraph (3)—

(aa) by striking “or the government of the District of Columbia”; and

(bb) by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(III) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) shall, after its commencement date, be increased at the same time that, and by the same percentage by which, annuities of former Presidents are increased under subsection (c).”.

(B) COVERAGE OF WIDOWER OF A FORMER PRESIDENT.—Subsection (e) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as amended by subparagraph (A), is amended—

(i) by striking “widow” each place it appears and inserting “widow or widower”; and

(ii) by striking “she” and inserting “she or he”.

(3) SUBSECTION HEADINGS.—The first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958 is amended—

(A) in subsection (e), by inserting after the subsection enumerator the following: “WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS.—”;.

(B) in subsection (h) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A)), by inserting after the subsection enumerator the following: “DEFINITION.—”; and

(C) in subsection (i) (as redesignated by paragraph (1)(A)), by inserting after the subsection enumerator the following: “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—”.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TITLE 5.—Subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in section 8101(1)(E), by striking “(1(b))” and inserting “(1(f))”;.

(ii) in section 8331(1)(I), by striking “(1(b))” and inserting “(1(f))”;.

(iii) in section 8701(a)(9), by striking “(1(b))” and inserting “(1(f))”; and

(iv) in section 8901(1)(H) by striking “(1(b))” and inserting “(1(f))”.

(B) PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION ACT OF 1963.—Section 5 of the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (3 U.S.C. 102 note) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to affect—

(1) any provision of law relating to the security or protection of a former President or a member of the family of a former President;

(2) funding, under the Former Presidents Act of 1958 or any other law, to carry out any provision of law described in paragraph (1); or

(3) funding for any office space lease in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act under subsection (c) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) until the expiration date contained in the lease, if the lease was submitted to the Committee on Oversight

and Government Reform of the House of Representatives on April 12, 2017.

(d) TRANSITION RULES.—

(1) FORMER PRESIDENTS.—In the case of any individual who is a former President on the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made by section subsection (b)(1) shall be applied as if the commencement date referred in subsections (a)(1)(B) and (a)(2)(A) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as amended by subsection (b)(1), coincided with the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) WIDOWS.—In the case of any individual who is the widow of a former President on the date of enactment of this Act, the amendments made by subsection (a)(2)(A) shall be applied as if the commencement date referred to in subsection (e)(1) of the first section of the Former Presidents Act of 1958, as amended by subsection (b)(2)(A), coincided with the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) APPLICABILITY.—For a former President receiving a monetary allowance under the Former Presidents Act of 1958 on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, the limitation under subsection (d)(1) of the first section of that Act, as amended by subsection (b)(1), shall apply to the monetary allowance of the former President, except to the extent that the application of the limitation would prevent the former President from being able to pay the cost of a lease or other contract that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act and under which the former President makes payments using the monetary allowance, as determined by the Administrator of General Services.

**SA 2401.** Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 896. IMPROVEMENTS TO TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(q)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by inserting “AND BUSINESS” after “TECHNICAL”;.

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “a vendor selected under paragraph (2)” and inserting “1 or more vendors selected under paragraph (2)(A)”;.

(ii) by inserting “and business” before “assistance services”; and

(iii) by inserting “assistance with product sales, intellectual property protections, market research, market validation, and development of regulatory plans and manufacturing plans,” after “technologies,”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “, including intellectual property protections” before the period at the end;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “Each agency may select a vendor to assist small business concerns to meet” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each agency may select 1 or more vendors from which small business

concerns may obtain assistance in meeting”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) SELECTION BY SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—A small business concern may, by contract or otherwise, select 1 or more vendors to assist the small business concern in meeting the goals listed in paragraph (1).”;.

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “OR BUSINESS” after “TECHNICAL”;.

(B) by inserting “(A)” after “paragraph (2)” each place it appears;

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “\$5,000 per year” each place it appears and inserting “\$50,000 with respect to each award”; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “which shall be in addition to the amount of the recipient’s award” and inserting “which shall be included as part of the recipient’s award”;.

(D) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting “or business” after “technical”;.

(ii) by striking “the vendor” and inserting “a vendor”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following: “Business-related services aimed at improving the commercialization success of a small business concern may be obtained from an entity, such as a public or private organization or an agency of or other entity established or funded by a State that facilitates or accelerates the commercialization of technologies or assists in the creation and growth of private enterprises that are commercializing technology.”;

(E) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) by inserting “or business” after “technical” each place it appears; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking “the vendor” and inserting “1 or more vendors”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) MULTIPLE AWARD RECIPIENTS.—The Administrator shall establish a limit on the amount of technical and business assistance services that may be received or purchased under subparagraph (B) by small business concerns with respect to multiple Phase II SBIR or STTR awards for a fiscal year.”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A small business concern that receives technical or business assistance from a vendor under this subsection during a fiscal year shall submit to the Federal agency contracting with the vendor a description of the technical or business assistance provided and the benefits and results of the technical or business assistance provided.

“(B) USE OF EXISTING REPORTING MECHANISM.—The information required under subparagraph (A) shall be collected by a Federal agency as part of a report required to be submitted by small business concerns engaged in SBIR or STTR projects of the Federal agency for which the requirement was in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph.”.

(b) REVIEW.—Not later than the end of fiscal year 2019, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall—

(1) conduct a survey of vendors providing technical or business assistance under section 9(q) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(q)), as amended by subsection (a), and small business concerns receiving the technical or business assistance; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report reviewing the efficacy of the provision of the technical or business assistance.

**SA 2402.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. COMPTROLLER GENERAL STUDY ON AVAILABILITY OF LONG-TERM CARE OPTIONS FOR VETERANS FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the availability of long-term care options from the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans with combat-related disabilities, including veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study required by subsection (a) shall—

(1) determine the potential demand for long-term care by veterans eligible for health care from the Department;

(2) determine the capacity of the Department for providing all four levels of long-term care, which are independent living, assisted living, nursing home care, and memory care;

(3) identify the number of veterans with combat-related disabilities who require a personal care assistant and which facilities of the Department provide this service; and

(4) examine the value of long-term care benefits provided by the Department, including personal care assistant services, to identify the potential elements of a pilot program that affords aging veterans the choice of receiving long-term care benefits at non-profit continuing care retirement communities.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2020, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the study conducted under this section.

**SA 2403.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. REGULATORY RELIEF FOR BANKS DURING DISASTERS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms “depository institution” and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

(2) the term “major disaster” has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122).

(b) REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which a designated point of contact within the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation receives notice from the President or the Governor of a State that the President has declared a major disaster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) or the Governor has declared a state of disaster for all or part of that State, as applicable, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall issue guidance to depository institutions located in the area for which the President declared the major disaster or the Governor declared a state of disaster, as applicable, for reducing regulatory burdens for borrowers and communities in order to facilitate recovery from the disaster.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidance issued under paragraph (1) shall include instructions from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation consistent with existing flexibility for a major disaster declared under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170).

(c) ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days of the date of enactment of this Act, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration shall jointly issue guidance for depository institutions affected by a state of disaster that is comparable to the guidance issued by those entities in December 2017 entitled “Interagency Supervisory Examiner Guidance for Institutions Affected by a Major Disaster”.

**SA 2404.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 340. REDESIGNATION OF THE UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE AS THE ORRIN G. HATCH UTAH TEST AND TRAINING RANGE.**

(a) REDESIGNATION.—The Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) located in northwestern Utah and eastern Nevada is hereby redesignated as the “Orrin G. Hatch Utah Test and Training Range”, effective as of January 3, 2019.

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, record, map, electronic format, or other paper of the United States to the Utah Test and Training Range shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Orrin G. Hatch Utah Test and Training Range”.

**SA 2405.** Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel

strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 891, amend subsection (b) to read as follows:

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OR PROCUREMENT.—The Secretary of Defense may not—

(1) procure or obtain or extend or renew or continue to participate in a contract to procure or obtain or continue to use any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system; or

(2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew or continue to participate in a contract) with an entity that uses any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

**SA 2406.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 3. CRITERIA FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.**

Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) is amended—

(1) by indenting subparagraphs (A) through (C) appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “this Act, and (2) all” and inserting the following: “this Act; and “(2) all”;

(3) by striking the section designation and all that follows through “possible: (1) the” in the matter preceding paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

**“SEC. 102. COOPERATION OF AGENCIES; ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Congress authorizes and requires that, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(1) the”;

(4) in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) (as so designated)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “subject to subsection (b),” before “include”;

(ii) in each of clauses (i) through (iii), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(iii) in clause (iv), by striking “, and” at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

(B) in the undesignated matter following subparagraph (C)—

(i) in the second sentence—

(I) by striking “agency review processes;” and inserting “agency review processes.”; and

(II) by striking “Copies of such statements” and inserting the following:

“(2) PUBLICATION.—A copy of each statement under subsection (a)(2)(C)”; and

(ii) in the first sentence, by striking “Prior to making any detailed statement” and inserting the following:

“(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before preparing an environmental impact statement under subsection (a)(2)(C)”;

(5) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (2) (as redesignated by paragraph (4)(B)(i)(II))—

(i) by moving subparagraphs (E) through (I) so as to appear after clause (v) of subparagraph (C) of subsection (a)(2) (as amended by paragraph (4)(A)), redesignating the subparagraphs as subparagraphs (D) through (H), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately; and

(ii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “if:” and inserting “if—”;

(II) in each of clauses (i) and (ii), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking “, and” at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(IV) by striking “(D) Any detailed statement required under subparagraph (C)” and inserting the following:

“(3) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An environmental impact statement required under subsection (a)(2)(C)”;

(B) in the undesignated matter following clause (iv) of paragraph (3)(A) (as so redesignated), by striking “The procedures in this subparagraph shall not relieve the Federal official of his responsibilities for the scope, objectivity, and content of the entire statement or of any other responsibility under this Act; and further, this subparagraph does not affect” and inserting the following:

“(B) EFFECT OF PARAGRAPH.—Nothing in this paragraph—

“(i) relieves a Federal official of—

“(I) any responsibility for the scope, objectivity, or content of an environmental impact statement; or

“(II) any other responsibility under this Act; or

“(ii) affects”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DEADLINE FOR PREPARATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of a Federal agency shall—

“(i) complete each draft environmental impact statement required under subsection (a)(2)(C) by not later than 1 year after the date on which the head publishes in the Federal Register a notice of the intent to prepare the environmental impact statement; and

“(ii) issue a final environmental impact statement and associated record of decision by not later than 2 years after the date on which the head publishes in the Federal Register the notice of intent referred to in clause (i).

“(B) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—If the head of a Federal agency fails to meet an applicable deadline under subparagraph (A) with respect to an environmental impact statement and associated record of decision, the head shall—

“(i) not later than 10 days after the applicable deadline, publish on a public website maintained by the agency the reasons for the failure; and

“(ii) complete the environmental impact statement and associated record of decision by not later than the date that is 1 year after the applicable deadline.

“(5) LENGTH.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the text of a final environmental impact

statement required under subsection (a)(2)(C) shall not exceed—

“(i) 150 pages; or

“(ii) for a proposal of unusual scope or complexity, 300 pages.

“(B) TREATMENT OF APPENDICES.—The page limitation established under subparagraph (A) shall not include any appendices.

“(6) ERRATA SHEETS.—If the head of a Federal agency modifies a final environmental impact statement required under subsection (a)(2)(C) in response to any comment that is minor and confined to factual corrections or explanations of why the comments do not warrant additional agency response, the agency head may attach to the environmental impact statement appropriate errata sheets, subject to the conditions that the errata sheets shall—

“(A) cite the sources, authorities, or reasons that support the position of the agency; and

“(B) if appropriate, indicate the circumstances that would trigger agency re-appraisal or further response.

“(7) SINGLE DOCUMENT.—In preparing an environmental impact statement under subsection (a)(2)(C), the head of a Federal agency shall, to the maximum extent practicable, develop a single document that consists of the final environmental impact statement and an associated record of decision, unless—

“(A) the final environmental impact statement makes a substantial change to the proposed action that is relevant to an applicable environmental or safety concern; or

“(B) there exists a significant new circumstance or information relevant to an applicable environmental concern that relates to the proposed action or an impact of the proposed action.”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the head of each Federal agency shall—

“(1) establish, with respect to the preparation of environmental assessments and related findings of no significant impact by the agency, a time limit of not more than 180 days; and

“(2) apply that time limit to each environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact prepared by the agency.

“(d) ROD AND FONSI REVIEW.—It shall be an affirmative defense to any action challenging the sufficiency of an environmental review conducted under this Act that the applicable Federal agency made a good faith effort to produce a sufficient record of decision or finding of no significant impact in accordance with each applicable deadline established under this section, using the resources available to the Federal agency at the time.”.

**SA 2407.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. . . . QUADRILATERAL DIALOGUE AND TRILATERAL FRAMEWORK.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The 2017 National Security Strategy of the United States declares the following:

(A) “We welcome India’s emergence as a leading global power and stronger strategic and defense partner.”.

(B) “We will seek to increase quadrilateral cooperation with Japan, Australia, and India.”.

(C) “We will expand our defense and security cooperation with India, a Major Defense Partner of the United States, and support India’s growing relationships throughout the region.”.

(2) At an October 2017 hearing of the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, with respect to the political and security situation in Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense James Mattis discussed the role of India and stated the following:

(A) “It’s a strategic convergence, a generational opportunity between the two largest democracies in the world to work together, based on those shared interests of peace, of prosperity, of stability in the region, and India is coming into its own.”.

(B) “[India’s] going to be a global player, as Prime Minister Modi takes them forward economically to a much higher level of living for his people, to a bigger role in the world, and that role, from our perspective, is a wholly positive one right now.”.

(C) “And I think we are natural partners, India and the United States, and we recognize each other’s sovereignty. We have respect for each other. But we also see the opportunity we’re presented with right now.”.

(3) In September 2017, General Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stated the following:

(A) “With regard to India, the President called on India to invest more in development projects in Afghanistan, and India appears eager to do more beyond the roughly \$3,000,000,000 in development assistance it has provided since 2001.”.

(B) “From the military dimension, I believe India has the capacity to provide additional training and equipment to build capacity of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.”.

(C) “The U.S.-India military relationship is strong and getting stronger, and our two countries cooperate through complex exercises such as MALABAR in the Bay of Bengal as well as robust engagement through defense trade and technology cooperation.”.

(D) “A long term strategic security relationship with India is critical to ensuring freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean, and the United States and India should continue to expand cooperation in areas of mutual interest like maritime security.”.

(E) “We should also continue to strengthen our defense relationship by pursuing opportunities to co-develop and co-produce defense technology under the U.S.-India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative.”.

(4) In March 2018, Admiral Harry Harris, Commander of United States Pacific Command (USPACOM), stated the following:

(A) “The U.S.-India strategic partnership continues to advance at a historic pace and has the potential to be the most consequential bilateral relationship of the 21st century.”.

(B) “The United States and India maintain a broad-based strategic partnership that is underpinned by shared democratic values, interests, and strong people-to-people ties, and I expect 2018 to be a significant and eventful year in United States-India relations.”.

(C) “The United States and India are natural partners on a range of political, economic, and security issues, and with a mutual desire for global stability and support for the rules-based international order, the United States and India have an increasing

convergence of interests, including maritime security and domain awareness, counter-piracy, counterterrorism, humanitarian assistance, and coordinated responses to natural disasters and transnational threats.”.

(D) “India will be among the United States’s most significant partners in the years to come due to its growing influence and expanding military.”.

(E) “As a new generation of political leaders emerge, India has shown that it is more open to strengthening security ties with the United States and adjusting its historic policy of non-alignment to address common strategic interests.”.

(F) “The United States seeks an enduring, regular, routine, and institutionalized strategic partnership with India, and USPACOM identifies a security relationship with India as a major command line-of-effort.”.

(G) “Over the past year, United States and Indian militaries participated together in three major exercises, executed more than 50 other military exchanges, and operationalized the 2016 Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).”.

(5) In February 2017, General John Nicholson, Commander of the United States Forces in Afghanistan, stated, “With over \$2,000,000,000 development aid executed since 2002, and another \$1,000,000,000 pledged in 2016, India’s significant investments in Afghan infrastructure, engineering, training, and humanitarian issues will help develop Afghan human capital and long-term stability.”.

(b) QUADRILATERAL DIALOGUE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To enhance defense cooperation among the United States, Australia, India, and Japan, the Secretary of Defense, as part of a larger whole-of-government effort, may initiate a quadrilateral dialogue among representatives of the Governments of the United States, Australia, India, and Japan to develop a mission statement that reflects areas of common security interests including—

(A) a values-based and rules-based regional order;

(B) the importance of freedom of navigation and maritime security; and

(C) the acceptance of internationally recognized borders.

(2) DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL.—To enhance defense cooperation among the United States, Australia, India, and Japan, the Secretary may designate an official of the executive branch—

(A) to formulate a regional framework to address potential areas of military collaboration including—

(i) maritime security and domain awareness;

(ii) combined logistics;

(iii) multilateral training and exercise opportunities;

(iv) enhances interoperability of capabilities;

(v) combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;

(vi) cyber defense;

(vii) cooperative weapons development and production; and

(viii) developing a strategy to pool or share capabilities;

(B) to identify opportunities to conduct bilateral, trilateral, or quadrilateral joint maritime patrols;

(C) to bolster maritime presence and military capacity building among the United States, Australia, India, and Japan (commonly referred to as “Quad-centered”) in the Indian Ocean for greater maritime domain awareness;

(D) to identify opportunities for—

(i) joint intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations; and

(ii) intelligence sharing;

(E) to seek additional opportunities for major military exercises and military exchanges;

(F) to establish a combined joint task force for low-intensity operations in the Indo-Pacific region, such as counter piracy and humanitarian and disaster relief, that—

(i) is inclusive of the navy of the each of the United States, Australia, India, and Japan;

(ii) establishes clear norms; and

(iii) improve lines of communication; and

(G) to engage with other allies and partners, international frameworks, and other countries as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) TRILATERAL FRAMEWORK.—

(1) DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL.—To enhance defense cooperation among the United States, Afghanistan, and India and to promote mutual priorities for security assistance in Afghanistan, the Secretary may, subject to paragraph (2), designate an official of the executive branch—

(A) to initiate a trilateral framework among representatives of the Governments of the United States, Afghanistan, and India—

(i) to identify means of improving the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities to Afghanistan by the militaries of the United States, Afghanistan, and India to improve joint military response to current and anticipated humanitarian needs in Afghanistan; and

(ii) to identify gaps in the capabilities of the Afghanistan security forces and determine means of addressing such gaps; and

(B) to advocate for necessary capabilities, especially capabilities for meeting critical, short-term needs identified by the commander of United States Armed Forces participating in Operation Resolute Support in Afghanistan.

(2) POSITION OF DESIGNATED OFFICIAL.—The official designated under paragraph (1) shall be an official in a position with responsibility for security assistance and defense cooperation.

**SA 2408.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 322, add the following:

(6) An analysis of potential partnerships with State, local, tribal, and private entities to maximize training potential and to utilize local expertise.

**SA 2409.** Mr. SULLIVAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

**SEC. 12. MEASURES TO IMPROVE DEFENSE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) DELAY OF IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS RELATING TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH UNITED STATES.—Section 231(c) of the Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 9525(c)) is amended—

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

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President”;

(2) by striking “that the person” and inserting the following: “that—

“(A) the person”;

(3) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) except as provided in paragraph (2), the government with primary jurisdiction over the person is substantially improving that government’s defense cooperation with the United States.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR STATE SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.—The President may not delay the imposition of sanctions under paragraph (1)(B) with respect to a person if the government with primary jurisdiction over that person has been determined by the Secretary of State to be a government that has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of—

“(A) section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4605(j)(1)(A)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

“(B) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

“(C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

“(D) any other provision of law.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON LICENSE EXCEPTION STRATEGIC TRADE AUTHORIZATION FOR INDIA.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should expeditiously grant India status under the License Exception Strategic Trade Authorization under section 740.20 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, commensurate with the status of India as a major defense partner of the United States.

(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON STRENGTHENING DEFENSE PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIA.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should strengthen and enhance its major defense partnership with India and work toward the mutual security objectives of India and the United States.

**SA 2410.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VI, add the following:

**Subtitle E—Military Lending Act and Related Matters**

**SEC. 641. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Military Lending Improvement Act of 2018”.

**SEC. 642. EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF CONSUMER CREDIT PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) EXTENSION OF APPLICABILITY TO INDIVIDUALS RECENTLY DISCHARGED OR RELEASED FROM THE ARMED FORCES.—Paragraph (1) of subsection (i) of section 987 of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(1) COVERED MEMBER.—The term ‘covered member’ means the following:

“(A) A member of the armed forces who is—

“(i) on active duty under a call or order that does not specify a period of 30 days or less; or

“(ii) on active Guard and Reserve duty.

“(B) An individual who was separated, discharged, or released from duty described in subparagraph (A), but only during the 365-day period beginning on the date of separation, discharge, or release.”.

(b) DECREASE IN MAXIMUM AUTHORIZED ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE ON CREDIT.—

(1) DECREASE IN RATE.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by striking “36 percent” and inserting “24 percent”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to consumer credit extended on or after such effective date.

(c) PROHIBITION ON CREDITOR USE OF AUTO TRACKING OR KILL SWITCHES.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) the creditor demands, as a condition for the credit, the application of—

“(A) a device that can locate or adjust the operations of the borrower’s motor vehicle by a third party; or

“(B) any other device or instrument that may pose a safety hazard or compromise the borrower’s privacy, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission.”.

(d) EXTENSION OF COVERAGE TO CREDIT FOR CARS AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY.—

(1) COVERAGE.—Subsection (i)(6) of such section is amended by striking “(A) a residential mortgage” and all that follows and inserting “a residential mortgage”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to consumer credit extended on or after such effective date.

(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall modify the regulations prescribed to carry out section 987 of title 10, United States Code, to take into account the amendments made by subsections (a) through (d) by not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 643. ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST DEBT COLLECTOR HARASSMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) COMMUNICATION IN CONNECTION WITH DEBT COLLECTION.—Section 805 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING SERVICE-MEMBER DEBTS.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered member’ has the meaning given the term in section 987(i) of title 10, United States Code.

“(2) PROHIBITION.—A debt collector may not communicate, in connection with the collection of any debt, with the commanding

officer or officer in charge of any covered member, including for the purpose of acquiring location information about the covered member.”.

(b) FALSE OR MISLEADING REPRESENTATIONS.—Section 807 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692e) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(17) The false representation to any covered member, as defined in section 987(i) of title 10, United States Code, that failure to cooperate with a debt collection will result in prosecution under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).”.

**SEC. 644. DATA PROTECTION STANDARDS FOR CREDIT REPORTING AGENCIES THAT USE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PERSONNEL DATA.**

(a) DETERMINATION ON ADEQUACY OF DATA PROTECTION STANDARDS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, determine whether or not each entity that downloads Military Lender Act bulk data from the Defense Manpower Data Center uses adequate safeguards to protect the downloaded data against breach or other potential misuse. The Secretary shall make the determination using a study of the practices of such entities conducted by the Secretary for purposes of this subsection.

(b) TERMINATION OF ACCESS TO BULK DATA.—If pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary determines that the safeguards of an entity described in that subsection are not adequate as described in that subsection, the Secretary shall terminate the access of the entity to bulk data described in that subsection by not later than 30 days after the date of the determination.

(c) RESTORATION OF ACCESS TO BULK DATA.—If access of an entity to bulk data is terminated pursuant to subsection (b), the Secretary may subsequently restore access of the entity to bulk data if the Secretary determines that the entity has taken remedial measures to ensure that any data downloaded from such bulk data is adequately protected against breach or other potential misuse.

**SA 2411.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 622. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT OF REDUCTION OF SURVIVOR BENEFITS PLAN SURVIVOR ANNUITIES BY DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.**

(a) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(A) In section 1450, by striking subsection (c).

(B) In section 1451(c)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2); and

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such subchapter is further amended as follows:

(A) In section 1450—

(i) by striking subsection (e);

(ii) by striking subsection (k); and

(iii) by striking subsection (m).

(B) In section 1451(g)(1), by striking subparagraph (C).

(C) In section 1452—

(i) in subsection (f)(2), by striking “does not apply—” and all that follows and inserting “does not apply in the case of a deduction made through administrative error.”; and

(ii) by striking subsection (g).

(D) In section 1455(c), by striking “, 1450(k)(2).”.

(b) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—No benefits may be paid to any person for any period before the effective date provided under subsection (f) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) PROHIBITION ON RECOUPMENT OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY REFUNDED TO SBP RECIPIENTS.—A surviving spouse who is or has been in receipt of an annuity under the Survivor Benefit Plan under subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code, that is in effect before the effective date provided under subsection (f) and that is adjusted by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) and who has received a refund of retired pay under section 1450(e) of title 10, United States Code, shall not be required to repay such refund to the United States.

(d) REPEAL OF AUTHORITY FOR OPTIONAL ANNUITY FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—Section 1448(d) of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), the Secretary concerned” and inserting “The Secretary concerned”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “DEPENDENT CHILDREN.—” and all that follows through “In the case of a member described in paragraph (1),” and inserting “DEPENDENT CHILDREN ANNUITY WHEN NO ELIGIBLE SURVIVING SPOUSE.—In the case of a member described in paragraph (1)”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B).

(e) RESTORATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PREVIOUSLY ELIGIBLE SPOUSES.—The Secretary of the military department concerned shall restore annuity eligibility to any eligible surviving spouse who, in consultation with the Secretary, previously elected to transfer payment of such annuity to a surviving child or children under the provisions of section 1448(d)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on the day before the effective date provided under subsection (f). Such eligibility shall be restored whether or not payment to such child or children subsequently was terminated due to loss of dependent status or death. For the purposes of this subsection, an eligible spouse includes a spouse who was previously eligible for payment of such annuity and is not remarried, or remarried after having attained age 55, or whose second or subsequent marriage has been terminated by death, divorce or annulment.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the later of—

(1) the first day of the first month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the first day of the fiscal year that begins in the calendar year in which this Act is enacted.

**SA 2412.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for

military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1126. CREDITABLE SERVICE FOR FEDERAL RETIREMENT FOR UNITED STATES CITIZENS EMPLOYED BY AIR AMERICA AND ASSOCIATED ENTITIES.**

(a) AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8332(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following:

“(18) any period of service performed not later than 1977, while a citizen of the United States, in the employ of Air America, Inc., or any entity associated with, predecessor to, or subsidiary to Air America, Inc., including Air Asia Company Limited, CAT Incorporated, Civil Air Transport Company Limited, and the Pacific Division of Southern Air Transport, during the period during which Air America, Inc., or the other entity was owned and controlled by the United States Government.”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following: “For purposes of this subchapter, service of the type described in paragraph (18) of this subsection shall be considered to have been service as an employee.”.

(2) EXEMPTION FROM DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT.—Section 8334(g) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) any service for which credit is allowed under section 8332(b)(18) of this title.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to an annuity commencing on or after the effective date of this section.

(2) PROVISIONS RELATING TO CURRENT ANNUITANTS.—

(A) RECOMPUTATION.—An individual who is entitled to an annuity for the month in which this section becomes effective may, upon application submitted to the Office of Personnel Management not later than 2 years after the effective date of this section, have the amount of the annuity recomputed as if the amendments made by subsection (a) had been in effect throughout all periods of service on the basis of which the annuity is or may be based.

(B) EFFECT OF RECOMPUTATION.—A recomputation under subparagraph (A) shall be effective as of the commencement date of the annuity, and any additional amounts becoming payable for periods before the first month for which the recomputation is reflected in the regular monthly annuity payments to the individual shall be payable to the individual in the form of a lump-sum payment.

(3) PROVISIONS RELATING TO INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR (BUT NOT CURRENTLY RECEIVING) AN ANNUITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An individual not described in paragraph (2) who becomes eligible for an annuity or an increased annuity as a result of the enactment of this section may elect to have the rights of the individual under subchapter III of chapter 83 of title 5, United States Code, determined as if the

amendments made by subsection (a) had been in effect throughout all periods of service on the basis of which the annuity is or would be based by submitting an appropriate application to the Office of Personnel Management not later than 2 years after the later of—

(i) the effective date of this section; or

(ii) the date on which the individual separates from service.

(B) COMMENCEMENT DATE, ETC.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any entitlement to an annuity or an increased annuity resulting from an application submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be effective as of the commencement date of the annuity (subject to clause (ii), if applicable), and any amounts becoming payable for periods before the first month for which regular monthly annuity payments begin to be made in accordance with the amendments made by this section shall be payable to the individual in the form of a lump-sum payment.

(ii) RETROACTIVITY.—Any determination of the amount, or of the commencement date, of any annuity, all the requirements for entitlement to which (including separation, but disregarding any application requirement) would have been satisfied before the effective date of this section if this section had been in effect (but would not then otherwise have been satisfied absent this section) shall be made as if an application for the annuity had been submitted as of the earliest date that would have been allowable, after the individual's separation from service, if the amendments made by subsection (a) had been in effect throughout the periods of service described in subparagraph (A).

(4) RIGHT TO FILE ON BEHALF OF A DECEDENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The regulations prescribed under subsection (d)(1) shall provide, consistent with the order of precedence set forth in section 8342(c) of title 5, United States Code, that a survivor of an individual who performed service described in section 8332(b)(18) of that title (as added by subsection (a) of this section)—

(i) may submit an application on behalf of the decedent and receive any lump-sum payment that would otherwise have been payable to the decedent under paragraph (2) or (3) of this subsection; and

(ii) shall submit an application described in subparagraph (A) not later than the later of—

(I) 2 years after the effective date of this section; or

(II) 1 year after the date of the decedent's death.

(c) FUNDING.—

(1) LUMP-SUM PAYMENTS.—A lump-sum payment under subsection (b) shall be payable out of the Civil Service Retirement and Disability Fund.

(2) UNFUNDED LIABILITY.—Any increase in the unfunded liability of the Civil Service Retirement System attributable to the enactment of this section shall be financed in accordance with section 8348(f) of title 5, United States Code.

(d) REGULATIONS AND SPECIAL RULE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall prescribe any regulations necessary to carry out this section.

(B) CONTENTS.—In prescribing regulations under subparagraph (A), the Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall apply rules similar to the rules established under section 201 of the Federal Employees' Retirement System Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-335; 100 Stat. 588) with respect to any service described in section 8332(b)(18) of title 5, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of

this section) that was subject to title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—For the purposes of an application for any benefit that is computed or recomputed taking into account any service described in section 8332(b)(18) of title 5, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this section), section 8345(i)(2) of that title shall be applied by deeming the reference to the date of the “other event which gives rise to title to the benefit” to refer to the effective date of this section, if later than the date of the event that would otherwise apply.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) the term “annuity”, as used in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b), includes a survivor annuity; and

(2) the terms “survivor”, “survivor annuitant”, and “unfunded liability” have the meanings given those terms in section 8331 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the first day of the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this section.

**SA 2413.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 706. ELIGIBILITY FOR TRICARE FOR VETERANS ENTITLED TO MEDICARE BENEFITS DUE TO CONDITIONS OR INJURIES INCURRED DURING SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) TRICARE PROVISIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 1086(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “is enrolled” and inserting “(i) is enrolled”;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as clause (ii);

(C) in clause (ii), as redesignated by paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(D) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph (B):

“(B) is a person described in subparagraph (A)(ii) who—

“(i) is retired for disability under chapter 61 of this title as a result of an injury or condition suffered during service in the armed forces;

“(ii)(I) is entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 226(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 426(b)(2)) and is entitled to a benefit described in subparagraph (A) of such section; or

“(II) is entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (C) of such section and whose entitlement to a benefit described in subparagraph (A) of such section terminated due to performance of substantial gainful activity; and

“(iii) has declined to enroll in the supplementary medical insurance program under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.).”.

(2) ALLOWANCE OF ONE CHANGE OF ENROLLMENT.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), after the end of the special enrollment period provided under section 706(a)(3) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, an individual described in paragraph (2)(B) may switch only once from enrollment under the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) to enrollment in a plan contracted for under subsection (a).

“(B) The limitation under subparagraph (A) does not apply to enrollment by an individual in a plan contracted for under subsection (a) by reason of termination of the entitlement of the individual to a benefit described in subparagraph (A) of section 226(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426(b)(2)) due to the performance of substantial gainful activity.”.

(3) SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide for a special enrollment period during which an individual described in subsection (d)(2)(B) of section 1086 of title 10, United States Code, may enroll in a health care plan under such section. Such period shall begin as soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall end 12 months later.

(B) COVERAGE PERIOD.—In the case of an individual who enrolls during the special enrollment period provided under subparagraph (A), the coverage period under section 1086 of title 10, United States Code, shall begin on the first day of the month following the month in which the individual enrolls.

(4) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1086(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “paragraph (2)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (2)(A)(i)”;

and

(B) in paragraph (5)—  
(i) by striking “subparagraph (B)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)(i)”;

and

(ii) by striking “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)(i)”.

(b) MEDICARE PROVISIONS.—

(1) WAIVER OF MEDICARE PART B LATE ENROLLMENT PENALTY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1839(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentences: “No increase in the premium shall be effected for a month in the case of an individual who demonstrates to the Secretary that the individual, with respect to such month, is an individual described in section 1086(d)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall consult with the Secretary of Defense in identifying individuals described in the previous sentence.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subparagraph (A) shall apply to premiums for months beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall establish a method for providing rebates of premium penalties paid for months after the date of the enactment of this Act for which a penalty does not apply under such amendment but for which a penalty was previously collected.

(2) MEDICARE PART B SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any individual who, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is eligible to enroll but is not enrolled under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act and is an individual described in section 1086(d)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Health

and Human Services shall provide for a special enrollment period during which the individual may enroll under such part. Such period shall begin as soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall end 12 months later.

(B) COVERAGE PERIOD.—In the case of an individual who enrolls during the special enrollment period provided under subparagraph (A), the coverage period under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act shall begin on the first day of the month following the month in which the individual enrolls.

(c) NOTIFICATION AND INFORMATION TO BENEFICIARIES.—

(1) NOTIFICATION REGARDING INSURANCE OPTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall coordinate with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify individuals described in section 1086(d)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and notify those individuals about their health insurance options under the TRICARE program, as defined in section 1072 of such title, and the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

(2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO BENEFICIARIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall provide to individuals described in paragraph (1) educational materials, information, and counseling regarding the effects of not enrolling in the supplementary medical insurance program under part B of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395j et seq.), including information comparing premiums, copayments, deductibles, provider networks, future enrollment opportunities, and penalties for the various health insurance plans available to assist those individuals in making appropriate health insurance choices.

(B) TIMING.—The Secretary shall provide the educational materials, information, and counseling described in subparagraph (A) to an individual described in paragraph (1) before the individual elects to change enrollment between the TRICARE program, as defined in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code, and the Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

**SA 2414.** Mr. FLAKE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **PILOT PROGRAM ON CERTAIN LIMITED REIMBURSEMENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF MAJOR RANGE AND TEST FACILITY BASES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of modifying reimbursement requirements for use of Major Range and Test Facility Bases.

(b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program during two fiscal years.

(c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program at not more than five Major Range and Test Facility Bases.

(d) WAIVER OF FULL REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under the pilot program, the Secretary may, as the Secretary determines in the best interest of the Department of Defense, waive the requirements of section 2681(c) of title 10, United States Code, for small and medium sized businesses and not-for-profit organizations so that such businesses and organizations may reimburse the Department of Defense for use of a Major Range and Test Facility Base in amounts that only cover total direct costs to the United States associated with such use.

(2) INDIRECT COSTS.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to reimbursement for indirect costs.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the end of the first fiscal year of the pilot program required by subsection (a) and not later than 30 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the pilot program.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Recommendations for revisions to reimbursement arrangements for testing and evaluation activities at Major Range and Test Facility Bases.

(B) A review of authorities granted to commanders of Major Range and Test Facility Bases.

(C) An evaluation of limited reimbursement arrangements on the Test Resources Management Center and Major Range and Test Facility Bases.

(f) MAJOR RANGE AND TEST FACILITY BASE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “Major Range and Test Facility Base” means—

(1) a Major Range and Test Facility Installation as defined in section 2681(f) of title 10, United States Code; and

(2) a Major Range and Test Facility Base as defined in section 196(i) of such title.

**SA 2415.** Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mr. BENNET) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066.** **EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS FROM CALCULATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019 PILOT PAYMENTS.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PAYMENT.—The term “covered payment” means a payment to a unit of general local government for fiscal year 2018 from amounts deposited in the Treasury during the period of time beginning on November 18, 1997, and ending on August 7, 2008, from a lease issued under section 7439(b)(1) of title 10, United States Code, and distributed to the unit of general local government in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(2) PAYMENT LAW.—The term “payment law” has the meaning given the term in section 6903(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code.

(3) UNIT OF GENERAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “unit of general local government” has the meaning given the term in section 6901 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) CALCULATION OF PILOT PAYMENT AMOUNT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in calculating the amount of a

payment to be made to a unit of general local government for fiscal year 2019 under chapter 69 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of the Interior shall not consider a covered payment to be an amount received by the unit of general local government in the prior fiscal year under a payment law for purposes of section 6903(b)(1)(A) of that title.

**SA 2416.** Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON NATIONAL SECURITY THREAT POSED BY TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to Congress a national intelligence estimate on the threat posed to the national security of the United States by trade-based money laundering.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The national intelligence estimate required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of trade-based money laundering and threat finance at the national and international levels.

(2) An assessment of the financial dimensions of the threat to the national security of the United States posed by trade-based money laundering.

(3) A description of how terrorist financing and drug trafficking organizations are advancing their illicit activities through the use of illicit trade channels.

(4) An assessment of the adequacy of the systems and tools available to the Federal Government for combating trade-based money laundering.

(5) Recommendations for coordination between Federal agencies with respect to combating trade-based money laundering and an identification of which Federal agency should be the lead agency for purposes of combating trade-based money laundering.

(6) Recommendations for coordination with the governments of foreign countries with respect to combating trade-based money laundering.

(c) EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.—If, before the end of the 90-day period specified in subsection (a), the Director determines that the national intelligence estimate required by that subsection cannot be submitted by the end of that period as required by that subsection, the Director shall (before the end of that period) submit to Congress a report setting forth—

(1) the reasons why the national intelligence estimate cannot be submitted by the end of that 90-day period; and

(2) an estimated date for the submission of the national intelligence estimate.

(d) FORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The national intelligence estimate required by subsection (a) shall—

(A) be submitted in classified form; and

(B) be accompanied by an unclassified summary.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified summary required by paragraph (1)(B) shall be made available to the public.

**SA 2417.** Mr. MORAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1126. MODIFICATION OF VETERANS PREFERENCE.**

(a) ACTIVE DUTY REQUIREMENT.—Subparagraphs (B) and (D) of section 2108(1) of title 5, United States Code, are each amended by striking “consecutive” and inserting “cumulative”.

(b) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY OF RETIRED VETERANS.—Section 2108(4) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(4) ‘preference eligible’ includes a retired member of the armed forces; and”.

**SA 2418.** Mr. MORAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following:

**SEC. 144. PROCUREMENT OF JOINT THREAT EMITTERS FOR AIR NATIONAL GUARD RANGES.**

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2019 for the Air Force for other procurement for combat training ranges, \$40,000,000 shall be available for the procurement of Joint Threat Emitters for Air National Guard ranges—

(1) to meet the Air Force Electronic Warfare Range requirements and Air Combat Command’s fielding plan;

(2) to meet Air Force Electronic Warfare Range requirements for three additional electronic warfare systems at Air National Guard ranges; and

(3) to support F-35 aircraft program training and readiness with threat replication systems to 4th and 5th generation aircraft requirements.

**SA 2419.** Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PRESUMPTION OF HERBICIDE EXPOSURE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN KOREA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1116 the following new section:

**“§ 1116A. Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea**

“(a) PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION.—(1) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title, and subject to section 1113 of this title, a disease specified in subsection (b) that becomes manifest as specified in that subsection in a veteran described in paragraph (2) shall be considered to have been incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service, notwithstanding that there is no record of evidence of such disease during the period of such service.

“(2) A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who, during active military, naval, or air service, served in or near the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ), during the period beginning on September 1, 1967, and ending on August 31, 1971.

“(b) DISEASES.—A disease specified in this subsection is—

“(1) a disease specified in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of section 1116 of this title that becomes manifest as specified in that paragraph; or

“(2) any additional disease that—

“(A) the Secretary determines in regulations warrants a presumption of service-connection by reason of having positive association with exposure to an herbicide agent; and

“(B) becomes manifest within any period prescribed in such regulations.

“(c) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘herbicide agent’ has the meaning given such term in section 1821(d) of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1116 the following new item:

“1116A. Presumption of herbicide exposure for certain veterans who served in Korea.”.

**SA 2420.** Mr. HATCH (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1107. MODIFICATION OF TEMPORARY DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY FOR MAJOR RANGE AND TEST FACILITIES BASE FACILITIES IN ORDER TO FILL MISSION ESSENTIAL POSITIONS AT SUCH FACILITIES.**

Section 1125 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (10 U.S.C. 1580 note prec.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

“(b) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY BY MRTFB FACILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In fiscal years 2019 through 2021, the authority provided in (a) with respect to the Major Range and Test Facilities Base shall be delegated to the commander of a facility of the Major Range and Test Facilities Base, or the civilian equivalent of the commander at the facility.

“(2) POSITION REQUIREMENTS.—An appointment covered by this authority may be made

when the position to be filled is essential to mission needs as determined by the facility commander, or civilian equivalent.

“(3) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Appointments under this authority may be made on a permanent, term, or temporary basis.

“(B) NONCOMPETITIVE CONVERSION TO CAREER CONDITIONAL APPOINTMENT.—The commander of a facility, or civilian equivalent, may noncompetitively convert an individual appointed to a term or temporary appointment in accordance with this subsection to a career conditional appointment at the facility without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of such title, if the individual meets all eligibility and qualification requirements for the position at the time of conversion.”.

**SA 2421.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 142, line 18, strike “separate statement” and insert “statement”.

**SA 2422.** Mr. HELLER (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SERVICE IN PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and such military historians as the Secretary of Defense considers appropriate, shall establish a process to determine whether a covered individual served as described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code, for purposes of determining whether such covered individual is eligible for benefits described in such subsections.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is any individual who—

(1) claims service described in subsection (a) or (b) of section 107 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) is not included in the Approved Revised Reconstructed Guerilla Roster of 1948, known as the “Missouri List”.

**SA 2423.** Mrs. ERNST (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations

for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF APPOINTEES IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WHO HAD A LICENSE, REGISTRATION, OR CERTIFICATION FOR THE PROVISION OF HOSPITAL CARE OR MEDICAL SERVICES REVOKED AND NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS TREATED BY THOSE APPOINTEES.**

(a) THIRD PARTY REVIEW.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract or other agreement with an organization that is not part of the Federal Government to conduct a clinical review of the hospital care and medical services furnished by covered individuals.

(b) NOTICE TO PATIENTS TREATED BY COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—With respect to hospital care or medical services furnished by a covered individual under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, if a clinical review determines that an experienced, competent practitioner would have managed the care or services differently, the Secretary shall notify any individual who received such care or services from the covered individual.

(c) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is an individual who was appointed to a position in the Veterans Health Administration covered by subsection (b) of section 7402 of title 38, United States Code, in violation of subsection (f) of such section because the individual had a license, registration, or certification applicable to the provision of hospital care or medical services terminated for cause.

(d) HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES DEFINED.—In this section, the terms “hospital care” and “medical services” have the meanings given those terms in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

**SA 2424.** Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 323. ANNUAL REPORT ON DIFFERENCES IN SHIP REPAIR CONTRACT AND FINAL DELIVERY COSTS.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the differences between the final contract and final delivery cost for each ship repair, including a description of any growth work that was added after the contract award and a detailed explanation on why the growth work was not included in original contract proposal.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that it is important to create and

maintain a stable work load for the defense industrial base at ship repair yards.

**SA 2425.** Mr. NELSON (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. GRANTS TO PROMOTE MILITARY READINESS IN THE PROVISION OF PROSTHETIC AND ORTHOTIC CARE.**

(a) GRANTS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall award grants to institutions determined by the Secretary to be eligible for the award of such grants in order to enable such institutions to establish or expand an accredited master's degree program in orthotics and prosthetics.

(2) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority in the award of grants under this section to institutions that have entered into a partnership with a public sector or private sector orthotics or prosthetics practice that offers students experience in meeting the unique needs of members of the Armed Forces who have experienced limb loss or limb impairment, including by offering clinical rotations at such orthotics and prosthetics practice.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a request for proposals from institutions eligible for grants under this section.

(2) APPLICATION.—An institution that seeks the award of a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) demonstration of a willingness and ability to participate in a partnership described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) demonstration of an ability to maintain an accredited orthotics and prosthetics education program after the end of the grant period.

(c) GRANT USES.—An institution awarded a grant under this section shall use grant amounts for any purpose as follows:

(1) To establish or expand an accredited orthotics and prosthetics master's degree program.

(2) To conduct training and retain faculty in orthotics and prosthetics education, or related fields, for the purpose of instruction in orthotics and prosthetics programs.

(3) To fund faculty research projects or faculty time to undertake research in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of furthering their teaching abilities.

(4) To conduct minor construction to house orthotics and prosthetics education programs.

(5) To acquire equipment for orthotics and prosthetics education.

(d) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant awarded an institution under this section may not exceed \$1,500,000.

(e) PERIOD OF USE OF FUNDS.—An institution awarded a grant under this section may use the grant amount for a period of three years after the award of the grant.

## (f) FUNDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program by section 1405, \$15,000,000 may be available to carry out this section.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The amount available under paragraph (1) shall remain available for obligation until September 30, 2021.

**SA 2426.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 316. PRIORITIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS FOR FACILITIES SUSTAINMENT, RESTORATION, AND MODERNIZATION DEMOLITION.**

The Secretary of Defense shall establish prioritization metrics for facilities deemed eligible for demolition within the Facilities Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (FSRM) process. Those metrics shall include full spectrum readiness and environmental impacts, including the removal of contamination.

**SA 2427.** Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BURR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

**Subtitle —Election Security**

**SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Secure Elections Act”.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Speaker, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(2) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL ENTITIES.—The term “appropriate Federal entities” means—

(A) the Department of Commerce, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(B) the Department of Defense;

(C) the Department, including the component of the Department that reports to the Under Secretary responsible for overseeing critical infrastructure protection, cybersecurity, and other related programs of the Department;

(D) the Department of Justice, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(E) the Commission; and

(F) the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the National Security Agency, and such other elements of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) as the Director of National Intelligence determines are appropriate.

(3) CHAIRMAN.—The term “Chairman” means the Chairman of the Election Assistance Commission.

(4) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Election Assistance Commission.

(5) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(6) ELECTION AGENCY.—The term “election agency” means any component of a State or any component of a county, municipality, or other subdivision of a State that is responsible for administering Federal elections.

(7) ELECTION CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT.—The term “election cybersecurity incident” means any incident involving an election system.

(8) ELECTION CYBERSECURITY THREAT.—The term “election cybersecurity threat” means any cybersecurity threat (as defined in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501)) to an election system.

(9) ELECTION CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term “election cybersecurity vulnerability” means any security vulnerability (as defined in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501)) that affects an election system.

(10) ELECTION SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “election service provider” means any person providing, supporting, or maintaining an election system on behalf of an election agency, such as a contractor or vendor.

(11) ELECTION SYSTEM.—The term “election system” means a voting system, an election management system, a voter registration website or database, an electronic pollbook, a system for tabulating or reporting election results, an election agency communications system, or any other information system (as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) that the Secretary identifies as central to the management, support, or administration of a Federal election.

(12) FEDERAL ELECTION.—The term “Federal election” means any election (as defined in section 301(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(1)) for Federal office (as defined in section 301(3) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(3))).

(13) FEDERAL ENTITY.—The term “Federal entity” means any agency (as defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code).

(14) INCIDENT.—The term “incident” has the meaning given the term in section 227(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 148(a)).

(15) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(16) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

(17) STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL.—The term “State election official” means—

(A) the chief State election official of a State designated under section 10 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20509); or

(B) in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands, a chief State election official designated by the State for purposes of this Act.

(18) STATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “State law enforcement officer” means the head of a State law enforcement agency, such as an attorney general.

(19) VOTING SYSTEM.—The term “voting system” has the meaning given the term in section 301(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081(b)).

**SEC. 3. INFORMATION SHARING.**

(a) DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL ENTITY.—The Secretary shall have primary responsibility within the Federal Government for sharing information about election cybersecurity incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities with Federal entities and with election agencies.

(b) PRESUMPTION OF FEDERAL INFORMATION SHARING TO THE DEPARTMENT.—If a Federal entity receives information about an election cybersecurity incident, threat, or vulnerability, the Federal entity shall promptly share that information with the Department, unless the head of the entity (or a Senate-confirmed official designated by the head) makes a specific determination in writing that there is good cause to withhold the particular information.

(c) PRESUMPTION OF FEDERAL AND STATE INFORMATION SHARING FROM THE DEPARTMENT.—If the Department receives information about an election cybersecurity incident, threat, or vulnerability, the Department shall promptly share that information with—

(1) the appropriate Federal entities;

(2) all State election agencies;

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, all election agencies that have requested ongoing updates on election cybersecurity incidents, threats, or vulnerabilities; and

(4) to the maximum extent practicable, all election agencies that may be affected by the risks associated with the particular election cybersecurity incident, threat, or vulnerability.

(d) TECHNICAL RESOURCES FOR ELECTION AGENCIES.—In sharing information about election cybersecurity incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities with election agencies under this section, the Department shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(1) provide cyber threat indicators and defensive measures (as such terms are defined in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501)), such as recommended technical instructions, that assist with preventing, mitigating, and detecting threats or vulnerabilities;

(2) identify resources available for protecting against, detecting, responding to, and recovering from associated risks, including technical capabilities of the Department; and

(3) provide guidance about further sharing of the information.

(e) DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW.—If the Department receives classified information about an election cybersecurity incident, threat, or vulnerability—

(1) the Secretary shall promptly submit a request for expedited declassification review to the head of a Federal entity with authority to conduct the review, consistent with Executive Order 13526 or any successor order, unless the Secretary determines that such a

request would be harmful to national security; and

(2) the head of the Federal entity described in paragraph (1) shall promptly conduct the review.

(f) **ROLE OF NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.**—The Department may share information about election cybersecurity incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities through a non-Federal entity.

(g) **PROTECTION OF PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If a Federal entity shares information relating to an election cybersecurity incident, threat, or vulnerability, the Federal entity shall, within Federal information systems (as defined in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) of the entity—

(A) minimize the acquisition, use, and disclosure of personal information of voters, except as necessary to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, or recover from election cybersecurity incidents, threats, and vulnerabilities;

(B) notwithstanding any other provision of law, prohibit the retention of personal information of voters, such as—

(i) voter registration information, including physical address, email address, and telephone number;

(ii) political party affiliation or registration information; and

(iii) voter history, including registration status or election participation; and

(C) protect confidential Federal and State information from unauthorized disclosure.

(2) **EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE.**—Information relating to an election cybersecurity incident, threat, or vulnerability, such as personally identifiable information of reporting persons or individuals affected by such incident, threat, or vulnerability, shared by or with the Federal Government shall be—

(A) deemed voluntarily shared information and exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and any State, tribal, or local provision of law requiring disclosure of information or records; and

(B) withheld, without discretion, from the public under section 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, and any State, tribal, or local provision of law requiring disclosure of information or records.

(h) **DUTY TO ASSESS POSSIBLE CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS.**—

(1) **ELECTION AGENCIES.**—If an election agency becomes aware of the possibility of an election cybersecurity incident, the election agency shall promptly assess whether an election cybersecurity incident occurred and notify the State election official.

(2) **ELECTION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—If an election service provider becomes aware of the possibility of an election cybersecurity incident, the election service provider shall promptly assess whether an election cybersecurity incident occurred and notify the relevant election agencies consistent with subsection (j).

(i) **INFORMATION SHARING ABOUT CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS BY ELECTION AGENCIES.**—If an election agency has reason to believe that an election cybersecurity incident has occurred with respect to an election system owned, operated, or maintained by or on behalf of the election agency, the election agency shall, in the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay, provide notification of the election cybersecurity incident to the Department.

(j) **INFORMATION SHARING ABOUT CYBERSECURITY INCIDENTS BY ELECTION SERVICE PROVIDERS.**—If an election service provider has reason to believe that an election cybersecurity incident may have occurred, or that an incident related to the role of the provider as an election service provider may have occurred, the election service provider shall—

(1) notify the relevant election agencies in the most expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay; and

(2) cooperate with the election agencies in providing the notifications required under subsections (h)(1) and (i).

(k) **CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION BY ELECTION AGENCIES.**—The notifications required under subsections (h)(1) and (i)—

(1) shall include an initial assessment of—

(A) the date, time, and duration of the election cybersecurity incident;

(B) the circumstances of the election cybersecurity incident, including the specific election systems believed to have been accessed and information acquired; and

(C) planned and implemented technical measures to respond to and recover from the incident; and

(2) shall be updated with additional material information, including technical data, as it becomes available.

(l) **SECURITY CLEARANCE.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary—

(1) shall establish an expedited process for providing appropriate security clearance to State election officials and designated technical personnel employed by State election agencies;

(2) shall establish an expedited process for providing appropriate security clearance to members of the Commission and designated technical personnel employed by the Commission; and

(3) shall establish a process for providing appropriate security clearance to personnel at other election agencies.

(m) **PROTECTION FROM LIABILITY.**—Nothing in this subtitle may be construed to provide a cause of action against a State, unit of local government, or an election service provider.

(n) **ASSESSMENT OF INTER-STATE INFORMATION SHARING ABOUT ELECTION CYBERSECURITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary and the Chairman, in coordination with the heads of the appropriate Federal entities and appropriate officials of State and local governments, shall conduct an assessment of—

(A) the structure and functioning of the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center for purposes of election cybersecurity; and

(B) other mechanisms for inter-state information sharing about election cybersecurity.

(2) **COMMENT FROM ELECTION AGENCIES.**—In carrying out the assessment required under paragraph (1), the Secretary and the Chairman shall solicit and consider comments from all State election agencies.

(3) **DISTRIBUTION.**—The Secretary and the Chairman shall jointly issue the assessment required under paragraph (1) to—

(A) all election agencies known to the Department and the Commission; and

(B) the appropriate congressional committees.

(o) **CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If an appropriate Federal entity has reason to believe that a significant election cybersecurity incident has occurred, the entity shall—

(A) not later than 7 calendar days after the date on which there is a reasonable basis to conclude that the significant incident has occurred, provide notification of the incident to the appropriate congressional committees; and

(B) update the initial notification under paragraph (1) within a reasonable period of time after additional information relating to the incident is discovered.

(2) **REPORTING THRESHOLD.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) promulgate a uniform definition of a “significant election cybersecurity incident”; and

(B) shall submit the definition promulgated under subparagraph (A) to the appropriate congressional committees.

## **SEC. 4. ELECTION SECURITY AND ELECTION AUDIT GUIDELINES.**

(a) **DEVELOPMENT BY TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

(A) **ADDITIONAL DUTIES.**—Section 221(b)(1) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)(2)) is amended by striking “in the development of the voluntary voting system guidelines” and inserting “in the development of—

“(A) the voluntary voting system guidelines;

“(B) the election security guidelines in accordance with paragraph (3); and

“(C) the election audit guidelines in accordance with paragraph (4).”

(B) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—Sections 202(1) and 207(3) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20922(1) and 20927(3)) are each amended by striking “voting system”.

(2) **ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND RENAMING OF TECHNICAL GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.**—

(A) **ADDITIONAL MEMBERSHIP.**—Section 221(c)(1) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(c)(1)) is amended—

(i) by striking “14” and inserting “18”; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (I) and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraphs:

“(E) A representative of the Department of Homeland Security.

“(F) A representative of the Election Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center.

“(G) A representative of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

“(H) A representative of State election information technology directors selected by the National Association of Secretaries of State.”

(B) **RENAMING OF COMMITTEE.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 221(a) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(a)) is amended by striking “Technical Guidelines Development Committee (hereafter in this part referred to as the ‘Development Committee’)” and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”.

(ii) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(I) Section 201 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20921) is amended by striking “Technical Guidelines Development Committee” and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”.

(II) Section 221 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20921) is amended by striking “Development Committee” each place it appears and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”.

(III) Section 222(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20962(b)) is amended—

(aa) by striking “Technical Guidelines Development Committee” in paragraph (1) and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”;

(bb) by striking “DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE” in the heading and inserting “TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD”; and

(IV) Section 271(e) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21041(e)) is amended by striking “Technical Guidelines Development Committee” and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”.

(V) Section 281(d) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 21051(d)) is amended by striking “Technical Guidelines Development Committee” and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”.

(VI) The heading for section 221 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20961) is amended by striking “TECHNICAL GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE” and inserting “TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD”.

(VII) The heading for part 3 of subtitle A of title II of such Act is amended by striking “**TECHNICAL GUIDELINES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**” and inserting “**TECHNICAL ADVISORY BOARD**”.

(VIII) The items relating to section 221 and part 3 of title II in the table of contents of such Act are each amended by striking “Technical Guidelines Development Committee” and inserting “Technical Advisory Board”.

(b) **GUIDELINES.**—

(1) **ELECTION SECURITY GUIDELINES.**—Section 221(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **ELECTION SECURITY GUIDELINES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The election security guidelines shall contain guidelines for election cybersecurity, including standards for procuring, maintaining, testing, operating, and updating election systems.

“(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In developing the guidelines, the Technical Advisory Board shall—

“(i) identify the top risks to election systems;

“(ii) describe how specific technology choices can increase or decrease those risks; and

“(iii) provide recommended policies, best practices, and overall security strategies for identifying, protecting against, detecting, responding to, and recovering from the risks identified under subparagraph (A).

“(C) **ISSUES CONSIDERED.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—In developing the election security guidelines, the Technical Advisory Board shall consider—

“(I) applying established cybersecurity best practices to Federal election administration by States and local governments, including appropriate technologies, procedures, and personnel for identifying, protecting against, detecting, responding to, and recovering from cybersecurity events;

“(II) providing actionable guidance to election agencies that seek to implement additional cybersecurity protections; and

“(III) any other factors that the Technical Advisory Board determines to be relevant.

“(D) **RELATIONSHIP TO VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES AND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY CYBERSECURITY GUIDANCE.**—In developing the election security guidelines, the Technical Advisory Board shall consider—

“(i) the voluntary voting system guidelines; and

“(ii) cybersecurity standards and best practices developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, including frameworks, consistent with section 2(c) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 272(c)).”.

(2) **AUDIT GUIDELINES.**—Section 221(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)), as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) **ELECTION AUDIT GUIDELINES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The election audit guidelines shall include provisions regarding voting systems and statistical audits for Federal elections, including that—

“(i) each vote is cast using a voting system that allows the voter an opportunity to inspect and confirm the marked ballot before casting it (consistent with accessibility requirements); and

“(ii) each election result is determined by tabulating marked ballots (by hand or device), and prior to the date on which the winning Federal candidate in the election is sworn into office, election agencies within the State inspect (by hand and not by device) a random sample of the marked ballots and thereby establish high statistical confidence in the election result.

“(B) **ISSUES CONSIDERED.**—In developing the election audit guidelines, the Technical Advisory Board shall consider—

“(i) specific types of election audits, including procedures and shortcomings for such audits;

“(ii) mechanisms to verify that election systems accurately tabulate ballots, report results, and identify a winner for each election for Federal office, even if there is an error or fault in the voting system;

“(iii) durational requirements needed to facilitate election audits in a timely manner that allows for confidence in the outcome of the election prior to the swearing-in of a Federal candidate, including variations in the acceptance of postal ballots, time allowed to cure provisional ballots, and election certification deadlines;

“(iv) how the guidelines could assist other components of State and local governments; and

“(v) any other factors that the Technical Advisory Board to be relevant.”.

(3) **DEADLINES.**—Section 221(b)(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20961(b)(2)) is amended—

(A) by striking “The Development” and inserting the following:

“(A) **VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES.**—The Development”;

(B) by striking “this section” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)”; and

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

“(B) **ELECTION SECURITY AND ELECTION AUDIT GUIDELINES.**—

“(i) **INITIAL GUIDELINES.**—The Technical Advisory Board shall provide its initial set of recommendations under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) to the Executive Director not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Secure Elections Act.

“(ii) **PERIODIC REVIEW.**—Not later than January 31, 2020, and once every 2 years thereafter, the Technical Advisory Board shall review and update the guidelines described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1).”.

(c) **PROCESS FOR ADOPTION.**—

(1) **PUBLICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.**—Section 221(f) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961(f)) is amended—

(A) by striking “At the time the Commission” and inserting the following:

“(1) **VOLUNTARY VOTING SYSTEM GUIDELINES.**—At the time the Commission”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) **ELECTION SECURITY AND ELECTION AUDIT GUIDELINES.**—The Technical Advisory Board shall—

“(A) provide a reasonable opportunity for public comment, including through Commission publication in the Federal Register, on the guidelines required under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1), including a 45-day opportunity for public comment on a draft of the guidelines before they are submitted to Congress under section 223(a), which shall, to the extent practicable, occur concurrently with the other activities of the Technical Advisory Board under this section with respect to such guidelines; and

“(B) consider the public comments in developing the guidelines.”.

(2) **ADOPTION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Part 3 of subtitle A of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20961 et seq.) is amended—

(i) by inserting “**OF VOLUNTARY VOTING GUIDELINES**” after “**ADOPTION**” in the heading of section 222; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new section:

“**SEC. 223. PROCESS FOR ADOPTION OF ELECTION SECURITY AND ELECTION AUDIT GUIDELINES.**

“(a) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 14 calendar days after the date on which the Commission receives recommendations for the guidelines required described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 221(b)(1), the Commission shall submit the guidelines to the appropriate congressional committees.

“(2) **MODIFICATION.**—The Commission may modify the guidelines in advance of submission to Congress if—

“(A) the Commission determines that there is good cause to modify the guidelines, consistent with the considerations established in paragraphs (3) or (4) of section 221(b) (as the case may be) and notwithstanding the recommendation of the Technical Advisory Board; and

“(B) the Commission submits a written justification of the modification to the Technical Advisory Board and the appropriate congressional committees.

“(b) **DISTRIBUTION TO ELECTION AGENCIES.**—The Commission shall distribute the guidelines described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 221(b)(1) (b) to all election agencies known to the Commission.

“(c) **PUBLICATION.**—The Commission shall make the guidelines described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 221(b)(1) (b) available on the public website of the Commission.

“(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(1) the Committee on Rules and Administration, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Appropriations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on House Administration, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Appropriations, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Speaker, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

“(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed to subject the process for developing the guidelines described in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 221(b)(1) to subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Administrative Procedure Act’).”.

(B) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents of such Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 222 the following new item:

“Sec. 223. Process for adoption of election security and election audit guidelines.”.

**SEC. 5. REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT POST-ELECTION AUDITS.**

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle A of title III of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21081 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating sections 304 and 305 as sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after section 303 the following new section:

“**SEC. 304. POST-ELECTION AUDITS.**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each State and jurisdiction shall—

“(1) conduct a post-election audit of each election for Federal office through the inspection of a random sample of marked ballots of sufficient quantity to establish high statistical confidence in the election result; and

“(2) provide reports to the Election Assistance Commission on the details of the audits conducted under paragraph (1).

“(b) **TIME FOR COMPLETING AUDIT.**—The audit required by subsection (a) shall be

completed in a timely manner to ensure confidence in the outcome of the election and before the date on which the winning candidate in the election is sworn into office.

“(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section for the regularly scheduled general election for Federal office held in November 2020, and each subsequent election for Federal office.

“(2) WAIVER.—If a State or jurisdiction certifies to the Commission not later than November 1, 2020, that the State or jurisdiction will not meet the deadline described in subparagraph (A) for good cause and includes in the certification the reasons for the failure to meet such deadline, subparagraph (A) shall apply to the State or jurisdiction as if the reference in such subparagraph to ‘November 2020’ were a reference to ‘November 2022’.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended—

(A) by redesignating the items relating to sections 304 and 305 as relating to sections 305 and 306, respectively; and

(B) by inserting after the item relating to section 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 304. Post-election audits.”.

(b) REPORTING.—The Election Assistance Commission shall submit reports to Congress on the information provided to the Commission under section 304(a)(2) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a). Such reports shall be submitted concurrently with the reports required under section 9(a)(3) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.

**SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN THREATS TO ELECTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and 30 days after the end of each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary and the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of the appropriate Federal entities, shall submit a joint report to the appropriate congressional committees on foreign threats to elections in the United States, including physical and cybersecurity threats.

(b) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION BY STATES.—The Secretary shall solicit and consider comments from all State election agencies. Participation by an election agency in the report under this subsection shall be voluntary and at the discretion of the State.

**SA 2428.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMBINED MARITIME TASK FORCE PACIFIC.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall establish a task force, to be known as the Combined Maritime Task Force Pacific, to protect a free and open Indo-Pacific maritime region.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the task force under subsection (a), the Presi-

dent shall seek the participation of partner nations that are interested in goals of the task force.

(c) LEADERSHIP.—The United States Navy shall lead the task force established under subsection (a).

**SA 2429.** Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. TREATMENT OF RWANDAN PATRIOTIC FRONT AND RWANDAN PATRIOTIC ARMY UNDER IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.**

(a) REMOVAL OF TREATMENT AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Rwandan Patriotic Front and the Rwandan Patriotic Army shall be excluded from the definition of terrorist organization (as defined in section 212(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)(vi)(III))) for purposes of such section 212(a)(3)(B) for any period before August 1, 1994.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, as applicable, may suspend the application of paragraph (1) for the Rwandan Patriotic Front or the Rwandan Patriotic Army in the sole and unreviewable discretion of such applicable Secretary.

(B) REPORT.—Not later than, or contemporaneously with, a suspension of paragraph (1) under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the justification for such suspension.

(b) RELIEF FROM INADMISSIBILITY.—

(1) ACTIVITIES BEFORE AUGUST 1, 1994.—Section 212(a)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(3)(B)) shall not apply to an alien with respect to any activity undertaken by the alien in association with the Rwandan Patriotic Front or the Rwandan Patriotic Army before August 1, 1994.

(2) EXCEPTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable, determines in the sole unreviewable discretion of such applicable Secretary that, in the totality of the circumstances, such alien—

(i) poses a threat to the safety and security of the United States; or

(ii) does not merit a visa, admission to the United States, or a grant of an immigration benefit or protection.

(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—Subparagraph (A) shall be implemented by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2430.** Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 112. BRIEFING ON PROCUREMENT PLAN FOR ACQUIRED POSITION NAVIGATION AND TIMING (APNT) SOLUTION.**

Not later than September 1, 2018, the Secretary of the Army, in coordination with the Director of the Army’s Acquired Position Navigation and Timing (APNT) Cross Functional Team (CFT) pilot, shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing that outlines potential courses of action to begin immediate procurement of APNT systems, subject to successful test and evaluation.

**SA 2431.** Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. REPORT ON THE CAPABILITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND SYRIA AND OTHER VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth an assessment of the current and future capabilities and activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other violent extremist groups in Southeast Asia.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report shall include the following:

(1) The current number of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria fighters in Southeast Asia.

(2) The estimated number of Islamic State of Iraq and Syria fighters expected to return to Southeast Asia from fighting in the Middle East.

(3) The current resources available to combat the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in Southeast Asia, and the additional resources required to combat that threat.

(4) A detailed assessment of the capabilities of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria to operate effectively in countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

(5) A description of the capabilities and resources of governments of countries in Southeast Asia to counter violent extremist groups.

(6) A list of additional United States resources and capabilities that the Department of Defense recommends providing to governments in Southeast Asia to combat violent extremist groups.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

**SA 2432.** Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 706. MODIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR TRICARE RESERVE SELECT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SELECTED RESERVE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1076d(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a member” and inserting “A member”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the costs of carrying out the amendments made by this section, if any, will be offset.

**SA 2433.** Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

**Subtitle H—Support for the People of Iran**

**SEC. 1281. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Continued Support for the Iranian People Act of 2018”.

**SEC. 1282. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The protests that began on December 28, 2017, in Iran (in this subtitle referred to as “the protests”) were instigated and sup-

ported by a diverse demographic of Iranian citizens, especially including the poor and economically disenfranchised populations across the country, located in both rural and urban areas.

(2) Rather than invest in the legitimate economy and future of the Iranian people, the Government of Iran budgeted billions of dollars to continue supporting illegitimate armed groups and terrorists in the region, primarily through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

(3) The Government of Iran has arrested at least 4,500 individuals for participating in the protests, at least 490 of whom remain in custody, according to news reports.

(4) According to Reuters, Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Hossein Zolfaghari stated on January 1, 2018, that “more than 90 percent of the people arrested in these unrests were young people and teenagers under the age of 25 and virtually none of them have any arrest history”.

(5) On January 8, 2018, Hamid Shahriari, deputy head of the Government of Iran’s judiciary, said that “those who organized and led the unrest against the establishment can expect the maximum penalty,” according to the Iranian Students News Agency (ISNA), as reported by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

(6) Three detained prisoners were reported to have “committed suicide” in Iranian prisons since their incarceration, including Iranian-Canadian academic Kavous Seyyed-Emami.

(7) The Iranian Security Forces have killed over 20 individuals during the protests, including 13-year-old Armin Sadeghi.

(8) The Government of Iran has consistently blocked Internet access and use of communications applications like Telegram and Instagram. As of January 31, 2018, protests continue throughout Iran, with demonstrations in the city of Ahvaz on January 23, 2018, and four more cities in the days since.

**SEC. 1283. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

Congress—

(1) strongly condemns the Government of Iran for its human rights violations against the people of Iran during and in the wake of the protests;

(2) urges the President to continue to publicly—

(A) condemn the Government of Iran for its human rights abuses against the Iranian people; and

(B) support the human rights, economic prosperity, and democratic aspirations of the Iranian people;

(3) reaffirms the right of the people of Iran to the freedom of speech and assembly in the face of oppression perpetrated by the Government of Iran; and

(4) supports the right of the people of Iran to a democratic system of governance.

**SEC. 1284. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.**

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to condemn the Government of Iran’s violations of its citizens’ human rights, freedom of religious expression, and freedom of speech, including state-sanctioned violence against peaceful protestors;

(2) to support, through appropriate actions and official public statements, the people of Iran in their fight for freedom and prosperity; and

(3) to work with international allies and partners to monitor and effectively respond to the protests in Iran in a manner that supports the human rights and democratic aspirations of the people of Iran and deters the Government of Iran from committing continued acts of oppression and persecution against its citizens.

**SEC. 1285. REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.—

(1) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, shall work with relevant social media and telecommunications companies, Internet service providers, and expert public stakeholders, as appropriate, to develop a strategy consisting of potential government and private sector actions and best practices for preventing the Government of Iran from shutting down Internet access and blocking access to social media applications.

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an unclassified report, which may contain a classified annex, containing the strategy described in paragraph (1).

(b) MODIFICATION OF ANNUAL HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—As part of the first Annual Country Report on Human Rights submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, shall include an unclassified report documenting the actions of the Government of Iran, the Iranian Revolutionary Court, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, and their proxies in response to the protests that began on December 28, 2017.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an appendix detailing the circumstances of the incarcerations undertaken by the Government of Iran during this period and the treatment of prisoners; and

(B) an appendix, which may contain a classified annex, detailing the sources and mechanisms used by the Government of Iran, the IRGC, and its proxies to fund its actions in response to the protests.

(3) REQUIRED BRIEFING.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and upon publication of the report described in paragraph (1), the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall brief, in an unclassified and classified format, if necessary, the appropriate congressional committees on the information required by the report described in paragraph (1).

**SEC. 1286. APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**

In this subtitle, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

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

**SA 2434.** Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

### Subtitle H—Iran Sanctions

#### SEC. 1281. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act”.

#### SEC. 1282. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR AFFILIATES OF, OR OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY, IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and as appropriate thereafter,” and inserting “Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and every 180 days thereafter,”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “, or owned or controlled by,” after “affiliates of”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

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

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) identify foreign persons with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to determine that the foreign persons have, directly or indirectly, conducted one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c) for or on behalf of a foreign person described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION; PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION; REPORTS.—Section 301(b) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) AUTHORIZATION; PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION; REPORTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—In identifying foreign persons pursuant to subsection (a)(1) as owned or controlled by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, the President is authorized to identify foreign persons in which Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of less than 50 percent.

“(2) PRIORITY FOR INVESTIGATION.—In identifying foreign persons pursuant to subsection (a)(1) as officials, agents, or affiliates of, or owned or controlled by, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, the President shall investigate—

“(A) foreign persons identified under section 560.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to the definition of the Government of Iran); and

“(B) foreign persons for which there is a reasonable basis to find that the person has conducted or attempted to conduct one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c).

“(3) REPORT.—

“(A) DETERMINATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The President shall determine whether each foreign person described in clause (ii) is owned or controlled by Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“(ii) FOREIGN PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The foreign persons described in this clause are the following:

“(I) The Telecommunication Company of Iran.

“(II) The Mobile Telecommunication Company of Iran (MTCI).

“(III) The Calcemin Public Company.

“(IV) The Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company.

“(V) The Iran Tractor Motors Manufacturing Company.

“(VI) The Iran Zinc Mines Development Company.

“(VII) The National Iranian Lead and Zinc Company.

“(VIII) The Iran Mineral Products Company.

“(IX) Tosee Energy Paivaran Company.

“(B) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the determinations made under subparagraph (A) together with the reasons for those determinations.

“(ii) FORM.—A report submitted under clause (i) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(4) ADDITIONAL REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a detailed list of foreign persons in which there is a reasonable basis to determine that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps has an ownership interest of not less than 33 percent.

“(B) FORM.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.”.

(c) SENSITIVE TRANSACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—Section 301(c) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “\$1,000,000” and inserting “\$500,000”; and

(B) by inserting “Iranian financial institution or” after “involving a”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraphs:

“(3) a transaction to provide material support for an organization designated as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)) or support for an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note));

“(4) a transaction to provide material support to a foreign person whose property and interests in property have been blocked 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);

“(5) a transaction to provide material support for—

“(A) the Government of Syria or any agency or instrumentality thereof; or

“(B) any entity owned or controlled by the Government of Syria, including for purposes of post-conflict reconstruction.”.

(d) WAIVER OF IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Section 301(e) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “(A) determines” and inserting “(A)(i) determines”;

(B) by striking “(B) submits” and inserting “(ii) submits”;

(C) by striking “(i) identifies” and inserting “(I) identifies”;

(D) by striking “(ii) sets” and inserting “(II) sets”;

(E) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) with respect to a foreign person identified under subsection (a)(3) by reason of having conducted or attempted to conduct one or more sensitive transactions or activities described in subsection (c)(5), also cer-

tifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps is significantly decreasing provision of direct or indirect material support to the Government of Syria or Hezbollah’s operations in Syria.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)(ii)”.

(e) REGULATIONS, IMPLEMENTATION, PENALTIES, AND DEFINITIONS.—Section 301 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8741) is amended—

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

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

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign person’ means—

“(A) an individual who is not a United States person;

“(B) a corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity that is not a United States person; or

“(C) any representative, agent, or instrumentality of, or an individual working on behalf of, a foreign government.

“(2) IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.—The term ‘Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps’ includes any senior foreign political figure (as defined in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps.”.

(f) CONFORMING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading of section 301 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 301. IDENTIFICATION OF, AND IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO, FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ARE OFFICIALS, AGENTS, OR AFFILIATES OF, OR OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY, IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.”;

and

(2) in the table of contents, by striking the item relating to section 301 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 301. Identification of, and imposition of sanctions with respect to, foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of, or owned or controlled by, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps.”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to conduct described in section 301(a) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, as amended by this section, engaged in on or after such date of enactment.

#### SEC. 1283. ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PERSONS THAT SUPPORT OR CONDUCT CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS WITH IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS OR OTHER SANCTIONED PERSONS.

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

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by inserting “, or provide significant financial services to,” after “transactions with”; and

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

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

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

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

(C) by striking clause (ii) and inserting the following:

“(ii) an Iranian person—

“(I) designated as foreign terrorist organizations under section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)); or

“(II) that has provided support for an act of international terrorism (as defined in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note));

“(iii) an Iranian person whose property and interests in property have been blocked 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);

“(iv) an Iranian person whose property and interests in property have been blocked pursuant to—

“(I) Executive Order 13608 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to prohibiting certain transactions with and suspending entry into the United States of foreign sanctions evaders with respect to Iran and Syria);

“(II) Executive Order 13606 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking the property and suspending entry into the United States of certain persons with respect to grave human rights abuses by the Governments of Iran and Syria via information technology);

“(III) Executive Order 13582 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property of the Government of Syria and prohibiting certain transactions with respect to Syria);

“(IV) Executive Order 13573 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property of senior officials of the Government of Syria);

“(V) Executive Order 13572 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property of certain persons with respect to human rights abuses in Syria);

“(VI) Executive Order 13460 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property of additional persons in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria);

“(VII) Executive Order 13399 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property of additional persons in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria);

“(VIII) Executive Order 13338 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to blocking property of certain persons and prohibiting the export of certain goods to Syria); or

“(IX) any other Executive order adopted on or after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, to the extent that such Executive order imposes sanctions with respect to Syria; or

“(v) a person acting on behalf of or at the direction of, or owned or controlled by, a person described in clauses (i) through (iv).”.

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

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

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “(A)(i) determines” and inserting “(A)(i)(I) determines”;

(B) by striking “(ii) determines” and inserting “(II) determines”;

(C) by striking “(B) submits” and inserting “(ii) submits”;

(D) by striking “(i) identifies” and inserting “(I) identifies”;

(E) by striking “(ii) describes” and inserting “(II) describes”;

(F) by striking “(iii) sets forth” and inserting “(III) sets forth”;

(G) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(H) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) with respect to a foreign person identified under subsection (a)(1) by reason of having engaged in a significant transaction or transactions with, or provided significant financial services or material support to, an Iranian person described in subparagraph (C)(iv) of that subsection, also certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps is significantly decreasing provision of direct or indirect material support to the Government of Syria or Hezbollah’s operations in Syria.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “paragraph (1)(B)” and inserting “paragraph (1)(A)(ii)”.

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

(1) by striking “and subject to paragraph (2)”;

(2) by striking “(1) determines” and inserting “(1)(A) determines”;

(3) by striking “(2) notifies” and inserting “(B) notifies”;

(4) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) with respect to a foreign person identified under subsection (a)(1) by reason of having engaged in a significant transaction or transactions with, or provided significant financial services or material support to, an Iranian person described in subparagraph (C)(iv) of that subsection, also certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps is significantly decreasing provision of direct or indirect material support to the Government of Syria or Hezbollah’s operations in Syria.”.

(e) IRANIAN PERSON DEFINED.—Section 302 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8742) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) IRANIAN PERSON DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘Iranian person’ means—

“(1) an individual who is a citizen or national of Iran; and

“(2) an entity organized under the laws of Iran or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of Iran.”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and apply with respect to conduct described in section 302(a)(1) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, as amended by this section, engaged in on or after such date of enactment.

#### SEC. 1284. REPORTS ON CERTAIN IRANIAN PERSONS.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to fully implement and enforce sanctions against Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, including its officials, agents, and affiliates.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title III of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-158; 126 Stat. 1247) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 313. REPORT ON CERTAIN IRANIAN PERSONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 2 years after such date of enactment, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that contains the following:

“(1) A list of foreign persons listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange and, with respect to

each such foreign person, a determination of whether or not Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps or any foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, directly or indirectly, owns or controls the foreign person.

“(2) A list of foreign persons that are operating business enterprises in Iran that have a valuation of more than \$100,000,000 in Iran and, with respect to each such foreign person, a determination of whether or not Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps or any foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, directly or indirectly, owns or controls the foreign person.

“(3) A list of Iranian financial institutions that have a valuation of more than \$10,000,000 and, with respect to each such Iranian financial institution, a determination of whether or not—

“(A) the institution has knowingly facilitated a significant transaction directly or indirectly for, or on behalf of, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps during the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic Exclusion Act; or

“(B) Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps or any foreign persons that are officials, agents, or affiliates of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps, directly or indirectly, owns or controls the institution.

“(b) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

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

“(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the report required by paragraph (1) shall be posted on a publicly available Internet website of the Department of the Treasury and a publicly available Internet website of the Department of State.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign person’ means—

“(A) an individual who is not a United States person;

“(B) a corporation, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity that is not a United States person; or

“(C) any representative, agent, or instrumentality of, or an individual working on behalf of, a foreign government.

“(2) IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.—The term ‘Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps’ includes any senior foreign political figure (as defined in section 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps.

“(3) IRANIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term ‘Iranian financial institution’ means—

“(A) a financial institution organized under the laws of Iran or any jurisdiction within Iran, including a foreign branch of such an institution;

“(B) a financial institution located in Iran;

“(C) a financial institution, wherever located, owned or controlled by the Government of Iran; or

“(D) a financial institution, wherever located, owned or controlled by a financial institution described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

“(4) SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION.—A transaction shall be determined to be a ‘significant transaction’ in accordance with section 561.404 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

#### “SEC. 314. REPORT ON THE FOREIGN SUPPLY CHAIN AND DOMESTIC SUPPLY CHAIN INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF IRAN THAT AIDS IRAN’S REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps Economic

Exclusion Act, the President shall submit a report on the foreign supply chain and domestic supply chain inside and outside of Iran that directly or indirectly significantly facilitates, supports, or otherwise aids Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps to—

“(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

“(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) An analysis of the foreign supply chain and domestic supply chain described in subsection (a).

“(2) Persons that conduct both primary activities and support activities for the Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps.

“(3) A description of the geographic distribution of the foreign supply chain and domestic supply chain described in subsection (a).

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

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 312 the following:

“Sec. 313. Report on certain Iranian persons.

“Sec. 314. Report on the foreign supply chain and domestic supply chain inside and outside of Iran that aids Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps.”

#### **SEC. 1285. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON PREVENTION OF ACCESSION OF IRAN TO WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States to work to prevent Iran's membership in the World Trade Organization and similar international bodies until the date on which the determination of the Secretary of State that the Government of Iran has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism under the provisions of law described in subsection (b) is rescinded.

(b) PROVISIONS OF LAW DESCRIBED.—The provisions of law described in this subsection are—

(1) section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4605(j)(1)(A)) (as continued in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.));

(2) section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a));

(3) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

(4) any other provision of law.

#### **SEC. 1286. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON IRANIAN-DIRECTED AND SPONSORED VIOLENCE AGAINST UNARMED CIVILIANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be the policy of the United States to respond to the Government of Iran's targeted violence toward civilians, whether such violence—

(1) takes place inside Iran or elsewhere; and

(2) is conducted directly by that Government or its military or proxies or by direct accommodation through intermediaries or other agents.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To achieve the policy set forth in subsection (a), the United States shall—

(1) condemn support for terrorism by the Government of Iran or its military or proxies, whether provided directly or through sponsor organizations such as Hezbollah;

(2) condemn the support or accommodation by the Government of Iran or its military or

proxies for any acts of violence against unarmed civilians, whether provided—

(A) within the borders of Iran or elsewhere;

(B) directly or through intermediaries;

(C) proactively or by accommodation; or

(D) through conventional or nonconventional methods;

(3) work with international partners to develop steps and tools to exert pressure on the Government of Iran and its military and proxies in response to incidents of violence targeting unarmed civilians; and

(4) take steps to facilitate entry of representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to inspect and respond to particular incidents of such violence in a timely fashion.

#### **SEC. 1287. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions under this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” has the meaning given that term 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.)).

**SA 2435.** Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

#### **SEC. 1066. HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER MOBILITY DEMONSTRATION.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FAMILIES; PUBLIC HOUSING AGENCY.—The term “public housing agency” have the meanings given those terms in section 3(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)).

(2) HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER ASSISTANCE.—The term “housing choice voucher assistance” means voucher assistance provided under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)).

(3) PLAN.—The term “Plan” means a Regional Housing Mobility Plan submitted under subsection (d).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may carry out a mobility demonstration program to enable public housing agencies to administer housing choice voucher assistance in a manner designed to encourage families receiving that assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

(c) SELECTION OF PHAS.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall establish requirements for public housing agencies to participate in the demonstration program under this section, which shall pro-

vide that the following public housing agencies may participate:

(A) Public housing agencies that together—

(i) serve areas with high concentrations of families receiving housing choice voucher assistance in poor, low-opportunity neighborhoods; and

(ii) have an adequate number of moderately priced rental units in higher-opportunity areas.

(B) Planned consortia or partial consortia of public housing agencies that—

(i) include not less than 1 public housing agency with a high-performing Family Self-Sufficiency program carried out under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u); and

(ii) will enable participating families to continue in the Family Self-Sufficiency program if the family relocates to the jurisdiction served by any other public housing agency of the consortium.

(C) Planned consortia or partial consortia of public housing agencies that—

(i) serve jurisdictions within a single region;

(ii) include not less than 1 small public housing agency; and

(iii) will consolidate mobility-focused operations.

(D) Such other public housing agencies as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish competitive selection criteria for public housing agencies eligible under paragraph (1) to participate in the demonstration program under this section.

(3) RANDOM SELECTION OF FAMILIES.—The Secretary may require public housing agencies participating in the demonstration program under this section to use a randomized selection process to select among the families eligible to receive assistance under the demonstration program.

(d) REGIONAL HOUSING MOBILITY PLAN.—The Secretary shall require each public housing agency applying to participate in the demonstration program under this section to submit a Regional Housing Mobility Plan, which shall—

(1) identify the public housing agencies that will participate under the Plan and the number of vouchers each participating public housing agency will make available out of their existing programs in connection with the demonstration;

(2) identify any community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other entities that will participate under the Plan and describe the commitments for the participation made by each such entity;

(3) identify any waivers or alternative requirements requested for the execution of the Plan;

(4) identify any specific actions that the public housing agencies and other entities will undertake to accomplish the goals of the demonstration program, which shall include a comprehensive approach to enable a successful transition to opportunity areas and may include counseling and continued support for families;

(5) specify the criteria that the public housing agencies would use to identify opportunity areas under the Plan;

(6) provide for the establishment of priority and preferences for families receiving assistance under the demonstration program, including a preference for families with young children, as such term is defined by the Secretary, based on regional housing needs and priorities; and

(7) comply with any other requirements established by the Secretary.

(e) FUNDING FOR MOBILITY-RELATED SERVICES.—

(1) **USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.**—Each public housing agency participating in the demonstration program under this section may use administrative fees under section 8(q) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(q)), any administrative fee reserves of the public housing agency, and funding from private entities to provide mobility-related services in connection with the demonstration program, including services such as counseling, portability coordination, landlord outreach, security deposits, and administrative activities associated with establishing and operating regional mobility programs.

(2) **USE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.**—Each public housing agency participating in the demonstration program under this section may use housing assistance payment contract funds under section 8(o) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) for security deposits if necessary to enable families to lease units with housing choice voucher assistance in designated opportunity areas.

(f) **WAIVERS; ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **WAIVERS.**—To allow for public housing agencies to implement and administer the Plan of the public housing agency under the demonstration program under this section, the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for the following provisions of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.):

(A) Paragraphs (7)(A) and (13)(E)(i) of section 8(o) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)) (relating to the term of a lease and mobility requirements).

(B) Section 8(o)(13)(C)(i) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(C)(i)) (relating to the public housing agency plan).

(C) Section 8(r)(2) (42 U.S.C. 1437f(r)(2)) (relating to the responsibility of a public housing agency to administer portable assistance).

(2) **ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary shall provide additional authority for public housing agencies in a selected region to form a consortium that has a single housing assistance payment contract, or to enter into a partial consortium to operate all or portions of the Plan, including public housing agencies participating in the Moving To Work demonstration program established under section 204 of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-134; 110 Stat. 1321-281).

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Any waiver or alternative requirements pursuant to this subsection shall not take effect before the date that is 10 days after the date on which the date on which the Secretary publishes a notice of the waiver or alternative requirement in the Federal Register.

(g) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The Secretary may implement the demonstration program under this section, including the terms, procedures, requirements, and conditions of the demonstration, by notice.

(h) **EVALUATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 5 years after the implementation of the regional housing mobility programs by public housing agencies participating in the demonstration program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress and publish in the Federal Register a report evaluating the effectiveness of the strategies pursued under the demonstration program, subject to the availability of funding to conduct the evaluation.

(2) **DISSEMINATION OF FINDINGS.**—The Secretary shall—

(A) through internet websites and other means, disseminate interim findings relating

to the demonstration program under this section as they become available; and

(B) if promising strategies are identified through the findings described in subparagraph (A), notify Congress of the amount of funds that would be required to expand the testing of these strategies in additional types of public housing agencies and housing markets.

**SA 2436.** Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON STRENGTHENING NATO CYBER DEFENSE.**

(a) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that the Department of Defense should continue to cooperate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and key Organization allies in order to promote the common defense in the cyberspace domain as well as to deter cyberattacks.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than March 31, 2019, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the Department's efforts to enhance the United States' leadership and collaboration with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization with respect to the development of a comprehensive, cross-domain strategy to build cyber-defense capacity and deter cyber attacks among Organization member countries.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall address the following:

(A) Improving cyber situational awareness among Organization member countries.

(B) Implementation of the cyber operational-domain roadmap of the Organization with respect to doctrine, political oversight and governance, planning, rules of engagement, and integration across member countries.

(C) Planned cooperative efforts to combat information warfare across Organization member countries.

(D) The development of cyber capabilities, including cooperative development efforts and technology transfer.

(E) Supporting stronger cyber partnerships with non-Organization member countries as appropriate.

**SA 2437.** Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. HEITKAMP, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. YOUNG, Ms. WARREN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 622. TREATMENT OF SERVICE ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR PREPLANNED MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS TOWARD REDUCTION IN AGE FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR RETIRED PAY FOR NON-REGULAR SERVICE.**

Section 12731(f)(2)(B)(i) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking “under a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B) or under section 12301(d)” and inserting “under section 12301(d) or 12304b of this title or a provision of law referred to in section 101(a)(13)(B)”.

**SA 2438.** Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IX, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . GOALS FOR PROMPTNESS OF DETERMINATIONS REGARDING SECURITY CLEARANCES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Council shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that, by December 31, 2021, 90 percent of all determinations regarding—

(1) security clearances—

(A) at the secret level are issued in 30 days or fewer; and

(B) at the top secret level are issued in 90 days or fewer; and

(2) reciprocity of a security clearance at the same level are recognized in two weeks or fewer.

(b) **CERTAIN REINVESTIGATIONS.**—The Council shall ensure that by December 31, 2021, re-investigation on a set periodicity is not be required for more than 10 percent of the population that holds a security clearance.

(c) **PLAN.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Council shall submit a plan to carry out this section to the appropriate congressional committees. Such plan shall include recommended interim milestones for the goals set forth in subsections (a) and (b) for 2019, 2020, and 2021.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees;

(B) the congressional intelligence committees (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(D) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(2) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Performance Accountability Council established pursuant to Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note).

(3) **RECIPROCITY.**—The term “reciprocity” means reciprocal recognition by Federal departments and agencies of eligibility for access to classified information.

**SA 2439.** Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IX, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON UNIFIED, SIMPLIFIED, GOVERNMENT-WIDE STANDARDS FOR POSITIONS OF TRUST AND SECURITY CLEARANCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent, in coordination with the other members of the Council, shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the advisability and the risks, benefits, and costs to the Government and to industry of consolidating to not more than 3 tiers for positions of trust and security clearances.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNCIL.—The term “Council” means the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Performance Accountability Council established pursuant to Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note).

(3) SECURITY EXECUTIVE AGENT.—The term “Security Executive Agent” means the Director of National Intelligence acting as the Security Executive Agent in accordance with Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note).

(4) SUITABILITY AND CREDENTIALING EXECUTIVE AGENT.—The term “Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management acting as the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent in accordance with Executive Order 13467 (73 Fed. Reg. 38103; 50 U.S.C. 3161 note).

**SA 2440.** Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title IX, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . BUDGET REQUEST DOCUMENTATION ON FUNDING FOR CLEARANCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—As part of the fiscal year 2020 budget request submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the President shall include exhibits that identify the resources allocated by each agency to processing security clearances, disaggregated by type of security clearance.

(b) CONTENTS.—Each exhibit submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to security clearances, details on the costs of—

(1) background investigations and reinvestigations;

(2) additional screening mechanisms, such as polygraphs, medical exams, and psychological exams;

(3) adjudications;

(4) other means of continuous vetting, such as continuous evaluation and user activity monitoring; and

(5) the average per person cost for each type of security clearance.

**SA 2441.** Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 2838. AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN PROJECTS TO SUPPORT INSTALLATION ENERGY RESILIENCE AND ENERGY SECURITY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2919 the following new section:

**“§ 2920. Projects on non-federal property to ensure energy resilience and energy security**

“(a) AUTHORITY FOR PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Defense may provide for the construction, improvement, hardening against physical or cyber attack, and maintenance of a utility system supporting a military installation if the Secretary certifies to the congressional defense committees that the construction, improvement, hardening against physical or cyber attack, or maintenance will provide energy resilience or energy security to the installation and is necessary to maintain the readiness of the armed forces.

“(b) NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—If the Secretary determines that an action of the Department of Defense will cause a significant effect on a utility system serving a military installation, the Secretary shall conduct a utility service needs assessment to assess the magnitude of the construction, improvement, hardening against physical or cyber attack, and maintenance required to address the effect.

“(c) DESIGN OF PROJECTS.—A project carried out under subsection (a) shall be designed to provide energy resilience or energy security to the military installation and not to other users of the utility system, but may, at no additional expense to the United States, incidentally benefit other users of the utility system.

“(d) TYPES OF AVAILABLE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out a project under subsection (a), the Secretary may use a contract, a cooperative agreement, or a grant.

“(e) NATURE OF PROJECTS.—A project carried out under subsection (a)—

“(1) shall not be considered a military construction project as that term is defined in section 2801(a) of this title; and

“(2) shall be treated as the acquisition of enhanced utility service to the military installation.

“(f) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may carry out this section using funds available

for operation and maintenance or for military construction.

“(g) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—When a decision is made to carry out a project under this section, the Secretary concerned shall submit to the congressional defense committees, in an electronic medium pursuant to section 480 of this title, a report including the justification for the project, the current estimate of the cost of the project, and the source of funds to cover anticipated expenses. A project may not be carried out if a congressional defense committee sends written notification to the Secretary disapproving of a project within 14 days of such report submission.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The term ‘military installation’ has the meaning given the term in section 2687(g)(1) of this title.

“(2) UTILITY SYSTEM.—The term ‘utility system’ means a utility system—

“(A) providing communications, electricity, gas, water, oil, or steam to, or removing waste from, a military installation;

“(B) not located on a military installation; and

“(C) not owned by the United States.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2919 the following new item:

“§ 2920. Projects on non-federal property to ensure energy resilience and energy security.”.

**SA 2442.** Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REIMBURSEMENT OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES FOR FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL INCOME TAXES INCURRED DURING TRAVEL, TRANSPORTATION, AND RELOCATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—5724b of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking “of employees transferred”;

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “employee, or by an employee and such employee’s spouse (if filing jointly), for any moving or storage” and inserting “individual, or by an individual and such individual’s spouse (if filing jointly), for any travel, transportation, and relocation”;

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “employee” and inserting “individual, or the individual”;

(3) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) For purposes of this section, the term ‘travel, transportation, and relocation expenses’ means all travel, transportation, and relocation expenses reimbursed or furnished in kind pursuant to subchapter II of this chapter or chapter 41.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section 5724b and inserting the following:

“5724b. Taxes on reimbursements for travel, transportation, and relocation expenses.”.

(c) RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as though enacted on January 1, 2018.

**SA 2443.** Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **CLARIFICATION OF REIMBURSABLE ALLOWED COSTS OF FAA MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT.**

Section 47504(c)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) to an airport operator of a congested airport (as defined in section 47175) and a unit of local government referred to in paragraph (1)(B) to carry out a project to mitigate noise, if the project—

“(i) consists of—

“(I) replacement windows, doors, and the installation of through-the-wall air-conditioning units; or

“(II) acquisition or installation of windows, doors, or other noise mitigation elements to be used in a school reconstruction, if reconstruction is the preferred local solution;

“(ii) is located at a school near the airport; and

“(iii) is included in a memorandum of agreement entered into before September 30, 2002, even if the airport has not met the requirements of part 150 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, and only if the financial limitations of the memorandum are applied.”.

**SA 2444.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XII, add the following:

**Subtitle H—Deterrence of Foreign Interference in United States Elections**

**SEC. 1281.** **SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Defending Elections from Threats by Establishing Redlines Act of 2018”.

**SEC. 1282.** **DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

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

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Ways and Means, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on House Administration of the House of Representatives.

(3) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees and leadership” means—

(A) the appropriate congressional committees;

(B) the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate; and

(C) the Speaker, the majority leader, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(4) **ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN INFRASTRUCTURE.**—The term “election and campaign infrastructure” means information and communications technology and systems used by or on behalf of—

(A) the Federal Government or a State or local government in managing the election process, including voter registration databases, voting machines, voting tabulation equipment, equipment for the secure transmission of election results, and other systems; or

(B) a principal campaign committee or national committee (as those terms are defined in section 301 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101)) with respect to strategy or tactics affecting the conduct of a political campaign, including electronic communications, and the information stored on, processed by, or transiting such technology and systems.

(5) **INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS.**—The term “interference”, with respect to a United States election, means any of the following actions of the government of a foreign country, or any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of such a government, undertaken with the intent to influence the election:

(A) Obtaining unauthorized access to election and campaign infrastructure or related systems or data and releasing such data or modifying such infrastructure, systems, or data.

(B) Blocking or degrading otherwise legitimate and authorized access to election and campaign infrastructure or related systems or data.

(C) Significant contributions or expenditures for advertising, including on the internet.

(D) Using social, other internet-based, or traditional media to spread significant false or derogatory information to individuals in the United States.

(E) Staging, organizing, coordinating, or promoting rallies, meetings, or events in the United States.

(F) Posing as United States persons and communicating with individuals in the United States.

(6) **KNOWINGLY.**—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

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

(8) **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CYCLE.**—The term “presidential election cycle” means the period beginning on the day after the date of the most recent election for the office of

President of the United States and ending on the date of the next election for that office.

(9) **UNITED STATES ELECTION.**—The term “United States election” means any United States Federal election.

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

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

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

**PART I—DETERMINATION OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS**

**SEC. 1283.** **DETERMINATION OF FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 30 days after a United States election, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General, shall—

(1) determine whether or not the government of a foreign country, or any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of that government, knowingly engaged in interference in the election; and

(2) submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on that determination, including, if the Director determines that interference did occur—

(A) an identification of the government or person that engaged in such interference; and

(B) if the Government of the Russian Federation, or any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of that Government, engaged in such interference, a list of any senior foreign political figures or oligarchs in the Russian Federation identified under section 241(a)(1)(A) of the Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017 (title II of Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 922) who directly or indirectly contributed to such interference.

(b) **ADDITIONAL REPORTING.**—If the Director of National Intelligence determines and reports under subsection (a) that neither the government of a foreign country nor any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of that government knowingly engaged in interference in a United States election, and the Director subsequently determines that that government, or such a person, did engage in such interference, the Director shall, not later than 30 days after making that determination, submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership—

(1) a report on the subsequent determination; and

(2) if Director determines that the Government of the Russian Federation, or any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of that Government, engaged in such interference, a list of any senior foreign political figures or oligarchs in the Russian Federation identified under section 241(a)(1)(A) of the Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017 (title II of Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 922) who directly or indirectly contributed to such interference.

(c) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required by subsection (a) or (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

**PART II—DETERMINING INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**SEC. 1284.** **IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If the Director of National Intelligence determines under section

1283 that the Government of the Russian Federation, or any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of that Government, knowingly engaged in interference in a United States election, the President shall, not later than 10 days after such determination is made, impose the following sanctions:

(1) **BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF CERTAIN STATE-OWNED RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND RESTRICTING ACCOUNTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall impose one or more of the following sanctions on 3 or more entities specified in subparagraph (B):

(i) Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), blocking and prohibiting all transactions in all property and interests in property of the entity if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(ii) Prohibiting, or imposing strict conditions on, the opening or maintaining in the United States of a correspondent account or payable-through account by the entity.

(B) **ENTITIES SPECIFIED.**—The entities specified in this subparagraph are the following:

- (i) Sberbank.
- (ii) VTB Bank.
- (iii) Gazprombank.
- (iv) Vnesheconombank.
- (v) Bank of Moscow.
- (vi) Rosselkhozbank.

(2) **BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF CERTAIN RUSSIAN ENERGY COMPANIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of 2 or more of the entities specified in subparagraph (B) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) **ENTITIES SPECIFIED.**—The entities specified in this subparagraph are the following:

- (i) Gazprom.
- (ii) Rosneft.
- (iii) Lukoil.

(3) **BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF ENTITIES IN RUSSIAN DEFENSE AND INTELLIGENCE SECTORS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any entity described in subparagraph (B) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) **ENTITIES DESCRIBED.**—An entity described in this subparagraph is—

(i) an entity that the President determines pursuant to section 231 of the Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017 (22 U.S.C. 9525) is part of, or operates for or on behalf of, the defense or intelligence sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation; or

(ii) an entity in which an entity described in clause (i) has an ownership interest of 50 percent or more.

(4) **BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF CERTAIN RUSSIAN STATE-OWNED ENTITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any entity described in subparagraph (B) in which the Government of the

Russian Federation has an ownership interest of 25 percent or more if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) **ENTITIES DESCRIBED.**—The entities described in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) Any entity in the railway or metals and mining sector of the economy of the Russian Federation.

(ii) Any aerospace company or air carrier, including any subsidiary of such a company or carrier.

(5) **BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF ENTITIES ACQUIRED BY RUSSIAN STATE-OWNED ENTITIES.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any entity in which an entity owned 50 percent or more in the aggregate by the Government of the Russian Federation acquires, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, an ownership interest of 20 percent or more if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(6) **PROHIBITION ON TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING CERTAIN RUSSIAN DEBT.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, pursuant to such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, prohibit all transactions within the United States or by a United States person, in—

(A) sovereign debt of the Government of the Russian Federation issued on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, including governmental bonds; and

(B) debt of any entity owned or controlled by the Russian Federation issued on or after such date of enactment, including bonds.

(7) **BLOCKING THE ASSETS OF SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES AND OLIGARCHS AND EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose with respect to any senior foreign political figure or oligarch in the Russian Federation identified under subsection (a)(2)(B) or (b)(2) of section 1283 the following sanctions:

(i) Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the individual if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(ii) The President shall deny a visa to, and exclude from the United States, the individual, and revoke in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)) any visa or other documentation of the individual.

(B) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.**—Information about the denial or revocation of a visa or other documentation under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be made available to the public.

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the committees specified in paragraph (2) a report—

(A) identifying the 6 largest financial institutions owned or controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation, determined by estimated net assets; and

(B) identifying the 3 largest energy companies in the Russian Federation, in terms of estimated net assets.

(2) **COMMITTEES SPECIFIED.**—The committees specified in this paragraph are—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **EXCEPTION FOR IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—The requirement to impose sanctions under subsection (a) shall not include the authority to impose sanctions with respect to the importation of goods (as 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.))).

(2) **COMPLIANCE WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.**—Subsection (a)(7)(A)(ii) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with United States obligations under the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or under other international agreements.

(d) **IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(e) **SUSPENSION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may suspend sanctions imposed under subsection (a) on or after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General, submits to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a certification that the Government of the Russian Federation has not engaged in interference in United States elections for at least one presidential election cycle.

(2) **REIMPOSITION.**—

(A) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after a suspension of sanctions under paragraph (1) takes effect, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report on whether the Government of the Russian Federation is taking measures to—

(i) improve the oversight of and prosecutions relating to interference in United States elections; and

(ii) credibly demonstrate a significant change in behavior and credibly commit to not engaging in such interference in the future.

(B) **REIMPOSITION.**—If the President determines under subparagraph (A) that the Government of the Russian Federation is not taking measures described in that subparagraph, the President shall reimpose the sanctions suspended under paragraph (1).

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The President may terminate sanctions imposed under subsection

(a) on or after the date on which the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Attorney General, submits to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a certification that—

(1) the Government of the Russian Federation has not engaged in interference in United States elections for at least 2 presidential election cycles; and

(2) the President has received credible commitments from the Government of the Russian Federation that that Government will not engage in such interference in the future.

#### SEC. 1285. STRATEGY ON COORDINATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a strategy on how the United States will—

(1) work in concert with the European Union and member countries of the European Union to deter interference by the Government of the Russian Federation in elections; and

(2) coordinate with the European Union and member countries of the European Union to enact legislation similar to this title.

#### PART III—DETECTING INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS BY OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

#### SEC. 1286. BRIEFING ON INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President, or a designee of the President, shall brief the appropriate congressional committees and leadership on any government of a foreign country, or person acting as an agent of or on behalf of that government, that is determined by the President to have engaged in or to be likely to engage in interference in a United States election.

#### SEC. 1287. DETERRENCE STRATEGIES FOR INTERFERENCE IN UNITED STATES ELECTIONS BY CHINA, IRAN, NORTH KOREA, AND OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OF CONCERN.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report that includes—

(1) a strategy of the President to deter interference in a United States election by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Government of Iran, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and any other foreign government determined by the President to have engaged in or to be likely to engage in interference in a United States election, including any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of such a government;

(2) proposed sanctions if that government engages in such interference and any authorities the President may require from Congress to impose such sanctions;

(3) other actions undertaken by Federal agencies or in cooperation with other countries to deter such interference; and

(4) a plan for communicating such deterrence actions to those governments.

**SA 2445.** Mr. VAN HOLLEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the

Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of section 1269, add the following:

(e) LIMITATION RELATED TO PURCHASE OF S-400 SYSTEM FROM RUSSIA.—

(1) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report with the following information:

(i) A determination whether the Government of Turkey has made payments towards the purchase of the S-400 system.

(ii) The number of S-400 systems the Government of Turkey expects to purchase.

(iii) The anticipated delivery schedule for the S-400 system.

(iv) The total value of the S-400 systems the Government of Turkey is expected to purchase, and how much of that will be self-financed, financed by loans from Russia, or financed by other sources.

(v) A description of the measures the President has taken to prevent Turkey's purchase of the S-400 system and encourage an alternative system.

(vi) An assessment of how the operation of the S-400 and F-35 aircraft together would impact the security of the F-35 aircraft.

(B) FORM.—The report required under this paragraph shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex as necessary.

(2) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the transfer of F-35s to Turkey shall be subject to section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776) until the President certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that the Government of Turkey has withdrawn from its agreement to purchase the Russian S-400 system.

(3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2446.** Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. PERDUE, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

#### SEC. 577. TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY SPOUSES.

(a) TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 88 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by

inserting after section 1784a the following new section:

#### “§ 1784b. Employment assistance, job training assistance, and other transitional assistance for military spouses: Department of Labor

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program of assistance and services required by section 1144 of this title, the Secretary of Labor, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall also maintain a program of counseling, assistance, help, and related information and services for spouses of members of the armed forces covered by that section in order to assist such spouses during the transition of such members to civilian life.

“(b) ELEMENTS.—The counseling, assistance, help, and information and services available under the program under this section shall be the following:

“(1) Such counseling, assistance, help, and information and services as are available to members under section 1144 of title and are suitable to assist spouses during the transition of members as described in subsection (a).

“(2) Such other counseling, assistance, help, and information and services to assist spouses during such transition as the Secretaries consider appropriate for purposes of the program.

“(c) PARTICIPATION.—A spouse is eligible to participate in the program under this section during any period in which the spouse's member is eligible to participate in the program of assistance and services required by section 1144 of this title.

“(d) USE OF PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Secretaries may use any of the authorities, personnel, organizations, and other resources available for the program of assistance and services required by section 1144 of this title that the Secretaries consider appropriate for the effective operation of the program under this section.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter I of chapter 88 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1784a the following new item:

“1784b. Employment assistance, job training assistance, and other transitional assistance for military spouses: Department of Labor.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE AND COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary of Labor shall commence the program required by section 1784b of title 10, United States Code (as added by such amendments), by such date, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, as the Secretary considers practicable.

**SA 2447.** Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mrs. FISCHER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. PROMPT PAYMENTS OF SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTORS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Section 2307(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;

(2) by striking “The head of any agency may—” and inserting “(1) The head of any agency may”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) For a prime contractor (as defined in section 8701 of title 41) that is a small business concern (as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)), the Secretary of Defense shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, establish an accelerated payment date with a goal of 15 days after receipt of a proper invoice for the amount due if a specific payment date is not established by contract.

“(B) For a prime contractor that subcontracts with a small business concern, the Secretary of Defense shall, to the fullest extent permitted by law, establish an accelerated payment date with a goal of 15 days after receipt of a proper invoice for the amount due if—

“(i) a specific payment date is not established by contract; and

“(ii) the prime contractor agrees to make payments to the subcontractor in accordance with the accelerated payment date, to the maximum extent practicable, without any further consideration from or fees charged to the subcontractor.

“(C) For a prime contractor that subcontracts with a small business concern, the Secretary of Defense may, to the fullest extent permitted by law, establish incentives to promote the accelerated payments to the subcontractor in accordance with the accelerated payment date.”.

**SA 2448.** Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Littoral Combat Ship, increase the amount in the Senate authorized column by \$950,000,000.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Total Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy, increase the amount in the Senate authorized column by \$950,000,000.

In the funding table in section 4101, in the item relating to Total Procurement, increase the amount in the Senate authorized column by \$950,000,000.

**SA 2449.** Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. STUDY ON USE OF ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS IN NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BY DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, may conduct a study on improving the use of academic partnerships in nursing workforce development by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment and identification of best practices for training of nurses and patient care by nurses.

(2) An assessment of the impact of academic affiliations and partnerships in nursing education and nursing workforce development on the quality of care received by active duty members of the Armed Forces and veterans with respect to their special health care needs.

**SA 2450.** Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . STUDY ON TRAUMATIC INJURY PROTECTION UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS' GROUP LIFE INSURANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may conduct a study on best practices in the administration of insurance relating to traumatic injuries under section 1980A of title 38, United States Code.

(b) ELEMENTS.—If the Secretary conducts the study authorized under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, in carrying out the study—

(1) consider the feasibility of allowing members of the Armed Forces to elect to pay more per month to receive more long-term financial support for their families in the event of a traumatic injury; and

(2) assess the feasibility and advisability of modifying the existing insurance coverage under section 1980A of such title to align more closely with the payout metrics offered in the civilian world.

**SA 2451.** Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . MENTORSHIP AND MATCHMAKING PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS WHO ARE ENTREPRENEURS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Programs of loans for veterans administered by the Small Business Administration and other Federally administered resources that help members of the Armed Forces and veterans to become entrepreneurs can go underutilized.

(2) The Small Business Administration offers mentoring programs for veterans and the Administration can offer mentoring programs for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life.

(3) Helping members of the Armed Forces identify existing and conceivable business opportunities in their industry of interest or geographic location can be achieved through a process of integrating information about business leads sources like local chambers of commerce with data about service members interested in starting businesses provided to the Small Business Administration by the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

(4) Enhancing the opportunity for success of members of the Armed Forces and veterans as entrepreneurs can be an important tool for economic development, especially in rural areas of the United States.

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

(1) it is important to establish a mentoring and matchmaking program to help members of the Armed Forces transition to civilian life;

(2) Small Business Development Centers of the Small Business Administration should help provide matchmaking services for members of the Armed Forces to help them identify existing and conceivable business opportunities in their industry of interest or geographic location; and

(3) a special emphasis should be made to assist members of the Armed Forces in rural areas of the United States.

(c) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, in partnership with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration and the Secretary of Defense, establish a program consisting of—

(A) providing mentors to covered individuals to assist them in pursuing goals relating to starting a business; and

(B) assistance in matching covered individuals with business opportunities relating to starting a business.

(2) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of the program required by paragraph (1), a covered individual is—

(A) a member of the Armed Forces who is transitioning to civilian life, a veteran, or a member of the family of such a member of the Armed Forces or veteran; and

(B) considering applying for a loan from the Small Business Administration to start a business.

**SA 2452.** Mr. JONES (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 558. CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES FOR SENIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS PROGRAMS AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and minority-serving institutions play a vital role in educating low-income and underrepresented students in areas of national need.

(2) Historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions presently contribute to the defense readiness and national security of the nation by administering Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs that prepare students to lead our Armed Forces.

(3) Racial and ethnic minority groups made up 40 percent of all active-duty members of the Armed Forces in 2015, up from 25 percent in 1990. Minorities make up a significant and crucial number of the enlisted members in all four of the Armed Forces and also make up an increasingly important number of the officer corps, and yet the officer corps does not yet fully reflect the diversity of the nation. While 12 percent of the nation is African American, only 8 percent of active-duty officers were African American in the most recent report on minority officers in 2011. Similarly, Hispanic Americans make up 15 percent of the population and only 5 percent of the officer corps. And yet a higher number of the enlisted members of the Armed Forces are minorities.

(4) Providing a facility for Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs is one of the many financial challenges to increasing access to the officer track in minority settings. Considering the financial strains that face the historically black colleges and universities today, financial strains that are often even greater than those confronting all of the nation's colleges and universities in time with increasing State budget cuts, it is important to provide additional support to Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs at historically black colleges and universities across the country by authorizing the military departments to provide for the construction or rehabilitation of Reserve Officers' Training Corps program facilities at historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institution campuses.

(b) CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries of the military departments may provide for the construction and rehabilitation of facilities for Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs at historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions that host such programs.

(2) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In determining whether to construct or rehabilitate facilities of historically black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions using the authority in paragraph (1), the Secretary of a military department shall afford special consideration to the following:

(A) Colleges and universities, and institutions, located in States in which reside a high number of enlisted members of the Armed Forces who are members of a minority group.

(B) Colleges and universities, and institutions, with a high number of Reserve Officers' Training Corps program participants who are members of a minority group.

(C) Colleges and universities, and institutions, located in States that are reducing funding for higher education.

(3) LIMITATION.—The total number of facilities that may be constructed or rehabilitated

using the authority in paragraph (1) in any fiscal year may not exceed five facilities.

(c) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “minority-serving institution” means a minority-serving institution for purposes of section 371 of the Higher Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q).

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Defense, \$20,000,000 for the construction and rehabilitation of facilities in that fiscal year as authorized by subsection (b).

**SA 2453.** Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. PROMOTING FEDERAL PROCUREMENT WITH HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency, or a contracting officer where applicable, shall—

(1) assist historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions to develop viable, self-sustaining businesses capable of competing on an equal basis in the mainstream of the United States economy; and

(2) promote Federal procurement with historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions by establishing—

(A) participation goals of not less than 10 percent for historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions;

(B) requirements that prime contractors and other recipients of Federal funds attain similar participation goals in their procurement; and

(C) other mechanisms that ensure historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions have a fair opportunity to participate in Federal procurement.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(2) The term “historically Black college and university” has the meaning given the term in section 631 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1132).

(3) The term “minority-serving institution” means an institution described in section 371 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q).

**SA 2454.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 2838. CONSOLIDATION OF JOINT SPECTRUM CENTER TO FORT MEADE, MARYLAND.**

(a) MOVEMENT OR CONSOLIDATION OF JOINT SPECTRUM CENTER TO FORT MEADE, MARYLAND.—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, to move, consolidate, or both, the offices of the Joint Spectrum Center to the Defense Information Systems Agency headquarters building at Fort Meade, Maryland, for national security purposes to ensure the physical and cybersecurity protection of personnel and missions of the Department of Defense.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Any facility, road, or infrastructure constructed or altered on a military installation as a result of this section is deemed to be authorized in accordance with section 2802 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) TERMINATION OF EXISTING LEASE.—Upon completion of the relocation of the Joint Spectrum Center, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the existing lease for the Joint Spectrum Center shall be terminated.

(d) REPEAL OF OBSOLETE AUTHORITY.—Section 2887 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (Public Law 110-181; 122 Stat. 569) is hereby repealed.

**SA 2455.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 910. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL TEST AND EVALUATION.**

(a) PRINCIPAL ADVISOR ON DEVELOPMENT TEST AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Developmental Test and Evaluation shall be the principal advisor to the Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation on developmental test and evaluation in the Department of Defense.

(2) SUPERVISION.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary shall be subject to the supervision of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, without the interposition of any other supervising official. The Deputy Assistant Secretary may communicate views on matters within the responsibility of the Deputy Assistant Secretary directly to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation without obtaining the approval or concurrence of any other official within the Department.

(b) DUTIES.—As principal advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering on developmental test and evaluation, the Deputy Assistant Secretary shall—

(1) develop policies and guidance for—

(A) the conduct of developmental test and evaluation in the military departments and other elements of the Department of Defense (including integration and developmental testing of software);

(B) in coordination with the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation—

(i) the integration of developmental test and evaluation with operational test and evaluation; and

(ii) the synchronization of developmental test and evaluation with operational test and evaluation;

(C) the conduct of developmental test and evaluation conducted jointly by more than one military department or Defense Agency;

(D) the review and approval of the developmental test and evaluation plan within the test and evaluation master plan for each major defense acquisition program of the Department under oversight by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation; and

(E) the conduct of developmental test and evaluation for major defense acquisition programs of the Department that are under oversight by the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, or the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation;

(2) monitor and review the developmental test and evaluation activities of the major defense acquisition programs of the Department for the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation;

(3) provide advocacy, oversight, and guidance to elements of the acquisition workforce responsible for developmental test and evaluation;

(4) provide input to the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation regarding needed changes or improvements for the test and evaluation strategic plan developed in accordance with section 196(d) of title 10, United States Code;

(5) in consultation with other appropriate officials, assess the technological maturity and integration risk of critical technologies at key stages in the acquisitions process; and

(6) perform such other activities relating to the developmental test and evaluation activities of the Department as the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering may prescribe.

(C) CONCURRENT SERVICE AS DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TEST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CENTER.—The individual serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary may also serve concurrently as the Director of the Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center under section 196 of title 10, United States Code.

(d) ACCESS TO RECORDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Deputy Assistant Secretary has access to all records and data of the Department of Defense (including the records and data of each military department and including classified and proprietary information, as appropriate) that are necessary in order to carry out the duties of the Deputy Assistant Secretary.

(e) OTHER RESOURCES.—

(1) FUNDING.—The budget of the President for each fiscal year, as submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, shall include a separate statement of proposed appropriations and estimated expenditures for such fiscal year for the activities of the Deputy Assistant Secretary in carrying out the duties and respon-

sibilities of the Deputy Assistant Secretary under this section.

(2) OTHER RESOURCES.—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall ensure that the Deputy Assistant Secretary has sufficient professional staff, including civilian and military staff, to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Assistant Secretary prescribed by law.

**SA 2456.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. —. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2018.**

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “United States-Israel Cybersecurity Cooperation Enhancement Act of 2018”.

(b) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION.—

(1) GRANT PROGRAM.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in accordance with the agreement entitled the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the State of Israel on Cooperation in Science and Technology for Homeland Security Matters”, done at Jerusalem May 29, 2008 (or successor agreement), and the requirements specified in subparagraph (B), shall establish a grant program at the Department to support—

(i) cybersecurity research and development; and

(ii) demonstration and commercialization of cybersecurity technology.

(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

(i) APPLICABILITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in carrying out a research, development, demonstration, or commercial application program or activity that is authorized under this section, the Secretary shall require cost sharing in accordance with this paragraph.

(ii) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary shall require not less than 50 percent of the cost of a research, development, demonstration, or commercial application program or activity described in clause (i) to be provided by a non-Federal source.

(II) REDUCTION.—The Secretary may reduce or eliminate, on a case-by-case basis, the percentage requirement specified in subclause (I) if the Secretary determines that such reduction or elimination is necessary and appropriate.

(iii) MERIT REVIEW.—In carrying out a research, development, demonstration, or commercial application program or activity that is authorized under this section, awards shall be made only after an impartial review of the scientific and technical merit of the proposals for such awards has been carried out by or for the Department.

(iv) REVIEW PROCESSES.—In carrying out a review under clause (iii), the Secretary may use merit review processes developed under section 302(14) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182(14)).

(C) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—An applicant shall be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph if the project of such applicant—

(i) addresses a requirement in the area of cybersecurity research or cybersecurity technology, as determined by the Secretary; and

(ii) is a joint venture between—

(I)(aa) a for-profit business entity, academic institution, National Laboratory (as defined in section 2 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15801)), or nonprofit entity in the United States; and

(bb) a for-profit business entity, academic institution, or nonprofit entity in Israel; or

(II)(aa) the Federal Government; and

(bb) the Government of Israel.

(D) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this paragraph, an applicant shall submit to the Secretary an application for such grant in accordance with procedures established by the Secretary, in consultation with the advisory board established under subparagraph (E).

(E) ADVISORY BOARD.—

(i) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory board to—

(I) monitor the method by which grants are awarded under this paragraph; and

(II) provide to the Secretary periodic performance reviews of actions taken to carry out this paragraph.

(ii) COMPOSITION.—The advisory board established under clause (i) shall be composed of 3 members, to be appointed by the Secretary, of whom—

(I) one shall be a representative of the Federal Government;

(II) one shall be selected from a list of nominees provided by the United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation; and

(III) one shall be selected from a list of nominees provided by the Israel-United States Binational Industrial Research and Development Foundation.

(F) CONTRIBUTED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept or retain funds contributed by any person, government entity, or organization for purposes of carrying out this paragraph. Such funds shall be available, subject to appropriation, without fiscal year limitation.

(G) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of completion of a project for which a grant is provided under this paragraph, the grant recipient shall submit to the Secretary a report that contains—

(i) a description of how the grant funds were used by the recipient; and

(ii) an evaluation of the level of success of each project funded by the grant.

(H) CLASSIFICATION.—Grants shall be awarded under this paragraph only for projects that are considered to be unclassified by both the United States and Israel.

(2) TERMINATION.—The grant program and the advisory board established under this section shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this subsection. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise appropriated.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “cybersecurity research” means research, including social science research, into ways to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity threats;

(B) the term “cybersecurity technology” means technology intended to identify, protect against, detect, respond to, and recover from cybersecurity threats;

(C) the term “cybersecurity threat” has the meaning given such term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501);

(D) the term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security; and

(E) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

**SA 2457.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1052. REPORT ON CAPABILITIES OF THE COAST GUARD TO CONDUCT MARITIME LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES ON THE HIGH SEAS AND IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS.**

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commandant of the Coast Guard shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report setting forth an assessment of the capabilities of the Coast Guard to conduct maritime law enforcement activities on the high seas and in support of international partners.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and assessment of the current capabilities, capacity, and legal authority of the Coast Guard to conduct maritime law enforcement activities described in subsection (a), including, in particular, efforts to combat activities as follows:

- (A) Human trafficking.
- (B) Forced labor.
- (C) Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.
- (D) Other illicit activity at sea.

(2) A description and assessment of the technical coordination between the Coast Guard, on the one hand, and the Navy, partner nations, and non-governmental organizations, on the other hand, to improve tracking and detection of vessels engaged in activities described in paragraph (1).

(3) A description of the requirements of the Coast Guard for support in maritime law enforcement activities described in subsection (a) from the Navy (whether direct support or support through the processes of the geographic combatant commands and the Global Force Management process) and partner nations, including materiel, personnel, logistic, and administrative requirements, including any such requirements that are currently unmet.

(4) A description and assessment of any constraints on the ability of the Coast Guard to conduct maritime law enforcement activities described in subsection (a), including lack of legal authority or limitations on legal authority.

(5) Recommendations for legislative action to mitigate constraints described pursuant to paragraph (4).

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

- (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and
- (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2458.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. UNSAFE OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 2 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) in section 31—
- (A) in subsection (a)—
- (i) by redesignating paragraph (10) as paragraph (11); and
- (ii) by inserting after paragraph (9) the following:

“(10) **UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.**—The term ‘unmanned aircraft’ has the meaning given that term in section 331 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–95; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note).”; and

(B) in subsection (b), by inserting “‘airport,’” before “‘appliance,’”; and

(2) by inserting after section 39A the following:

**“§39B. Unsafe operation of unmanned aircraft**

“(a) **OFFENSE.**—It shall be unlawful to operate an unmanned aircraft and, in so doing, knowingly or recklessly interfering with, or disrupting the operation of, an aircraft or other airborne vehicle carrying 1 or more occupants operating in the special aircraft jurisdiction of the United States, in a manner that poses an imminent safety hazard to such occupants.

“(b) **PENALTY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), a person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both.

“(2) **SERIOUS BODILY INJURY OR DEATH.**—Any person who attempts to cause, or knowingly or recklessly causes, serious bodily injury or death while violating subsection (a) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both.

“(c) **OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO AIRPORTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The operation of an unmanned aircraft, including an operation covered by section 336 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–95; 49 U.S.C. 40101 note), within a runway exclusion zone shall be considered a violation of subsection (a) unless—

“(A) the operator of the unmanned aircraft received prior authorization for the operation from the air traffic control tower at the airport; or

“(B) the operation is the result of a circumstance, such as a malfunction, that could not have been reasonably foreseen or prevented by the operator.

“(2) **RUNWAY EXCLUSION ZONE DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term ‘runway exclusion zone’ means a rectangular area—

“(A) centered on the centerline of a runway of an airport; and

“(B) the length of which extends parallel to the runway’s centerline to points that are 1 statute mile from each end of the runway and the width of which is ½ statute mile.”.

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 2 of title 18, United

States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 39A the following:

“39B. Unsafe operation of unmanned aircraft.”.

**SA 2459.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. CASSIDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1086. BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP INFORMATION.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) Nearly 2,000,000 corporations and limited liability companies are being formed under the laws of the States each year.

(2) Very few States obtain meaningful information about the beneficial owners of the corporations and limited liability companies formed under their laws.

(3) A person forming a corporation or limited liability company within the United States typically provides less information to the State of incorporation than is needed to obtain a bank account or driver’s license and typically does not name a single beneficial owner.

(4) Terrorists and other criminals have exploited the weaknesses in State formation procedures to conceal their identities when forming corporations or limited liability companies in the United States, and have then used the newly created entities to support terrorist organizations, drug trafficking organizations, and international organized crime groups, as well as commit misconduct affecting interstate and international commerce such as trafficking in illicit drugs, illegal arms trafficking, sex trafficking, money laundering, tax evasion, health care fraud, Internet-based fraud, securities fraud, financial fraud, intellectual property crimes, and acts of corruption.

(5) Among those who have abused State incorporation procedures is Victor Bout, a Russian arms dealer who used at least 12 companies incorporated in Texas, Florida, and Delaware to carry out his activities, and has been convicted, in part, for conspiring to sell weapons to a terrorist organization trying to kill citizens of the United States and Federal officers and employees. In addition, Iranian interests used a shell company formed in New York to purchase a 36-story building on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan and forwarded millions of dollars in rent each year to Iran until authorities in the United States learned of the transfers and seized the building.

(6) Law enforcement efforts to investigate corporations and limited liability companies suspected of wrongdoing have been impeded by the lack of available beneficial ownership information, as documented in reports and testimony by officials from the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service, the Government Accountability Office, and others.

(7) In December 2016, a leading international anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing organization, the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (in

this subsection referred to as “FATF”), of which the United States is a member, issued a report that criticized the United States for failing to comply with a FATF standard on the need to collect beneficial ownership information. The report called the United States framework in this area “seriously deficient” and urged the United States to correct this deficiency.

(8) In response to the FATF report and to strengthen measures to protect homeland security, Federal officials have repeatedly urged the States to improve their formation practices by obtaining beneficial ownership information for the corporations and limited liability companies formed under the laws of such States. But the States continue to form millions of corporations with hidden owners.

(9) Many States have established automated procedures that allow a person to form a new corporation or limited liability company within the State within 24 hours of filing an online application, without any prior review of the application by a State official.

(10) Dozens of Internet websites highlight the anonymity of beneficial owners allowed under the formation practices of some States, point to those practices as a reason to incorporate in those States, and list those States together with offshore jurisdictions as preferred locations for the formation of new corporations, essentially inviting terrorists and other wrongdoers to form entities within the United States.

(11) In contrast to practices in the United States, countries around the world are working to collect beneficial ownership information. The United Kingdom now collects beneficial ownership information for all companies formed under its laws and makes the information available to the public. All 28 countries in the European Union are required to create, maintain, and update registries of the beneficial ownership information of the corporations formed under the laws of those countries. The information must be freely available to law enforcement agencies, financial institutions, and third parties that can demonstrate a legitimate interest in the information. Afghanistan, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the Ukraine, and many other countries are in the process of establishing mechanisms to collect beneficial ownership information for the companies created under their laws.

(12) To reduce the vulnerability of the United States to wrongdoing by United States corporations and limited liability companies with hidden owners, protect interstate and international commerce from terrorists and other criminals misusing United States corporations and limited liability companies, strengthen law enforcement investigations of suspect corporations and limited liability companies, set minimum standards for and level the playing field among State formation practices, and bring the United States into compliance with international anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing standards, Federal legislation is needed to require the States to obtain beneficial ownership information for the corporations and limited liability companies formed under the laws of such States.

(b) **TRANSPARENT INCORPORATION PRACTICES.**—

(1) **TRANSPARENT INCORPORATION PRACTICES.**—Part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“Subpart 4—Transparent Incorporation Practices**

**“SEC. 531. TRANSPARENT INCORPORATION PRACTICES.**

**“(a) INCORPORATION SYSTEMS.—**

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To protect the United States from the misuse affecting interstate or foreign commerce of corporations and limited liability companies with hidden owners, each State that receives funding under subpart 1 shall, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subpart, use an incorporation system that meets the following requirements:

“(A) **IDENTIFICATION OF BENEFICIAL OWNERS.**—Except as provided in paragraph (3), each applicant to form a corporation or limited liability company under the laws of the State is required to provide to the State during the formation process information on the beneficial owners of the corporation or limited liability company that includes—

“(i) identifies each beneficial owner by name, current residential or business street address, and a unique identifying number from a nonexpired passport issued by the United States or a nonexpired drivers license or identification card issued by a State;

“(ii) if any beneficial owner exercises control over the corporation or limited liability company through another legal entity, such as a corporation, partnership, or trust, identifies each such legal entity and each such beneficial owner who will use that entity to exercise control over the corporation or limited liability company; and

“(iii) if the applicant is not a beneficial owner, provides the identification information described in clause (i) relating to the applicant.

“(B) **UPDATED INFORMATION.**—For each corporation or limited liability company formed under the laws of the State—

“(i) the corporation or limited liability company is required by the State to submit to the State an updated list of the beneficial owners of the corporation or limited liability company and the information described in subparagraph (A) for each such beneficial owner not later than 60 days after the date of any change in the beneficial owners of the corporation or limited liability company;

“(ii) in the case of a corporation or limited liability company formed or acquired by a formation agent and retained by the formation agent as a beneficial owner for transfer to another person, the formation agent is required by the State to submit to the State an updated list of the beneficial owners and the information described in subparagraph (A) for each such beneficial owner not later than 10 days after the date on which the formation agent transfers the corporation or limited liability company to another person; and

“(iii) the corporation or limited liability company is required by the State to submit to the State an annual filing containing the list of the beneficial owners of the corporation or limited liability company and the information described in subparagraph (A) for each such beneficial owner.

“(C) **RETENTION OF INFORMATION.**—Beneficial ownership information relating to each corporation or limited liability company formed under the laws of the State is required to be maintained by the State until the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date that the corporation or limited liability company terminates under the laws of the State.

“(D) **INFORMATION REQUESTS.**—Beneficial ownership information relating to each corporation or limited liability company formed under the laws of the State shall be provided by the State not later than 30 days after receipt of—

“(i) a civil, criminal, or administrative subpoena or a summons, or an equivalent of such a subpoena or summons, from a local, State, or Federal agency or a congressional committee or subcommittee;

“(ii) a written request made by a Federal agency on behalf of another country under an international treaty, agreement, or convention, or an order under section 3512 of title 18, United States Code, or section 1782 of title 28, United States Code, issued in response to a request for assistance from a foreign country;

“(iii) a written request made by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury; or

“(iv) a written request made by a financial institution, with the consent of the customer, for purposes of compliance by the financial institution with customer due diligence requirements under subsections (a)(2) and (h)(2) of section 5318 of title 31, United States Code, which the requesting financial institution shall maintain and safeguard in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws related to bank records, and destroy upon satisfaction of those due diligence requirements, consistent with all applicable Federal and State laws related to bank records.

“(E) **NO BEARER SHARE CORPORATIONS.**—A corporation or limited liability company formed under the laws of the State may not issue a certificate in bearer form evidencing either a whole or fractional interest in the corporation or limited liability company.

“(2) **CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS.**—If an applicant to form a corporation or limited liability company or a beneficial owner, officer, director, or similar agent of a corporation or limited liability company who is required to provide identification information under this section does not have a nonexpired passport issued by the United States or a nonexpired drivers license or identification card issued by a State, each application described in paragraph (1)(A) and each update described in paragraph (1)(B) shall include a certification by a formation agent residing in the State that the formation agent—

“(A) has obtained for each such person a current residential or business street address and a legible and credible copy of the pages of a nonexpired passport issued by the government of a foreign country bearing a photograph, date of birth, and unique identifying information for the person;

“(B) has verified the name, address, and identity of each such person;

“(C) will provide the information described in subparagraph (A) and the proof of verification described in subparagraph (B) upon request under the same circumstances as required for States under paragraph (1)(D); and

“(D) will retain the information and proof of verification under this paragraph in the State in which the corporation or limited liability company is being or has been formed until the end of the 5-year period beginning on the date that the corporation or limited liability company terminates under the laws of the State.

“(3) **EXEMPT ENTITIES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An incorporation system described in paragraph (1) shall require that an application for an entity described in clause (i) or (ii) of subsection (d)(2)(B) that is proposed to be formed under the laws of a State and that will be exempt from the beneficial ownership disclosure requirements under this section shall include in the application a certification by the applicant, or a prospective officer, director, or similar agent of the entity—

“(i) identifying the specific provision of subsection (d)(2)(B) under which the entity proposed to be formed would be exempt from the beneficial ownership disclosure requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2);

“(ii) stating that the entity proposed to be formed meets the requirements for an entity

described under such provision of subsection (d)(2)(B); and

“(iii) providing identification information for the applicant or prospective officer, director, or similar agent making the certification in the same manner as provided under paragraph (1).

“(B) EXISTING ENTITIES.—On and after the date that is 2 years after the date on which a State begins requiring beneficial ownership information in compliance with this section, an entity formed under the laws of the State before such effective date shall be considered to be a corporation or limited liability company for purposes of this subsection unless an officer, director, or similar agent of the entity submits to the State a certification—

“(i) identifying the specific provision of subsection (d)(2)(B) under which the entity is exempt from the requirements under paragraphs (1) and (2);

“(ii) stating that the entity meets the requirements for an entity described under such provision of subsection (d)(2)(B); and

“(iii) providing identification information for the officer, director, or similar agent making the certification in the same manner as provided under paragraph (1).

“(C) EXEMPT ENTITIES WITH AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST.—As part of the beneficial ownership information required under subsection (a)(1), neither an applicant seeking to form a corporation or limited liability company nor a corporation or limited liability company providing updated information is required to identify the beneficial owners of any entity that qualifies as an exempt entity under subsection (d)(2)(B).

“(b) PENALTIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person to affect interstate or foreign commerce by failing to comply with this subpart by—

“(A) knowingly providing, or attempting to provide, false or fraudulent beneficial ownership information, including a false or fraudulent identifying photograph, to a State or formation agent;

“(B) willfully failing to provide complete or updated beneficial ownership information to a State or formation agent;

“(C) knowingly disclosing the existence of a subpoena or summons (or the equivalent of a subpoena or summons) or a request for beneficial ownership information described in subsection (a)(1)(D), except—

“(i) to the extent necessary to fulfill the authorized request; or

“(ii) as authorized by the entity that issued the request described in subsection (a)(1)(D); or

“(D) in the case of a formation agent, knowingly failing to obtain or maintain credible, legible, and updated beneficial ownership information, including any required identifying photograph.

“(2) CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—In addition to any civil or criminal penalty that may be imposed by a State, any person who violates paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall be liable to the United States for a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000,000; and

“(B) may be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned for not more than 3 years, or both.

“(c) RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this subpart, the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of the Treasury may issue joint guidance or a joint rule to specify how to verify beneficial ownership or other identification information provided under this section, including under subsection (a)(2).

“(2) LIMITATION.—Any guidance or rule issued under paragraph (1)—

“(A) may explain and clarify the definition of the term ‘beneficial owner’; but

“(B) may not amend or alter the definition of the term ‘beneficial owner’ through changes to the definition directly or through the manner of implementation.

“(3) NO GUIDANCE.—A failure to issue guidance or a rule under paragraph (1) shall not delay the effective date of the requirements under this subpart.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

“(1) BENEFICIAL OWNER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term ‘beneficial owner’ means each natural person who, directly or indirectly—

“(i) exercises substantial control over a corporation or limited liability company through ownership interests, voting rights, agreement, or otherwise; or

“(ii) has a substantial interest in or receives substantial economic benefits from the assets of a corporation or the assets of a limited liability company.

“(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term ‘beneficial owner’ shall not include—

“(i) a minor child;

“(ii) a person acting as a nominee, intermediary, custodian, or agent on behalf of another person;

“(iii) a person acting solely as an employee of a corporation or limited liability company and whose control over or economic benefits from the corporation or limited liability company derives solely from the employment status of the person; or

“(iv) a creditor of a corporation or limited liability company, unless the creditor also meets the requirements of subparagraph (A).

“(C) ANTI-ABUSE RULE.—The exceptions under subparagraph (B) shall not apply if used for the purpose of evading, circumventing, or abusing the provisions of subparagraph (A) or subsection (a).

“(2) CORPORATION; LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the terms ‘corporation’ and ‘limited liability company’—

“(i) have the meanings given such terms under the laws of the applicable State; and

“(ii) include any non-United States entity eligible for registration or registered to do business as a corporation or limited liability company under the laws of the applicable State.

“(B) EXEMPT ENTITIES.—Subject to subsection (a)(3), the terms ‘corporation’ and ‘limited liability company’ do not include an entity that—

“(i) is—

“(I) a business concern that is an issuer of a class of securities registered under section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 781) or that is required to file reports under section 15(d) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 78o(d));

“(II) a business concern constituted or sponsored by a State, a political subdivision of a State, under an interstate compact between two or more States, by a department or agency of the United States, under the laws of the United States, or by an international organization of which the United States is a member;

“(III) a depository institution (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813));

“(IV) a credit union (as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752));

“(V) a bank holding company (as defined in section 2 of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841));

“(VI) a broker or dealer (as defined in section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c)) that is registered under sec-

tion 15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o);

“(VII) an exchange or clearing agency (as defined in section 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c)) that is registered under section 6 or 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f and 78q-1);

“(VIII) an investment company (as defined in section 3 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3)) or an investment advisor (as defined in section 202(11) of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-2(11))), if the company or adviser is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or has filed an application for registration which has not been denied, under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) or the Investment Advisor Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-1 et seq.);

“(IX) an insurance company (as defined in section 2 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-2)) which is formed under the laws of and regulated by a State;

“(X) a registered entity (as defined in section 1a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a)), or a futures commission merchant, introducing broker, commodity pool operator, or commodity trading advisor (as defined in section 1a of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1a)) that is registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;

“(XI) a public accounting firm registered in accordance with section 102 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7212);

“(XII) a public utility that provides telecommunications service, electrical power, natural gas, or water and sewer services within the United States;

“(XIII) a religious institution or nonprofit entity that is described in section 501(c)(3) or 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

“(XIV) any business concern that—

“(aa) employs more than 20 employees on a full-time basis in the United States;

“(bb) files income tax returns in the United States demonstrating more than \$5,000,000 in gross receipts or sales;

“(cc) has an operating presence at a physical location within the United States; and

“(dd) has more than 100 shareholders; or

“(XV) any corporation or limited liability company which is owned, in whole or in substantial part, by an entity described in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V), (VI), (VII), (VIII), (IX), (X), (XI), (XII), (XIII), or (XIV); or

“(ii) is within any class of business concerns which the Attorney General of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of the Treasury jointly determine in writing, upon the request of a State, and through an order, guidance, or rule should be exempt from the requirements of subsection (a), because requiring beneficial ownership information from the business concern would not serve the public interest and would not assist law enforcement efforts to detect, prevent, or punish criminal or civil misconduct.

“(3) FORMATION AGENT.—The term ‘formation agent’ means a person who, for compensation, acts on behalf of another person to form, or assist in the formation, of a corporation or limited liability company under the laws of a State.”

(2) FUNDING AUTHORIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—To carry out section 531 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section, and to protect the United States against the misuse affecting interstate or foreign commerce of corporations or limited liability companies with hidden owners, during the 3-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, funds shall be made

available to each State (as that term is defined under section 901(a)(2) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3791(a)(2))), to pay reasonable costs to comply with the requirements of such section 531 from one or more of the following sources:

(i) Upon written request by a State, and without further appropriation, the Attorney General of the United States shall make available or transfer to the State funds from excess unobligated balances (as defined in section 524(c)(8)(D) of title 28, United States Code) in the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund established under section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(ii) Upon written request by a State, after consultation with the Attorney General of the United States, and without further appropriation, the Secretary of the Treasury shall make available or transfer to the State funds from unobligated balances described in section 9705(g)(4)(B) of title 31, United States Code, in the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund.

(B) ELIGIBLE COSTS.—The Attorney General and Secretary of the Treasury, in their sole discretion, shall determine what costs are reasonable for purposes of subparagraph (A), taking into account the maximum amount of funds available for distribution to States under subparagraph (C).

(C) MAXIMUM AMOUNTS.—

(i) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General of the United States may not make available to States a total of more than \$10,000,000 under subparagraph (A)(1).

(ii) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.—The Secretary of the Treasury may not make available to States a total of more than \$30,000,000 under subparagraph (A)(2).

(D) FUNDING AVAILABILITY.—The amounts available to be provided to, and any amounts provided to, a State under subparagraph (A) shall be exempt from, and shall not be reduced under, any order under section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a).

(3) STATE COMPLIANCE REPORT.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section authorizes the Attorney General of the United States to withhold from a State any funding otherwise available to the State under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) because of a failure by that State to comply with subpart 4 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section. Not later than 42 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report identifying which States are in compliance with subpart 4 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and, for any State not in compliance, what measures must be taken by that State to achieve compliance with such subpart 4.

(4) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—This section and the amendments made by this section do not supersede, alter, or affect any statute, regulation, order, or interpretation in effect in any State, except where a State has elected to receive funding from the Department of Justice under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), and then only to the extent that such State statute, regulation, order, or interpretation is inconsistent with this section or an amendment made by this section.

(B) NOT INCONSISTENT.—A State statute, regulation, order, or interpretation is not in-

consistent with this section or an amendment made by this section if such statute, regulation, order, or interpretation—

(i) requires additional information, more frequently updated information, or additional measures to verify information related to a corporation, limited liability company, or beneficial owner, than is specified under this section or an amendment made by this section; or

(ii) imposes additional limits on public access to the beneficial ownership information obtained by the State than is specified under this section or an amendment made by this section.

(C) STATE RECORDS.—Nothing in this section or the amendments made by this section limits the authority of a State, by statute or otherwise, to disclose or to not disclose to the public all or any portion of the beneficial ownership information provided to the State under subpart 4 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section.

(D) NO DUTY OF VERIFICATION.—This section and the amendments made by this section do not impose any obligation on a State to verify the name, address, or identity of a beneficial owner whose information is submitted to such State under subpart 4 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section.

(5) FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Not later than the first day of the first full fiscal year beginning at least 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator for Federal Procurement Policy shall revise the Federal Acquisition Regulation maintained under section 1303(a)(1) of title 41, United States Code, to require any bidder who is subject to the requirement to disclose beneficial ownership information under subpart 4 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section, to provide the information required to be disclosed under such subpart 4 to the Federal Government, or why it is exempt under section 531(d)(2)(B) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section, as part of any bid or proposal for a contract.

(C) ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND ANTI-TERRORIST FINANCING OBLIGATIONS OF FORMATION AGENTS.—

(1) ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND ANTI-TERRORIST FINANCING OBLIGATIONS OF FORMATION AGENTS.—Section 5312(a)(2) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (Y), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (Z) as subparagraph (AA); and

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

“(Z) any person engaged in the business of forming corporations or limited liability companies; or”.

(2) DEADLINE FOR IMPLEMENTING RULE FOR FORMATION AGENTS.—

(A) PROPOSED RULE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General of the United States, shall publish a proposed rule in the Federal Register requiring persons described in section 5312(a)(2)(Z) of title 31, United States Code, as amended by this subsection, to establish anti-money laundering programs under subsection (h) of section 5318 of that title.

(B) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall publish the rule described in this paragraph in final form in the Federal Register.

(C) EXCLUSIONS.—Any rule promulgated under this paragraph shall exclude from the category of persons engaged in the business of forming a corporation or limited liability company—

(i) any government agency; and

(ii) any attorney or law firm that uses a paid formation agent operating within the United States to form the corporation or limited liability company.

(d) STUDIES AND REPORTS.—

(1) OTHER LEGAL ENTITIES.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report—

(A) identifying each State that has procedures that enable persons to form or register under the laws of the State partnerships, trusts, charitable organizations, or other legal entities, and the nature of those procedures;

(B) identifying each State that requires persons seeking to form or register partnerships, trusts, charitable organizations, or other legal entities under the laws of the State to provide information about the beneficial owners (as that term is defined in section 531 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as added by this section) or beneficiaries of such entities, and the nature of the required information;

(C) evaluating whether the lack of available beneficial ownership information for partnerships, trusts, charitable organizations, or other legal entities—

(i) raises concerns about the involvement of such entities in terrorism, money laundering, tax evasion, securities fraud, trafficking in illicit drugs, or other criminal or civil misconduct; and

(ii) has impeded investigations into entities suspected of such misconduct; and

(D) evaluating whether the failure of the United States to require beneficial ownership information for partnerships, trusts, charitable organizations, or other legal entities formed or registered in the United States has elicited international criticism and what steps, if any, the United States has taken or is planning to take in response.

(2) EFFECTIVENESS OF INCORPORATION PRACTICES.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report assessing the effectiveness of incorporation practices implemented under this section and the amendments made by this section in—

(A) providing law enforcement agencies with prompt access to reliable, useful, and complete beneficial ownership information; and

(B) strengthening the capability of law enforcement agencies to combat incorporation abuses and other civil and criminal misconduct.

**SA 2460.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

**Subtitle —Stopping Foreign Interference in Elections**

**SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Stop Secret Foreign Interference in Elections Act”.

**SEC. 02. DONOR DISCLOSURE FOR CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM FOREIGN NATIONALS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 324 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30126) is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 324. DONOR DISCLOSURE FOR CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS ACCEPTING DONATIONS FROM FOREIGN NATIONALS.**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) CAMPAIGN-RELATED DISBURSEMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘campaign-related disbursement’ means a disbursement by a covered 501(c) organization for any of the following:

“(i) An independent expenditure consisting of a public communication.

“(ii) An electioneering communication, as defined in section 304(f)(3).

“(iii) A covered transfer.

“(B) INTENT NOT REQUIRED.—A disbursement for an item described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a campaign-related disbursement regardless of the intent of the person making the disbursement.

“(2) COVERED 501(c) ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘covered 501(c) organization’ means any organization that—

“(A) is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code (other than an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code); and

“(B) has received contributions or donations in excess of \$2,000 during the election reporting cycle from a foreign national.

“(3) COVERED TRANSFER.—The term ‘covered transfer’ means a transfer described in subsection (e).

“(4) DISCLOSURE DATE.—The term ‘disclosure date’ means—

“(A) the first date during any election reporting cycle by which a person—

“(i) has received contributions or donations in excess of \$2,000 from a foreign national; and

“(ii) has made campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than \$10,000; and

“(B) any other date during such election reporting cycle by which a covered 501(c) organization has made campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than \$10,000 since the most recent disclosure date for such election reporting cycle.

“(5) ELECTION REPORTING CYCLE.—The term ‘election reporting cycle’ means the 2-year period beginning on the date of the most recent general election for Federal office.

“(6) FOREIGN NATIONAL.—The term ‘foreign national’ has the meaning given such term under section 319.

“(7) PAYMENT.—The term ‘payment’ includes any contribution, donation, transfer, payment of dues, or other payment.

“(b) DISCLOSURE STATEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any covered 501(c) organization that makes campaign-related disbursements aggregating more than \$10,000 in an election reporting cycle shall, not later than 24 hours after each disclosure date, file a statement with the Commission made under penalty of perjury that contains the information described in paragraph (2)—

“(A) in the case of the first statement filed under this subsection, for the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle and ending on the first such disclosure date; and

“(B) in the case of any subsequent statement filed under this subsection, for the pe-

riod beginning on the previous disclosure date and ending on such disclosure date.

“(2) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—The information described in this paragraph is as follows:

“(A) The name of the covered 501(c) organization.

“(B) The amount of each campaign-related disbursement made by such organization during the period covered by the statement of more than \$1,000, and the name and address of the person to whom the disbursement was made.

“(C) In the case of a campaign-related disbursement that is not a covered transfer, the election to which the campaign-related disbursement pertains and if the disbursement is made for a public communication, the name of any candidate identified in such communication and whether such communication is in support of or in opposition to a candidate.

“(D) For each payment to the covered 501(c) organization by a foreign national—

“(i) the name and address of the foreign national who made such payment during the period covered by the statement;

“(ii) the date and amount of such payment; and

“(iii) the aggregate amount of all such payments made by the foreign national during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle and ending on the disclosure date,

but only if such payment was made by a foreign national who made payments to the covered 501(c) organization in an aggregate amount of \$2,000 or more during the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle and ending on the disclosure date.

“(E) Such other information as required in rules established by the Commission to promote the purposes of this section.

“(3) EXCEPTIONS FOR AMOUNTS RECEIVED FROM AFFILIATES.—The requirement to include in a statement submitted under paragraph (1) the information described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (2) shall not apply to any amount which is described in subsection (e)(2)(A)(i).

“(c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER REPORTS FILED WITH THE COMMISSION.—Information included in a statement filed under this section may be excluded from statements and reports filed under section 304.

“(d) FILING.—Statements required to be filed under subsection (a) shall be subject to the requirements of section 304(d) to the same extent and in the same manner as if such reports had been required under subsection (c) or (g) of section 304.

“(e) COVERED TRANSFER DEFINED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term ‘covered transfer’ means any transfer or payment of funds by a covered 501(c) organization to another person if the covered 501(c) organization—

“(A) designates, requests, or suggests that the amounts be used for—

“(i) campaign-related disbursements (other than covered transfers); or

“(ii) making a transfer to another person for the purpose of making or paying for such campaign-related disbursements;

“(B) made such transfer or payment in response to a solicitation or other request for a donation or payment for—

“(i) the making of or paying for campaign-related disbursements (other than covered transfers); or

“(ii) making a transfer to another person for the purpose of making or paying for such campaign-related disbursements;

“(C) engaged in discussions with the recipient of the transfer or payment regarding—

“(i) the making of or paying for campaign-related disbursements (other than covered transfers); or

“(ii) donating or transferring any amount of such transfer or payment to another person for the purpose of making or paying for such campaign-related disbursements;

“(D) made campaign-related disbursements (other than a covered transfer) in an aggregate amount of \$50,000 or more during the 2-year period ending on the date of the transfer or payment, or knew or had reason to know that the person receiving the transfer or payment made such disbursements in such an aggregate amount during that 2-year period; or

“(E) knew or had reason to know that the person receiving the transfer or payment would make campaign-related disbursements in an aggregate amount of \$50,000 or more during the 2-year period beginning on the date of the transfer or payment.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS AMONG AFFILIATES.—

“(A) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN TRANSFERS AMONG AFFILIATES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘covered transfer’ does not include an amount transferred by one covered 501(c) organization to another covered 501(c) organization if such transfer is treated as a transfer between affiliates under subparagraph (B).

“(ii) SPECIAL RULE.—If the aggregate amount of transfers described in clause (i) exceeds \$50,000 in any election reporting cycle—

“(I) the covered 501(c) organization which makes such transfers shall provide to the covered 501(c) organization receiving such transfers the information required under subsection (b)(2)(D) (applied by substituting ‘the period beginning on the first day of the election reporting cycle and ending on the date of the most recent transfer described in subsection (e)(2)(A)(i)’ for ‘the period covered by the statement’ in clause (i) thereof); and

“(II) the covered 501(c) organization receiving such transfers shall report the information described in subclause (I) on any statement filed under subsection (a)(1) as if any contribution, donation, or transfer to which such information relates was made directly to the covered 501(c) organization receiving the transfer.

“(B) DESCRIPTION OF TRANSFERS BETWEEN AFFILIATES.—A transfer of amounts from one covered 501(c) organization to another covered 501(c) organization shall be treated as a transfer between affiliates if—

“(i) one of the organizations is an affiliate of the other organization; or

“(ii) each of the organizations is an affiliate of the same organization,

except that the transfer shall not be treated as a transfer between affiliates if one of the organizations is established for the purpose of making campaign-related disbursements.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF AFFILIATE STATUS.—For purposes of this paragraph, the following organizations shall be considered to be affiliated with each other:

“(i) A membership organization, including a trade or professional association, and the related State and local entities of that organization.

“(ii) A national or international labor organization and its State or local unions, or an organization of national or international unions and its State and local entities.

“(D) COVERAGE OF TRANSFERS TO AFFILIATED SECTION 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATIONS.—This paragraph shall apply with respect to an amount transferred by a covered 501(c) organization to an organization described in paragraph (3) of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code in the same

manner as this paragraph applies to an amount transferred by a covered 501(c) organization to another covered 501(c) organization.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 304(f)(6) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104) is amended by striking “Any requirement” and inserting “Except as provided in section 324(c), any requirement”.

(c) COORDINATION WITH FINCEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury shall provide the Federal Election Commission with such information as necessary to assist in administering and enforcing section 324 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as added by this subsection.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission, in consultation with the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of the Treasury, shall submit to Congress a report with recommendations for providing further legislative authority to assist in the administration and enforcement of such section 324.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to disbursements made on or after January 1, 2019, and shall take effect without regard to whether or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated regulations to carry out such amendments.

#### SEC. 303. DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

##### “SEC. 325. CERTIFICATIONS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT TO FILE CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each covered organization that makes a report under section 304 with respect to an independent expenditure or a disbursement for the direct costs of producing an electioneering communication shall include with such report a certification described in subsection (b).

“(2) COVERED 501(c) ORGANIZATIONS.—Each covered 501(c) organization (within the meaning of section 324) that makes a report under section 324 with respect to a campaign-related disbursement shall include with such report a certification described in subsection (b).

“(b) CERTIFICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A certification is described in this subsection if the certification is made by the principal executive officer or officers and the principal financial officer or officers of such covered organization, or persons performing similar functions, stating that—

“(A) the signing officer has reviewed the report;

“(B) the organization has met the due diligence requirements under paragraph (2); and

“(C) based on the officer’s knowledge, none of the funds used to make any expenditure or disbursement described in the report or statement were provided by a foreign national (as defined in section 319).

“(2) DUE DILIGENCE REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The due diligence requirement under this paragraph shall be met if the organization affirmatively verifies that each contribution or donation received by the organization during the 2-year period ending on the date of the expenditure or disbursement described in subsection (a) was not a contribution or donation that was made, directly or indirectly, by a foreign national (within the meaning of section 319).

“(B) USE OF SEGREGATED ACCOUNT.—In the case of an organization with a separate seg-

regated account from which the expenditure or disbursement described in subsection (a) was made, subparagraph (A) shall be applied only with respect to contributions and donations made to such account.

“(c) COVERED ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered organization’ means any of the following:

“(1) A corporation (other than an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

“(2) A limited liability corporation that is not otherwise treated as a corporation for purposes of this Act (other than an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

“(3) An organization described in section 501(c) of such Code and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code (other than an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of such Code).

“(4) A labor organization (as defined in section 316(b)).

“(5) Any political organization under section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, other than a political committee under this Act (except as provided in paragraph (6)).

“(6) A political committee with an account that accepts donations or contributions that do not comply with the contribution limits or source prohibitions under this Act, but only with respect to such accounts.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to reports required to be filed after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORTING OF SUSPICIOUS DONATIONS.—

(1) COVERED 501(c) ORGANIZATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(s) REQUIREMENT TO REPORT CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No organization described in subsection (c) (other than an organization described in paragraph (3) thereof) shall be exempt from tax under subsection (a) unless such organization reports any disqualified foreign contribution, not later than 15 days after receiving such contribution, to the entities listed in paragraph (3).

“(2) DISQUALIFIED FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘disqualified foreign contribution’ means any donation or contribution received from foreign national (within the meaning of section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971) and which is made or received for a purpose described in section 319(a) of such Act.

“(3) ENTITIES.—The entities described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) The Internal Revenue Service.

“(B) The Federal Election Commission.

“(C) The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of Treasury.

“(D) The Department of Justice.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this paragraph shall apply to contributions made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) CORPORATE ENTITIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each corporation and each limited liability corporation that is not otherwise treated as a corporation under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 shall report any disqualified foreign contribution (as defined in section 501(s) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), not later than 15 days after receiving such contribution, to the following entities:

(i) The Federal Election Commission.

(ii) The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network of the Department of Treasury.

(iii) The Department of Justice.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any entity that is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(C) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person who fails to make a report under subparagraph (A) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$100,000, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.

**SA 2461.** Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHING CORPORATIONS TO CONCEAL ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “§ 612. Establishment of corporation to conceal election contributions and donations by foreign nationals

“(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for an owner, officer, attorney, or incorporation agent of a corporation, company, or other entity to establish or use the corporation, company, or other entity with the intent to conceal an activity of a foreign national (as defined in section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121)) prohibited under such section 319.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be imprisoned for not more than 5 years, fined under this title, or both.”.

(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections for chapter 29 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 611 the following:

“612. Establishment of corporation to conceal election contributions and donations by foreign nationals.”.

**SA 2462.** Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. WARREN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

#### SEC. 1066. REPORTS ON OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE AND INSPECTOR GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS; AGENCY STATEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “agency” means—

(1) a designated Federal entity, as defined in section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(2) an establishment, as defined in section 12(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(b) **REQUIRED REPORTS.**—In the annual budget justification submitted to Congress, as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, each agency shall include—

(1) a report listing each public recommendation of the Government Accountability Office that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented” as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted;

(2) a report listing each public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action has been taken as of the date on which the annual budget justification is submitted; and

(3) a report on the implementation status of each public recommendation described in paragraphs (1) and (2), which shall include—

(A) with respect to a public recommendation that is designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”—

(i) that the agency has decided not to implement, a detailed justification for the decision; or

(ii) that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for full implementation;

(B) with respect to a public recommendation for corrective action from the Office of Inspector General of the agency for which no final action or action not recommended has been taken, an explanation of the reasons why no final action or action not recommended was taken with respect to each audit report to which the public recommendation for corrective action pertains;

(C) with respect to an outstanding unimplemented public recommendation from the Office of Inspector General of the agency that the agency has decided to adopt, a timeline for implementation; and

(D) an explanation for any discrepancy between—

(i) the reports submitted under paragraphs (1) and (2);

(ii) the semiannual reports submitted by the Office of Inspector General of the agency under section 5 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and

(iii) reports submitted by the Government Accountability Office relating to public recommendations that are designated by the Government Accountability Office as “open” or “closed, unimplemented”.

(c) **COPIES OF SUBMISSIONS.**—Each agency shall provide a copy of the information submitted under subsection (b) to the Government Accountability Office and the Office of Inspector General of the agency.

(d) **TIMELINE FOR AGENCY STATEMENTS.**—Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “61st” and inserting “181st”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “60” and inserting “180”.

**SA 2463.** Mr. YOUNG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 42, line 3, strike “and” and all that follows through line 4, and insert the following:

(F) program management; and

(G) efforts to ensure that excessive sustainment costs do not threaten the Department of Defense’s ability to purchase the required number of aircraft.

**SA 2464.** Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. MICROLOAN PROGRAM.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the term “intermediary” has the meaning given the term in section 7(m)(11) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(11)); and

(2) the term “microloan program” means the program established under section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)).

(b) **MICROLOAN INTERMEDIARY LENDING LIMIT INCREASED.**—Section 7(m)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(3)(C)) is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$6,000,000”.

(c) **SBA STUDY OF MICROENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall conduct a study and submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the operations (including services provided, structure, size, and area of operation) of a representative sample of—

(A) intermediaries that are eligible to participate in the microloan program and that do participate; and

(B) intermediaries (including those operated for profit, operated not for profit, and those affiliated with a United States institution of higher learning) that are eligible to participate in the microloan program and that do not participate;

(2) the reasons why intermediaries described in paragraph (1)(B) choose not to participate in the microloan program;

(3) recommendations on how to encourage increased participation in the microloan program by intermediaries described in paragraph (1)(B); and

(4) recommendations on how to decrease the costs associated with participation in the microloan program for eligible intermediaries.

(d) **GAO STUDY ON MICROLOAN INTERMEDIARY PRACTICES.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report evaluating—

(1) oversight of the microloan program by the Small Business Administration, including oversight of intermediaries participating in the microloan program; and

(2) the specific processes used by the Small Business Administration to ensure—

(A) compliance by intermediaries participating in the microloan program; and

(B) the overall performance of the microloan program.

**SA 2465.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1607. MODIFICATION TO LAUNCH SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION.**

Section 1609(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) is amended by inserting “and United States spaceports that actively support national security missions” before the period at the end.

**SA 2466.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. DESIGNATION OF LIU XIAOBO PLAZA.**

(a) **DESIGNATION OF PLAZA.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The area between the intersections of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, shall be known and designated as “Liu Xiaobo Plaza”.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the area referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to Liu Xiaobo Plaza.

(b) **DESIGNATION OF ADDRESS.**—

(1) **DESIGNATION.**—The address of 3505 International Place, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, shall be redesignated as 1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza.

(2) **REFERENCES.**—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the address referred to in paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be a reference to 1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza.

(c) **SIGNS.**—The Administrator of General Services shall construct street signs that shall—

(1) contain the phrase “Liu Xiaobo Plaza”;

(2) be similar in design to the signs used by Washington, District of Columbia, to designate the location of Metro stations; and

(3) be placed on—

(A) the parcel of Federal property that is closest to 1 Liu Xiaobo Plaza (as redesignated by subsection (b)); and

(B) the street corners of International Drive, Northwest and Van Ness Street, Northwest and International Drive, Northwest and International Place, Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia.

**SA 2467.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1239. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for assistance to the Ministry of the Interior of the Government of Iraq may be obligated or expended until the date on which the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State jointly certify to the appropriate committees of Congress that such funds, including funds for the provision of intelligence sharing, will not be disbursed by the United States to any group that is, or that is known to be, affiliated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force or other state sponsor of terrorism.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the Iraq Train and Equip Fund is no longer in effect, the Secretary of State should submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the implementation of this section.

(c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees; and

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

**SA 2468.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1257. REPORT ON MILITARY INSTALLATION OF CHINA IN THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the impact of the People's Republic of China's first overseas military installation in the Republic of Djibouti on the ability of the United States forces to operate in the region.

(2) An assessment of China's ability to obtain sensitive information and impact operations conducted from Camp Lemmonier in Djibouti, the largest United States military installation on the African continent.

(3) An assessment of the ability of the President of Djibouti to terminate by all methods, including by simple decree, the Department of Defense's lease agreement governing operation of Camp Lemmonier.

(4) An assessment of the impact of the Chinese base in Djibouti on security and safety of United States personnel in Djibouti.

(5) An assessment of the status of China's compliance with the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons, which forbids employment of laser weapons.

(6) An assessment of the laser attack in Djibouti that injured United States airmen.

(7) An assessment of Djibouti's compliance with its treaty obligations under the Ottawa Convention to end the use of landmines.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, 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.

**SA 2469.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 316. CORE SAMPLING AT JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.**

(a) SITE INVESTIGATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air Force shall conduct a core sampling study along the proposed route of the W-6 wastewater treatment line on Air Force real property, in compliance with best engineering practices, to determine if any regulated or hazardous substances are present in the soil along the proposed route.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of the core samples taken pursuant to subsection (a).

**SA 2470.** Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 2823. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF PUBLIC LAND AUTHORITY, LIMESTONE HILLS TRAINING AREA, MONTANA.**

Section 2931(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014

(division B of Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 1031) is amended by striking “18,644 acres in Broadwater County, Montana, generally depicted as ‘Proposed Land Withdrawal’ on the map entitled ‘Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal’, dated April 10, 2013” and inserting “18,964 acres in Broadwater County, Montana, generally depicted as ‘Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal’ on the map entitled ‘Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal’, dated May 11, 2017”.

**SA 2471.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. STRATEGY TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a strategy to recruit and retain mental health providers, including psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurse practitioners, licensed social workers, and other licensed providers of the military health system.

**SA 2472.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. REPORT ON MEDICATION PRESCRIBING PRACTICES OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report describing the practices used by the Department of Defense for prescribing medication during fiscal years 2013 through 2017 that were inconsistent with the post-traumatic stress disorder medication guidelines developed by the Department.

**SA 2473.** Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 2823. TECHNICAL CORRECTION TO WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION OF PUBLIC LAND AUTHORITY, LIMESTONE HILLS TRAINING AREA, MONTANA.**

Section 2931(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (division B of Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 1031) is amended by striking “18,644 acres in Broadwater County, Montana, generally depicted as ‘Proposed Land Withdrawal’ on the map entitled ‘Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal’, dated April 10, 2013” and inserting “18,964 acres in Broadwater County, Montana, generally depicted as ‘Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal’ on the map entitled ‘Limestone Hills Training Area Land Withdrawal’, dated May 11, 2017”.

**SA 2474.** Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 896. INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Agency;

(2) the term “Agency” means the Federal Emergency Management Agency;

(3) the term “public alert and warning system” means the integrated public alert and warning system of the United States described in section 526 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321o);

(4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(5) the term “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States.

(b) INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM SUBCOMMITTEE.—Section 2 of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-143; 130 Stat. 327) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (6)(B)—

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

(ii) in clause (ii)(VII), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) recommendations for best practices of State, tribal, and local governments to follow to maintain the integrity of the public alert and warning system, including—

“(I) the procedures for State, tribal, and local government officials to authenticate civil emergencies and initiate, modify, and cancel alerts transmitted through the public alert and warning system, including protocols and technology capabilities for—

“(aa) the initiation, or prohibition on the initiation, of alerts by a single authorized or unauthorized individual; and

“(bb) testing a State, tribal, or local government incident management and warning tool without accidentally initiating an alert

through the public alert and warning system;

“(II) the standardization, functionality, and interoperability of incident management and warning tools used by State, tribal, and local governments to notify the public of an emergency through the public alert and warning system;

“(III) the training and recertification of emergency management personnel on best practices for originating and transmitting an alert through the public alert and warning system; and

“(IV) the procedures, protocols, and guidance concerning the protective action plans that State, tribal, and local governments should issue to the public following an alert issued under the public alert and warning system.”;

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “Not later than” and inserting the following:

“(i) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than”;

(II) in clause (i), as so designated, by striking “paragraph (6)” and inserting “clauses (i) and (ii) of paragraph (6)(B)”;

(III) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) SECOND REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this clause, the Subcommittee shall submit to the National Advisory Council a report containing any recommendations required to be developed under paragraph (6)(B)(iii) for approval by the National Advisory Council.”; and

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “report” each place that term appears and inserting “reports”;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking “3” and inserting “5”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “and 2018” and inserting “2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021”.

(c) INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM PARTICIPATORY REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall—

(1) consider the recommendations submitted by the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Subcommittee to the National Advisory Council under section 2(b)(7) of the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Modernization Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-143; 130 Stat. 331), as amended by subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) not later than 120 days after the date on which the recommendations described in subparagraph (A) are submitted, establish minimum requirements for State, tribal, and local governments to participate in the public alert and warning system consistent with all public notice rules and regulations in law.

(d) INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND WARNING TOOL VALIDATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish a process to ensure that an incident management and warning tool used by a State, tribal, or local government to originate and transmit an alert through the public alert and warning system meets the minimum requirements established by the Administrator under subsection (c)(2).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The process required to be established under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the ability to test an incident management and warning tool in the public alert and warning system lab;

(B) the ability to certify that an incident management and warning tool complies with the applicable cyber frameworks of the Department of Homeland Security and the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(C) a process to certify developers of emergency management software; and

(D) requiring developers to provide the Administrator with a copy of and rights of use

for ongoing testing of each version of incident management and warning tool software before the software is first used by a State, tribal, or local government.

(e) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall review the memoranda of understanding between the Agency and State, tribal, and local governments with respect to the public alert and warning system to ensure that all agreements ensure compliance with any minimum requirements established by the Administrator under subsection (c)(2).

(2) FUTURE MEMORANDA.—The Administrator shall ensure that any new memorandum of understanding entered into between the Agency and a State, tribal, or local government on or after the date of enactment of this Act with respect to the public alert and warning system ensures that the agreement requires compliance with any minimum requirements established by the Administrator under subsection (c)(2).

(f) MISSILE ALERT AND WARNING AUTHORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) AUTHORITY.—Beginning on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the authority to originate an alert warning the public of a missile launch directed against a State using the public alert and warning system shall reside primarily with the Federal Government.

(B) DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may delegate the authority described in subparagraph (A) to a State, tribal, or local entity if, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary submits to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report stating that—

(i) it is not feasible for the Federal Government to alert the public of a missile threat against a State; or

(ii) it is not in the national security interest of the United States for the Federal Government to alert the public of a missile threat against a State.

(C) ACTIVATION OF SYSTEM.—Upon verification of a missile threat, the President, utilizing established authorities, protocols and procedures, may activate the public alert and warning system.

(2) REQUIRED PROCESSES.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall establish a process to promptly notify a State warning point, and any State entities that the Administrator determines appropriate, of follow-up actions to a missile launch alert so the State may take appropriate action to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the State following the issuance of an alert described in paragraph (1)(A) for that State.

(3) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall work with the Governor of a State warning point to develop and implement appropriate protective action plans to respond to an alert described in paragraph (1)(A) for that State.

(4) STUDY AND REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) examine the feasibility of establishing an alert designation under the public alert and warning system that would be used to alert and warn the public of a missile threat while concurrently alerting a State warning point so that a State may activate related protective action plans; and

(B) submit a report of the findings under subparagraph (A), including of the costs and timeline for taking action to implement an alert designation described in subparagraph (A), to—

(i) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(ii) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(iii) the Subcommittee on Homeland Security of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

(g) AWARENESS OF ALERTS AND WARNINGS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) conduct a review of—

(A) the Emergency Operations Center of the Agency; and

(B) the National Watch Center and each Regional Watch Center of the Agency; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a report on the review conducted under paragraph (1), which shall include—

(A) an assessment of the technical capability of the Emergency Operations Center and the National and Regional Watch Centers described in paragraph (1) to be notified of alerts and warnings issued by a State through the public alert and warning system;

(B) a determination of which State alerts and warnings the Emergency Operations Center and the National and Regional Watch Centers described in paragraph (1) should be aware of; and

(C) recommendations for improving the ability of the National and Regional Watch Centers described in paragraph (1) to receive any State alerts and warnings that the Administrator determines are appropriate.

(h) TIMELINE FOR COMPLIANCE.—Each State shall be given a reasonable amount of time to comply with any new rules, regulations, or requirements imposed under this section or the amendments made by this section.

**SA 2475.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1026. REVIEW AND PUBLIC RELEASE OF CERTAIN RECORDS CONCERNING SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR AL QAEDA AND THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.**

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “covered agency” means the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State, and the Central Intelligence Agency (including any component of such a department or agency).

(b) REVIEW AND PUBLIC RELEASE OF CERTAIN RECORDS CONCERNING SOURCES OF SUPPORT FOR AL QAEDA AND THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and in the interest of providing the greatest possible transparency as to the sources of support that enabled al Qaeda to carry out the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, each covered agency shall—

(1) review any and all records of the covered agency that are responsive to subpoenas

served upon the covered agency between March 28, 2018 and June 11, 2018 by plaintiffs in the consolidated multidistrict litigation proceeding In re: Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001, No. 03 MDL 1570 (S.D.N.Y.); and

(2) produce any responsive documents, to the fullest extent possible under governing law, including rule 26(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

**SA 2476.** Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1037. PROHIBITION ON CONDUCT OF FIRST-USE NUCLEAR STRIKES.**

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not use the Armed Forces of the United States to conduct a first-use nuclear strike unless such strike is conducted pursuant to a declaration of war by Congress that expressly authorizes such strike.

(b) FIRST-USE NUCLEAR STRIKE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “first-use nuclear strike” means an attack using nuclear weapons against an enemy that is conducted without the President determining that the enemy has first launched a nuclear strike against the United States or an ally of the United States.

**SA 2477.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 2838. IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS ON MILITARY INSTALLATION PLANNING, COLLABORATION, AND ADAPTATION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall fully implement the recommendations in GAO report 18-206.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the implementation status of each recommendation in GAO-18-206 until all of the recommendations are implemented. The report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

**SA 2478.** Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN)

and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 583. ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE MEDAL.**

(a) SERVICE MEDAL REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall design and produce a military service medal, to be known as the “Atomic Veterans Service Medal”, to honor retired and former members of the Armed Forces who are radiation-exposed veterans (as such term is defined in section 1112(c)(3) of title 38, United States Code).

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF MEDAL.—

(1) ISSUANCE TO RETIRED AND FORMER MEMBERS.—At the request of a radiation-exposed veteran, the Secretary of Defense shall issue the Atomic Veterans Service Medal to the veteran.

(2) ISSUANCE TO NEXT-OF-KIN.—In the case of a radiation-exposed veteran who is deceased, the Secretary may provide for issuance of the Atomic Veterans Service Medal to the next-of-kin of the person.

(3) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate as appropriate an application by which radiation-exposed veterans and their next-of-kin may apply to receive the Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

**SA 2479.** Mr. MARKEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XVI, add the following:

**SEC. 1650. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR LONG-RANGE STANDOFF WEAPON OR W80 WARHEAD LIFE EXTENSION PROGRAM.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2019 for the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended for the research, development, test, and evaluation or procurement of the long-range standoff weapon or for the W80 warhead life extension program.

**SA 2480.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 2838. CONSOLIDATION OF JOINT SPECTRUM CENTER TO FORT MEADE, MARYLAND.**

(a) **MOVEMENT OR CONSOLIDATION OF JOINT SPECTRUM CENTER TO FORT MEADE, MARYLAND.**—The Secretary of Defense shall take appropriate actions, as soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, to move, consolidate, or both, the offices of the Joint Spectrum Center to the Defense Information Systems Agency headquarters building at Fort Meade, Maryland, for national security purposes to ensure the physical and cybersecurity protection of personnel and missions of the Department of Defense.

(b) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Any facility, road, or infrastructure constructed or altered on a military installation as a result of this section is deemed to be authorized in accordance with section 2802 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) **TERMINATION OF EXISTING LEASE.**—Upon completion of the relocation of the Joint Spectrum Center, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the existing lease for the Joint Spectrum Center shall be terminated.

(d) **REPEAL OF OBSOLETE AUTHORITY.**—Section 2887 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (division B of Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat. 569) is hereby repealed.

**SA 2481.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 521 and insert the following:  
**SEC. 521. DATE OF RANK OF COMMISSIONED NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS PROMOTED TO A HIGHER GRADE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 14308(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” before “The effective date”;

(2) in paragraph (1), as designated by paragraph (1) of this subsection, by striking “on which such Federal recognition in that grade is so extended” and inserting “of the approval of the promotion of the officer to that grade by the State concerned”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2)(A) Notwithstanding subsection (c)(1), the date of rank in a higher grade of an officer whose effective date of promotion to such grade is governed by paragraph (1) shall be such effective date of promotion.

“(B) The specification of the date of rank of an officer in a grade pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be deemed an adjustment of the date of rank of the officer to that grade in the manner of section 741(d)(4) of this title, pursuant to subsection (c)(2), to which section 741(d)(4)(C) of this title shall apply, notwithstanding subsection (c)(3).”

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to National Guard officers whose promotion receive Federal recognition after that date, regardless of whether such promotion was approved by the State concerned before that date.

**SA 2482.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 7. REQUIREMENT TO USE HUMAN-BASED METHODS FOR CERTAIN MEDICAL TRAINING.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 101 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 2017. Use of human-based methods for certain medical training**

“(a) **COMBAT TRAUMA INJURIES.**—(1) Not later than October 1, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall develop, test, and validate human-based training methods for the purpose of training members of the armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries with the goal of replacing live animal-based training methods.

“(2) Not later than October 1, 2022, the Secretary—

“(A) shall only use human-based training methods for the purpose of training members of the armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries; and

“(B) may not use animals for such purpose.

“(b) **EXCEPTION FOR PARTICULAR COMMANDS AND TRAINING METHODS.**—(1) The Secretary may exempt a particular command, particular training method, or both, from the requirement for human-based training methods under subsection (a)(2) if the Secretary determines that human-based training methods will not provide an educationally equivalent or superior substitute for live animal-based training methods for such command or training method, as the case may be.

“(2) Any exemption under this subsection—

“(A) shall be for such period, not more than one year, as the Secretary shall specify in granting the exemption; and

“(B) may be renewed (subject to subparagraph (A)).

“(c) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—(1) Not later than October 1, 2018, and each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the development and implementation of human-based training methods for the purpose of training members of the armed forces in the treatment of combat trauma injuries under this section.

“(2) Each report under this subsection on or after October 1, 2022, shall include a description of any exemption under subsection (b) that is in force at the time of such report and a current justification for such exemption.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘combat trauma injuries’ means severe injuries likely to occur during combat, including—

“(A) hemorrhage;

“(B) tension pneumothorax;

“(C) amputation resulting from blast injury;

“(D) compromises to the airway; and

“(E) other injuries.

“(2) The term ‘human-based training methods’ means, with respect to training individuals in medical treatment, the use of systems and devices that do not use animals, including—

“(A) simulators;

“(B) partial task trainers;

“(C) moulage;

“(D) simulated combat environments;

“(E) human cadavers; and

“(F) rotations in civilian and military trauma centers.

“(3) The term ‘partial task trainers’ means training aids that allow individuals to learn or practice specific medical procedures.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 101 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2017. Use of human-based methods for certain medical training.”

**SA 2483.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. . FUNDING FOR NSF CYBER SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM.**

(a) **INCREASED FUNDING.**—The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 for the National Science Foundation for the Federal cyber scholarship-for-service program under section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442) is increased by \$50,000,000.

(b) **OFFSET.**—The amount authorized to be appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for the B-21 aircraft is hereby reduced by \$50,000,000.

**SA 2484.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. . FUNDING FOR NSF CYBER SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM.**

The amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 for the National Science Foundation for the Federal cyber scholarship-for-service program under section 302 of the Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2014 (15 U.S.C. 7442) is increased by \$50,000,000.

**SA 2485.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. . REPORT ON SECURITY VULNERABILITIES IN SIGNALING SYSTEM NO. 7.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the effect of security vulnerabilities

in Signaling System No. 7. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A description of how vulnerabilities in Signaling System No. 7 have been exploited by foreign adversaries to target personnel of the Department of Defense.

(2) A description of the steps that the Secretary has taken to mitigate such vulnerabilities.

**SA 2486.** Mr. WYDEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON CELL SITE SIMULATORS DETECTED NEAR FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

The Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a full accounting of cell site simulators detected near facilities of the Department of Defense during the three year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act and the actions taken by the Secretary to protect personnel of the Department, their families, and facilities of the Department from foreign powers using such technology to conduct surveillance.

**SA 2487.** Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. PERDUE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1006. FINANCIAL AUDIT FUND.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Department of Defense does not obtain an unmodified audit opinion on its full financial statements for fiscal year 2023 by March 31, 2024, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a fund to be known as the “Financial Audit Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”) for the purpose of activities for the resolution of Notices of Findings and Recommendations received.

(b) ELEMENTS.—Amounts in the Fund shall include the following:

(1) Amounts appropriated to the Fund.

(2) Amounts transferred to the Fund under subsection (d).

(3) Any other amounts authorized for transfer or deposit into the Fund by law.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund shall be available for activities for the resolution of Notices of Findings and Recommendations received.

(2) TRANSFERS FROM FUND.—Amounts in the Fund may be transferred to any other account of the Department in order to fund activities described in paragraph (1). Any amounts transferred from the Fund to an account shall be merged with amounts in the

account to which transferred and shall be available subject to the same terms and conditions as amounts in such account. The authority to transfer amounts under this paragraph is in addition to any other authority of the Secretary to transfer amounts by law.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—Amounts in the Fund may be transferred under this subsection in a fiscal year only to agencies and organizations of the Department that have an obtained an unmodified audit opinion on their financial statements for at least one of the two preceding fiscal years. Amounts so transferred shall be available only to permit the agency or organization to which transferred to carry out activities described in paragraph (1).

(d) TRANSFERS TO FUND IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS.—

(1) REDUCTION IN AMOUNT AVAILABLE.—Subject to paragraph (2), if during any fiscal year after fiscal year 2023 the Secretary determines that an agency or organization of the Department has not achieved an unmodified audit opinion on its full financial statements, is being identified as not audit ready, is receiving a disclaimer of opinion on its financial statements, or is receiving an adverse opinion on its financial statements for the calendar year ending during such fiscal year—

(A) the amount available to such agency or organization for the fiscal year in which such determination is made shall be equal to—

(i) the amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such agency or organization for the fiscal year; minus

(ii) the lesser of—

(I) an amount equal to 0.5 percent of the amount described in clause (i); or

(II) \$100,000,000; and

(B) the Secretary shall deposit in the Fund pursuant to subsection (b)(2) all amounts unavailable to agencies and organizations of the Department in the fiscal year pursuant to determinations made under subparagraph (A).

(2) INAPPLICABILITY TO AMOUNTS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.—Any reduction applicable to an agency or organization of the Department under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year shall not apply to amounts, if any, available to such agency or organization for the fiscal year for military personnel.

(3) LIMITATION ON FUNDS TRANSFERRABLE.—The authority to transfer amounts pursuant to this subsection applies only with respect to amounts that are appropriated after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) REPORTS ON TRANSFERS.—Not later than 15 days before the transfer of any amount pursuant subsection (c)(2) or (d)(1)(B), the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a notice on the transfer, including the agency or organization whose funds will provide the source of the transfer, the amount of the transfer, and the specific plans for the use of the amount transferred for the resolution of Notices of Findings and Recommendations concerned, as applicable.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “audit ready”, with respect to an agency or organization of the Department of Defense, means that the agency or organization has in place the critical audit capabilities and associated infrastructure necessary to successfully commence and support a financial audit of its relevant financial statements.

(2) The term “adverse opinion”, with respect to financial statements, means an opinion by the auditor of the financial statements that the financial statements are misleading and cannot be relied upon.

(3) The term “disclaimer of opinion”, with respect to financial statements, means that

the auditor of the financial statements was not able to complete the audit work, and cannot issue an opinion, on the financial statements.

**SA 2488.** Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 340. TRAINING FOR NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL ON WILDFIRE RESPONSE.**

The Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of the Air Force may, in consultation with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, provide support for training of appropriate personnel of the National Guard on wildfire response and prevention, with preference given to military installations with the highest wildfire suppression need.

**SA 2489.** Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

**SEC. 2823. PLAN TO ALLOW INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE NATIONAL NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM AND BARRANCAS NATIONAL CEMETERY, NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to allow increased public access to the National Naval Aviation Museum and Barrancas National Cemetery at Naval Air Station Pensacola.

**SA 2490.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM ON DRILLING IN EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO.**

Section 104(a) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109-432) is amended in the matter preceding paragraph (1) by striking “June 30, 2022” and inserting “June 30, 2027”.

**SA 2491.** Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 10. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER.**

Section 6(a) of Public Law 96-297 (54 U.S.C. 320301 note; 117 Stat. 1348) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) INTERNMENT OF REMAINS.—The visitor center may house the remains of veterans of the Vietnam War.”.

**SA 2492.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. . AWARD OF MEDALS OR OTHER COMMENDATIONS TO HANDLERS OF MILITARY WORKING DOGS AND THE MILITARY WORKING DOG CONCERNED.**

(a) 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.

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

(c) PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE.—Any medal or commendation awarded pursuant to a program under subsection (a) may be presented to and accepted by the handler concerned on behalf of the handler and the military working dog concerned.

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

**SA 2493.** Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment

intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1052. BRIEFING ON USE AND EXPANSION OF HACKING FOR DEFENSE IN SUPPORT OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

Not later than February 28, 2019, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall provide the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on proposals for use or expansion of the so-called “Hacking for Defense” program in order to support the innovation and entrepreneurial efforts of the Department of Defense, including the following:

(1) A description of the manner in which the Hacking for Defense program is currently being employed within the Department.

(2) A description and assessment of proposals for manners in which the Hacking for Defense program could be leveraged or expanded in order to do the following:

- (A) Provide advanced warfighter solutions.
- (B) Address readiness deficiencies.

(C) Reinvigorate, modernize, and enhance the innovation education of the Department with institutions of higher education and professional education programs in the United States and other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries.

**SA 2494.** Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 834. ENHANCED DOMESTIC CONTENT REQUIREMENT FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM PROCUREMENTS.**

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the domestic source content of procurements carried out in connection with major defense acquisition programs.

(2) INFORMATION REPOSITORY.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish an information repository for the collection and analysis of information related to domestic source content that can be used for continuous data analysis and program management activities.

(b) ENHANCED DOMESTIC CONTENT REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of chapter 83 of title 41, United States Code, manufactured articles, materials, or supplies procured in connection with a major defense acquisition program are manufactured substantially all from articles, materials, or supplies mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States if such component articles, materials, or supplies comprise 100 percent of the manufactured articles, materials, or supplies.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The domestic content requirement under paragraph (1) applies to contracts entered into on or after October 1, 2019.

(c) MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “major defense acquisition program” has the meaning given the term in section 2430 of title 10, United States Code.

**SA 2495.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 834. REPORT ON MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM PROCUREMENTS.**

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report assessing the domestic source content of procurements carried out in connection with major defense acquisition programs.

(2) INFORMATION REPOSITORY.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish an information repository for the collection and analysis of information related to domestic source content that can be used for continuous data analysis and program management activities.

(b) MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “major defense acquisition program” has the meaning given the term in section 2430 of title 10, United States Code.

**SA 2496.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. . INCREASING PARTICIPATION IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS.**

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that the inclusion of women in international peacekeeping units, police forces, and the security sector improves accountability and decreases abuses against civilians.

(b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives that includes—

(1) the number of United States female armed services personnel participating in multilateral peacekeeping and security operations;

(2) an evaluation of existing incentives, if any, to increase the participation of United States female armed services personnel in multilateral peacekeeping and security operations;

(3) an outline of the training required to ensure that female armed services personnel are prepared for the unique challenges inherent in multilateral peacekeeping and security operations;

(4) recommendations for how the United States could meet the minimum requirement of 30 percent female armed service participation in training offered by the United States on security issues, including partner military training; and

(5) an evaluation of current security partnerships around the world and whether such partnerships can increase the number of women included in peacekeeping units, police forces, and the security sector.

**SA 2497.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . ENDING THE CYPRUS ARMS EMBARGO.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “End the Cyprus Arms Embargo Act”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Republic of Cyprus is a vital strategic partner to the United States.

(2) The Republic of Cyprus is a critical member of the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.

(3) The United States cooperates closely with the Republic of Cyprus through information sharing agreements.

(4) High-level United States officials have assisted the Republic of Cyprus with crafting that nation’s national security strategy.

(5) The United States provides training to Cypriot officials in areas such as cybersecurity, counterterrorism, and explosive ordnance disposal and stockpile management.

(6) The Republic of Cyprus is a valued member of the Proliferation Security Initiative to combat the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

(7) The Republic of Cyprus continues to work closely with the United Nations and regional partners in Europe—

(A) to combat terrorism through law enforcement;

(B) to counter violent extremism programs; and

(C) to combat terrorism through financial mechanisms.

(8) The United States and the Republic of Cyprus maintain strong bilateral economic

relations, particularly in sectors such as energy, financial services, and logistics.

(9) The energy exploration in the Republic of Cyprus’s Exclusive Economic Zone and territorial waters—

(A) includes the participation of United States companies;

(B) furthers United States interests by providing a potential alternative to Russian gas for United States allies and partners; and

(C) should not be impeded by other sovereign states.

(10) Energy exploration in the Eastern Mediterranean region must be safeguarded against threats posed by terrorist and extremist groups, including Hezbollah and others.

(11) Despite robust economic and security relations with the United States, the Republic of Cyprus has been subject to a United States embargo prohibiting the export of defense articles and services since 1987.

(12) The 1987 arms embargo was designed to restrict United States arms sales and transfer to the Republic of Cyprus and the occupied part of Cyprus to avoid hindering reunification efforts.

(13) At least 30,000 Turkish troops are stationed in the occupied part of Cyprus with weapons procured from the United States through mainland Turkey.

(14) While the United States has, as a matter of policy, avoided the provision of defense articles and services to the Republic of Cyprus, the Government of Cyprus has sought to obtain these defense articles from other countries, including countries that pose challenges to United States interests around the world.

(15) The security of partners in the Eastern Mediterranean region is critical to the security of the United States and Europe.

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

(1) the direct sale or transfer of arms by the United States to the Republic of Cyprus would advance United States’ security interests in Europe by helping to reduce the dependence of Cyprus on other countries for defense-related materiel, including countries that pose challenges to United States interests around the world; and

(2) it is in the interest of the United States—

(A) to continue to support United Nations-facilitated efforts toward a comprehensive solution to the division of Cyprus;

(B) to affirm the importance of demilitarization on the island of Cyprus; and

(C) for the Republic of Cyprus to join NATO’s Partnership for Peace program.

(d) **REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER OF ARTICLES ON THE UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 620C of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2373) is amended by striking subsection (e).

(2) **EXCLUSION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FROM CERTAIN RELATED REGULATIONS.**—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall exclude any application made with or under the authority of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus from the restrictions set forth in—

(A) section 126.1(r) of title 22, Code of Federal Regulations (relating to prohibited exports, imports, and sales to or from Cyprus); and

(B) Department of State Public Notice 1738 (57 Fed. Reg. 60265; December 18, 1992; relating to policy governing munitions export licenses to Cyprus).

**SA 2498.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1208. FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING FOR ISRAEL.**

(a)(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Of the amount made available for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2028 for assistance under the Foreign Military Financing program, not less than \$3,300,000,000 for each such fiscal year is authorized to be made available on a grant basis for Israel.

(2) **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.**—Funds authorized to be made available for Israel under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year shall be disbursed not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of an Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for such fiscal year, or October 31 of the year in which such fiscal year begins, whichever date is later.

(3) **EXCLUSION OF RESCISSIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.**—For purposes of this section, the computation of amounts made available for a fiscal year shall not take into account any amount rescinded by an Act or any amount appropriated by an Act making supplemental appropriations for a fiscal year.

(4) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall restrict or otherwise prohibit the authorization of appropriations, or the appropriation of funds, above the amount specified in this subsection.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the term “Foreign Military Financing program” means the program authorized by section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763).

**SA 2499.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 550. DEFINITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

The Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs shall together establish a definition of military sexual trauma to be used by both departments in all aspects of care and benefits for members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

**SA 2500.** Mr. HELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for

military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 558. INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE REGARDING MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA IN PRESEPARATION COUNSELING PROVIDED TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

Section 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through (18) as paragraphs (13) through (19), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following new paragraph (12):

“(12) Information concerning the availability of resources regarding military sexual trauma.”.

**SA 2501.** Mr. PERDUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 1725(b)(4)(C), add at the end the following:

(vi) The license of a patent and provision of support by a United States person in connection with the licensed patent, if the patent is widely licensed on a non-exclusive basis and the support is generally provided to licensees of the patent.

**SA 2502.** Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. JONES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 577. BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

(a) **BACKGROUND CHECKS.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each covered local educational agency and each Department of Defense domestic dependent elementary and secondary school established pursuant to section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, shall have in effect policies and procedures that—

(1) require that a criminal background check be conducted for each school employee of the agency or school, respectively, that includes—

(A) a search of the State criminal registry or repository of the State in which the school employee resides;

(B) a search of State-based child abuse and neglect registries and databases of the State in which the school employee resides;

(C) a Federal Bureau of Investigation fingerprint check using the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System; and

(D) a search of the National Sex Offender Registry established under section 119 of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (34 U.S.C. 20921);

(2) prohibit the employment of a school employee as a school employee at the agency or school, respectively, if such employee—

(A) refuses to consent to a criminal background check under paragraph (1);

(B) knowingly submits false information concerning past convictions in connection with such a criminal background check;

(C) has been convicted of a felony consisting of—

(i) murder;

(ii) child abuse or neglect;

(iii) a crime against children, including child pornography;

(iv) spousal abuse;

(v) a crime involving rape or sexual assault;

(vi) kidnapping;

(vii) arson; or

(viii) physical assault, battery, or a drug-related offense, committed on or after the date that is 5 years before the date of such employee's criminal background check under paragraph (1); or

(D) has been convicted of any other crime that is a violent or sexual crime against a minor;

(3) require that each criminal background check conducted under paragraph (1) be periodically repeated or updated in accordance with policies established by the covered local educational agency or the Department of Defense (in the case of a Department of Defense domestic dependent elementary and secondary school established pursuant to section 2164 of title 10, United States Code);

(4) upon request, provide each school employee who has had a criminal background check under paragraph (1) with a copy of the results of the criminal background check;

(5) provide for a timely process, by which a school employee of the school or agency may appeal, but which does not permit the employee to be employed as a school employee during such appeal, the results of a criminal background check conducted under paragraph (1) which prohibit the employee from being employed as a school employee under paragraph (2) to—

(A) challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information produced by such criminal background check; and

(B) establish or reestablish eligibility to be hired or reinstated as a school employee by demonstrating that the information is materially inaccurate or incomplete, and has been corrected; and

(6) allow the covered local educational agency or school, as the case may be, to share the results of a school employee's criminal background check recently conducted under paragraph (1) with another local educational agency that is considering such school employee for employment as a school employee.

(b) **FEES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS.**—The Attorney General, attorney general of a State, or other State law enforcement official may charge reasonable fees for conducting a criminal background check under subsection (a)(1), but such fees shall not exceed the actual costs for the processing and administration of the criminal background check.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

(1) **COVERED LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.**—The term “covered local educational agency” means a local educational agency that receives funds under subsection (b) or (d) of section 7003, or section 7007, of the Element-

tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7703, 7707).

(2) **SCHOOL EMPLOYEE.**—The term “school employee” means—

(A) a person who—

(i) is an employee of, or is seeking employment with—

(I) a covered local educational agency; or

(II) a Department of Defense domestic dependent elementary and secondary school established pursuant to section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, such elementary and secondary school; and

(ii) as a result of such employment, has (or will have) a job duty that results in unsupervised access to elementary school or secondary school students; or

(B)(i) any person, or an employee of any person, who has a contract or agreement to provide services to a covered local educational agency or a Department of Defense domestic dependent elementary and secondary school established pursuant to section 2164 of title 10, United States Code; and

(ii) such person or employee, as a result of such contract or agreement, has a job duty that results in unsupervised access to elementary school or secondary school students.

**SA 2503.** Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 598. BRIEFING ON THE STATUS OF THE PLAN OF THE ARMY TO TRANSITION TO NEW INSECTICIDE PRETREATMENTS ON COMBAT UNIFORMS.**

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Army shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing the status of approval of, and any plan to transition to, the use of new insecticide pretreatments on combat uniforms.

**SA 2504.** Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 896. ADVANCED HELICOPTER TRAINING SYSTEM.**

In developing the requirements for the Navy's Advanced Helicopter Training System, the Secretary of the Navy shall take into consideration—

(1) the projected cost and schedule impacts of any development or non-developmental integration requirements;

(2) the level to which the new training system will enhance the transition to current Navy advance aircraft and any next generation Future Vertical Lift aircraft technologies and capabilities;

(3) the efficiencies and cost benefits provided by the capability to replicate advanced training tasks on a primary trainer;

(4) the safety and efficiency and quality benefits of a training aircraft with flight and power management characteristics of a multi-engine trainer that is representative of the more complex fleet helicopters; and

(5) the trends and best practices learned by other United States and international military training programs.

**SA 2505.** Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1006. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPENDING REDUCTIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION.**

If during any fiscal year after fiscal year 2022, the Secretary of Defense determines that a department, agency, or other element of the Department of Defense has not achieved an unqualified opinion on its full financial statements for the calendar year ending during such fiscal year—

(1) the amount available to such department, agency, or element for the fiscal year in which such determination is made shall be equal to—

(A) the amount otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such department, agency, or element for the fiscal year; minus

(B) the lesser of—

(i) an amount equal to 0.5 percent of the amount described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) \$100,000,000; and

(2) the Secretary shall deposit in the general fund of the Treasury for purposes of deficit reduction all amounts unavailable to departments, agencies, and elements of the Department in the fiscal year pursuant to determinations made under paragraph (1).

**SA 2506.** Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS WITH CONTRACTORS COMPENSATING ANY EMPLOYEE AT A RATE HIGHER THAN THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.**

The Secretary of Defense may not enter into a contract for the procurement of prop-

erty or services with a contractor that compensates any of its employees or officers more than \$203,700 per year.

**SA 2507.** Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. DEFENSE CONTRACTING FRAUD WEBSITE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish, maintain, and regularly update a publicly accessible website on defense contracting fraud.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The website established under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) A list of fraud-related criminal convictions, civil judgments, or settlements.

(2) A list of defense contractors debarred or suspended based on a criminal conviction for fraud.

(3) An assessment of the total value of Department of Defense contracts entered into for contractors that have been indicted for, settled charges of, been fined by any Federal department or agency for, or been convicted of fraud in connection with any contract or other transaction with the Federal Government.

(4) Recommendations from the Inspector General of the Department of Defense or other appropriate Department of Defense official on how to penalize contractors repeatedly involved in fraud, including updates on implementation by the Department of any previous recommendations.

(c) **RESTRICTED INFORMATION.**—The Secretary of Defense may include as part of the website required under subsection (a) a restricted area for certain information that may only be accessed by appropriate government personnel.

**SA 2508.** Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 340. TRANSPORTATION TO CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES OF RETIRED MILITARY WORKING DOGS OUTSIDE THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR ADOPTION IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Section 2583(f) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3)(A) In the case of a military working dog located outside the continental United States (OCONUS) at the time of retirement

that is suitable for adoption at that time, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall undertake transportation of the dog to the continental United States (including transportation by contract at United States expense) for adoption under this section unless—

“(i) the dog is adopted as described in paragraph (2)(A); or

“(ii) transportation of the dog to the continental United States would not be in the best interests of the dog for medical reasons.

“(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter the preference in adoption of retired military working dogs for former handlers as set forth in subsection (g).”.

**SA 2509.** Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part I of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPORT ON CYBER FORCES OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND CYBERSPACE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not less than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the use by the Department of Defense of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces for cyber warfare, cybersecurity, and other matters relating to the Department and cyberspace.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Details on the current use by the Department of the cyber forces of the reserve components and the plans of the Secretary for the future use of such forces.

(2) Details of the accompanying assignments and attachments across the Department.

(3) An evaluation of the insertion of members of the cyber forces of the reserve components into command structures of the Department.

(4) Analysis of legal limitations on actions relating to the cyber forces of the reserve components with respect to their authorities under title 10, United States Code, and title 32, United States Code.

(5) An evaluation of the capabilities of such cyber forces, with particular focus on capabilities related to responding to threats and attacks on infrastructure.

(6) Details of potential or planned steps for the Department to take to ensure that the special legal, skills, and command structure attributes of the reserve components are best put to use in the defense of the United States.

**SA 2510.** Mr. MANCHIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy,

to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 910. REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN AUDIT-RELATED MATTERS.**

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report setting forth a comprehensive description of the role of the Office of the Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense, and each of the reform areas specified in subsection (b), in the following:

- (1) Assisting in audit readiness.
- (2) Addressing and remediating audit findings.
- (3) Institutionalizing enterprise level business and system reform in order to achieve and sustain the Department-Defense wide goal of an unmodified audit opinion on its financial statements.

(b) **REFORM AREAS.**—The reform areas specified in this subsection are the following:

- (1) Human Resource Management.
- (2) Health Care Management.
- (3) Supply Chain and Logistics.
- (4) Real Property Management.
- (5) Community Services.
- (6) Information Technology Business Systems.

(7) Any other reform area designated by the Secretary for purposes of this section.

**SA 2511.** Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. PLANS TO IMPROVE MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **PLANS REQUIRED.**—  
(1) **PLANS OF DIRECTORS OF MEDICAL FACILITIES.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require each director of a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit to the director of the Veterans Integrated Service Network that covers the facility, not later than 90 days after the date the Secretary establishes standards for quality under section 1703C of title 38, United States Code, a plan to improve such facility in such a fashion as would result in the facility meeting all of the applicable standards for quality established under that section.

(B) **APPLICABILITY.**—The requirement in subparagraph (A) shall only apply to directors of facilities that do not meet the standards for quality established under section 1703C of title 38, United States Code.

(2) **PLANS OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS.**—The Secretary shall require each director of a Veterans In-

tegrated Service Network to submit to the Secretary, not later than 60 days after receiving all of the plans under paragraph (1), a plan, based on the plans received under paragraph (1), to improve the facilities within the Veterans Integrated Service Network in such a fashion that would improve the ability of all facilities within the network to meet the applicable standards for quality established under section 1703C of title 38, United States Code.

(3) **REMEDICATION OF SERVICE LINES.**—The Secretary shall ensure that each plan submitted under this subsection includes a plan for remediation of service lines under section 1706A(a) of title 38, United States Code, if applicable.

(b) **REGULAR REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall ensure that, for inclusion in the first strategic plan submitted under section 7330C(b) of title 38, United States Code, after the Secretary has received all of the reports required under subsection (a), and not less frequently than once every four years thereafter, each director of a Veterans Integrated Service Network in which a medical facility of the Department is not meeting all of the applicable standards for quality established under section 1703C of such title, submits to the Secretary a report on the actions taken by the director to meet such standards for quality.

(2) **USE OF REPORTS.**—The reports submitted under paragraph (1) shall be used to develop the strategic plan required by section 7330C(b) of title 38, United States Code.

(c) **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON USE OF AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should make full use of the authorities provided by section 2 of the Enhancing Veteran Care Act (Public Law 115-95; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

**SA 2512.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 59, strike line 4 and all that follows through page 61, line 25, and insert the following:

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall establish activities to develop interaction between the Department of Defense and the commercial technology industry, academia, public-private partnerships, and other nonprofit organizations with regard to emerging hardware products and technologies with national security applications.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The activities required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(A) Informing and encouraging private investment in specific hardware technologies of interest to future defense technology needs with unique national security applications.

(B) Funding research and technology development and the requisite manufacturing process in critical hardware-based defense sectors, specifically microelectromechanical systems, processing components, micro-machinery, and materials science that private industry has not supported sufficiently

to meet rapidly emerging national security needs.

(C) Developing and executing policies and actions to deter strategic acquisition of industrial and technical capabilities in the private sector by foreign entities that could potentially exclude companies from participating in the Department of Defense technology and industrial base.

(D) Identifying promising emerging technology in industry and academia for the Department of Defense for potential support or research and development cooperation.

(E) Establishing domestic manufacturing capabilities necessary for demonstration, testing, validation, and low volume production of promising emerging technologies.

(2) **COORDINATION.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall coordinate with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment in carrying out activities under subparagraph (E) of paragraph (1).

(c) **TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering may transfer such personnel, resources, and authorities as the Under Secretary considers appropriate to carry out the activities established under subsection (a) from other elements of the Department.

(2) **CERTIFICATION.**—The Under Secretary may only make a transfer of personnel, resources, or authorities under paragraph (1) upon certification by the Under Secretary that the activities established under paragraph (a) can attract sufficient private sector investment, has personnel with sufficient technical and management expertise, and has identified relevant technologies and systems for potential investment in order to carry out the activities established under subsection (a), independent of further government funding beyond this authorization.

(d) **ESTABLISHMENT OF NONPROFIT ENTITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary may establish or fund a nonprofit entity to carry out the program activities under subsection (a).

(2) **EXISTING NONPROFITS.**—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall try to work with a nonprofit organization that existed on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) **PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a detailed plan to carry out this section.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the additional authorities needed to carry out the activities set forth in subsection (b).

(B) Plans for transfers under subsection (c), including plans for private fund-matching and investment mechanisms, oversight, treatment of rights relating to technical data developed, and relevant dates and goals of such transfers.

(C) Plans for attracting the participation of the commercial technology industry and academia and how those plans fit into the current Department of Defense research and engineering enterprise.

(3) **NO DELAY ON CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES.**—Before submitting the plan required by paragraph (1), the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall proceed with carrying out the activities as required by subsections (a) and (b).

**SA 2513.** Mr. ROBERTS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr.

INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. INSTRUCTION ON PILOT PROGRAM REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall update the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulatory Supplement to include an instruction on the pilot program regarding employment of persons with disabilities authorized under section 853 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136; 10 U.S.C. 2302 note).

**SA 2514.** Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. NELSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1727 and insert the following:

**SEC. 1727. PROHIBITION ON MODIFICATION OF CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER EXPORT CONTROL AND SANCTIONS LAWS AND PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.**

(a) PROHIBITION ON MODIFICATION OF PENALTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal official may modify any penalty, including a penalty imposed pursuant to a denial order, implemented by the Government of the United States with respect to a Chinese telecommunications company pursuant to a determination that the company has violated an export control or sanctions law of the United States until the date that is 30 days after the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the company—

(A) has not, for a period of one year, conducted activities in violation of the laws of the United States; and

(B) is fully cooperating with investigations into the activities of the company conducted by the Government of the United States, if any.

(2) REINSTATEMENT OF PENALTIES OR SUSPENDED ORDER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If, before the date of the enactment of this Act, any penalty imposed pursuant to the order of the Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement entitled “Order Activating Suspended Denial Order Relating to Zhongxing Telecommunications Equipment Corporation and ZTE Kangxun Telecommunications Ltd.” (83 Fed. Reg. 17644), and dated April 15, 2018, is

reduced or eliminated, or that order is suspended, on such date of enactment, that penalty shall be reinstated to the penalty in place before such reduction or elimination, or that order shall be reinstated, as the case may be.

(B) ADDITIONAL MODIFICATIONS.—Any modification to a penalty imposed pursuant to the order described in subparagraph (A) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act shall be subject to the requirements of paragraph (1).

(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OR PROCUREMENT.—The head of an executive agency may not—

(1) procure or obtain or extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system; or

(2) enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) with an entity that uses any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

(c) PROHIBITION ON LOAN AND GRANT FUNDS.—The head of an executive agency may not obligate or expend loan or grant funds to procure or obtain, extend or renew a contract to procure or obtain, or enter into a contract (or extend or renew a contract) to procure or obtain the equipment, services, or systems described in subsection (b).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The prohibitions under subsection (b)(1) and subsection (c) shall take effect 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and the prohibition under subsection (b)(2) shall take effect three years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (b) or (c) shall be construed to—

(1) prohibit the head of an executive agency from procuring with an entity to provide a service that connects to the facilities of a third-party, such as backhaul, roaming, or interconnection arrangements; or

(2) cover telecommunications equipment that cannot route or redirect user data traffic or permit visibility into any user data or packets that such equipment transmits or otherwise handles.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—The term “covered foreign country” means the People’s Republic of China.

(3) COVERED TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT OR SERVICES.—The term “covered telecommunications equipment or services” means any of the following:

(A) Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities).

(B) Telecommunications services provided by such entities or using such equipment.

(C) Telecommunications equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of the National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the government of a covered foreign country.

(4) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

(g) TREATMENT OF PROVISION RELATING TO PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.—Section 891, relating to a prohibition on certain telecommunications equipment, shall have no force or effect.

**SA 2515.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 896. ACCELERATING SBIR AND STTR AWARDS.**

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in subsection (hh)—

(A) by striking “Federal agencies” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal agencies”;

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

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) PILOT PROGRAM TO ACCELERATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SBIR AND STTR AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, acting through the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy of the Department of Defense, shall establish a pilot program to reduce the time for awards under the SBIR and STTR programs of the Department of Defense, under which the Department of Defense shall—

“(i) develop simplified and standardized procedures and model contracts throughout the Department of Defense for Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III SBIR awards;

“(ii) for Phase I SBIR and STTR awards, reduce the amount of time between solicitation closure and award;

“(iii) for Phase II SBIR and STTR awards, reduce the amount of time between the end of a Phase I award and the start of the Phase II award;

“(iv) for Phase II SBIR and STTR awards that skip Phase I, reduce the amount of time between solicitation closure and award;

“(v) for sequential Phase II SBIR and STTR awards, reduce the amount of time between Phase II awards; and

“(vi) reduce the award times described in clauses (ii), (iii), (iv), and (v) to be as close to 90 days as possible.

“(B) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the pilot program under subparagraph (A), the Director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy of the Department of Defense shall consult with the Director of the Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense.

“(C) TERMINATION.—The pilot program under subparagraph (A) shall terminate on September 30, 2022.”; and

(2) in subsection (ii)—

(A) by striking “Federal agencies” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal agencies”;

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—The Comptroller General of the United States

shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives—

“(A) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every year thereafter for 3 years, a report that—

“(i) provides the average and median amount of time that each component of the Department of Defense with an SBIR or STTR program takes to review and make a final decision on proposals submitted under the program; and

“(ii) compares that average and median amount of time with that of other Federal agencies participating in the SBIR or STTR program; and

“(B) not later than December 5, 2021, a report that—

“(i) includes the information described in subparagraph (A);

“(ii) assesses where each Federal agency participating in the SBIR or STTR program needs improvement with respect to the proposal review and award times under the program; and

“(iii) identifies best practices for shortening the proposal review and award times under the SBIR and STTR programs, including the pros and cons of using contracts compared to grants; and

“(iv) analyzes the efficacy of the pilot program established under subsection (hh)(2).”.

**SA 2516.** Mr. PETERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title VIII, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_.** **PLAN TO MAINTAIN STRATEGIC INFLUENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE CENTERS THAT COMPRISE THE NETWORK FOR MANUFACTURING INNOVATION.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Centers for manufacturing innovation that comprise the Network for Manufacturing Innovation, known as “Manufacturing USA”, allow manufacturing partners of the Department of Defense to better achieve their missions by—

(A) rapidly transitioning science and technology by completing sponsored projects and advancing concepts through prototype development;

(B) lowering risk for technology insertion by applying new manufacturing processes to reduce cycle times and utilizing tools to support legacy systems;

(C) scaling up advanced manufacturing by identifying domestic sources for components and materials and advancing new technologies from prototype to limited-scale production; and

(D) increasing knowledge in the advanced manufacturing ecosystem by leading training programs and convening experts from industry, academia, and government into one networked community.

(2) As such centers transition past the period of initial funding and plan for continu-

ation, they will reach decision points that carry implications for whether Federal Government goals remain a focus and are achieved.

(3) Without influence from the Department, there is risk that such centers may choose not to pursue United States-centric program goals, such as developing domestic workforce or innovation capacity, or they may even start to advance the interests of competitor counties who are able to offer funding and influence.

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

(1) the Secretary of Defense should develop a deliberate approach to ensure an enduring focus of centers described in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) on United States-centric goals is maintained at each center after the initial funding described in paragraph (2) of such subsection expire;

(2) any plans of the Secretary for maintaining strategic influence and partnership with the such centers should be robust and accommodate the different operational models and technology-specific needs of each center; and

(3) any plans of the Secretary for continued partnership with such centers should ensure the centers remain as part of the Network for Manufacturing Innovation.

(c) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a plan to maintain strategic influence and partnerships with the centers that comprise the Network for Manufacturing Innovation established under section 34 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278s) as they transition out of their initial agreements with the Secretary and remain as part of such network.

**SA 2517.** Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 734, lines 15 and 16, striking “agencies and federally sponsored laboratories” and insert “agencies, federally sponsored laboratories, and other federally funded programs, including the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Network for Manufacturing Innovation Program”.

**SA 2518.** Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part II of subtitle F of title V, add the following:

**SEC. 577. RESPITE CHILDCARE FOR CERTAIN SPOUSES OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) **RESPITE CHILD CARE REQUIRED.**—The Secretary concerned shall provide each spouse of a member of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary who is described in subsection (b), and who has a child or children under the age of 13 years, hourly respite childcare for each such child at or in the vicinity of the installation to which the member concerned is assigned.

(b) **SPOUSES.**—A spouse described in this subsection is any spouse of a member of the Armed Forces as follows:

(1) A spouse of a member of the Armed Forces on active duty (other than active duty for training).

(2) A spouse who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

(c) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF CARE PER CHILD.**—The total number of hours of childcare provided under subsection (a) with respect to a particular child may not exceed 16 hours.

(d) **PROVISION.**—

(1) **PROVIDERS.**—Childcare shall be provided under subsection (a) by the following, as elected by the Secretary concerned:

(A) A childcare provider located on the installation concerned.

(B) A childcare provider located in the vicinity of the installation concerned and approved for the provision of childcare under this section by the Secretary concerned.

(C) Any other childcare provider approved for the provision of childcare under this section by the Secretary concerned.

(2) **PROVISION AT NO COST TO MEMBERS OR THEIR FAMILIES.**—Childcare shall be provided under subsection (a) at no cost to the member of the Armed Forces concerned, the spouse, or the member's family.

(e) **FUNDING.**—Funds for the provision of childcare under subsection (a) shall be derived from amounts available to the Secretaries concerned for the provision of childcare services to members of the Armed Forces.

(f) **SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code.

**SA 2519.** Mr. NELSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. TAX PREPARER FRAUD PROTECTION FOR SERVICEMEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 49 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 985 the following new section:

**“§986. Tax Preparer Fraud Protection for Servicemembers and Dependents**

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A tax return preparer may not provide tax return preparation services to a covered member or a covered dependent unless such tax return preparer satisfies the minimum standards established under subsection (b).

“(b) **MINIMUM STANDARDS.**—The Secretary of Defense (referred to in this section as the ‘Secretary’) shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Treasury, establish minimum

standards to ensure any tax return preparer providing tax return preparation services to a covered member or a covered dependent has demonstrated—

- “(1) good character;
- “(2) the necessary qualifications to provide valuable service to any person; and
- “(3) the competency to properly advise and assist any person in the preparation of their tax returns.

“(c) REFERRALS TO SECRETARY OF TREASURY.—Pursuant to subsection (d) of section 330 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall refer to the Secretary of the Treasury any tax return preparer who, in connection with any tax return preparation services to a covered member or a covered dependent, the Secretary has reason to believe—

- “(1) is incompetent;
- “(2) is disreputable;
- “(3) with intent to defraud, willfully and knowingly misleads or threatens any person or prospective person whose tax return, claim for refund, or document in connection with a tax return or claim for refund, is being or may be prepared; or
- “(4) is in violation of the standards established under this section.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) CLAIM FOR REFUND.—The term ‘claim for refund’ has the same meaning given such term under section 6696(e)(2) of Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) COVERED DEPENDENT.—The term ‘covered dependent’ means, with respect to a covered member—

- “(A) such member’s spouse;
- “(B) such member’s child (as defined in section 101(4) of title 38, United States Code); or

“(C) an individual for whom such member provided more than one-half of the individual’s support for at least 180 days of the preceding calendar year.

“(3) COVERED MEMBER.—The term ‘covered member’ means a member of the armed forces who is—

“(A) on active duty under a call or order that does not specify a period of 30 days or less; or

“(B) on active Guard and Reserve Duty.

“(4) TAX RETURN.—The term ‘tax return’ has the same meaning given the term ‘return’ under section 6696(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(5) TAX RETURN PREPARATION SERVICES.—The term ‘tax return preparation services’ means any service that assists in the preparation, furnishing, or reproduction of a tax return or claim for refund in exchange for compensation.

“(6) TAX RETURN PREPARER.—The term ‘tax return preparer’ has the same meaning given such term under section 7701(a)(36) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 330 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively, and
- (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d)(1) After notice and opportunity for a proceeding, the Secretary may suspend or disbar from practice, or censure, a tax return preparer who—

“(A) has been referred to the Secretary under subsection (c) of section 986 of title 10, United States Code, and

“(B) the Secretary has determined—

- “(i) is incompetent;
- “(ii) is disreputable;
- “(iii) with intent to defraud, willfully and knowingly misleads or threatens any person or prospective person whose tax return, claim for refund, or document in connection

with a tax return or claim for refund, is being or may be prepared; or

“(iv) is in violation of the standards established under such section.

“(2) In the case of a tax return preparer described in paragraph (1), or in the case of a tax return preparer who was acting on behalf of an employer or any firm or other entity in connection with the conduct described in such paragraph, rules similar to the rules under subsection (c) relating to monetary penalties shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) The terms ‘tax return preparer’, ‘tax return’, and ‘claim for refund’ shall have the same meaning given such terms under subsection (d) of section 986 of title 10, United States Code.”

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 49 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 985 the following new item:

“986. Tax Preparer Fraud Protection for Servicemembers and Dependents.”

**SA 2520.** Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NORTH KOREA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—No funds may be used for military operations in North Korea absent an imminent threat to the United States without express authorization by an Act of Congress.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The restriction under subsection (a) shall not apply—

(1) with respect to the introduction of the Armed Forces into hostilities to repel a sudden attack on the United States, its territories or possessions, its Armed Forces, or its allies; or

(2) to the deployment of United States Armed Forces to rescue or remove United States citizens or personnel.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to relieve the Executive Branch of the restrictions on the use of force or the reporting requirements stated in the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

**SA 2521.** Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. DONNELLY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 609. COMPENSATION AND CREDIT FOR RETIRED PAY PURPOSES FOR MATERNITY LEAVE TAKEN BY MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS.**

(a) COMPENSATION.—Section 206(a) of title 37, United States Code, is amended—

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

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

(3) by adding the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) for each of 6 days in connection with the taking by the member of a period of maternity leave.”

(b) CREDIT FOR RETIRED PAY PURPOSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The period of maternity leave taken by a member of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in connection with the birth of a child shall count toward the member’s entitlement to retired pay, and in connection with the years of service used in computing retired pay, under chapter 1223 of title 10, United States Code, as 12 points.

(2) SEPARATE CREDIT FOR EACH PERIOD OF LEAVE.—Separate crediting of points shall accrue to a member pursuant to this subsection for each period of maternity leave taken by the member in connection with a childbirth event.

(3) WHEN CREDITED.—Points credited a member for a period of maternity leave pursuant to this subsection shall be credited in the year in which the period of maternity leave concerned commences.

(4) CONTRIBUTION OF LEAVE TOWARD ENTITLEMENT TO RETIRED PAY.—Section 12732(a)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

“(F) Points at the rate of 12 a year for the taking of maternity leave.”

(5) COMPUTATION OF YEARS OF SERVICE FOR RETIRED PAY.—Section 12733 of such title is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

“(5) One day for each point credited to the person under subparagraph (F) of section 12732(a)(2) of this title.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to periods of maternity leave that commence on or after that date.

**SA 2522.** Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 16. MODIFICATION TO LAUNCH SUPPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION.**

Section 1609(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91) is amended by striking “that may benefit all users” and inserting “and United States spaceports that actively support national security missions”.

**SA 2523.** Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

**SEC. 10. SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST LAND EXCHANGE.**

(a) **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.**—

(1) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this section to further the public interest by consummating the NorthMet Land Exchange as specifically set forth in this section.

(2) **NEED.**—According to the Final Record of Decision, the NorthMet Land Exchange is advisable and needed because the NorthMet Land Exchange will—

(A) result in a 40-acre net gain in National Forest System lands;

(B) improve the spatial arrangement of National Forest System lands by reducing the amount of ownership boundaries to be managed by 33 miles;

(C) improve management effectiveness by exchanging isolated Federal lands with no public overland access for non-Federal lands that will have public overland access and be accessible and open to public use and enjoyment;

(D) result in Federal cost savings by eliminating certain easements and their associated administration costs;

(E) meet several of the priorities identified in the land and resource management plan for Superior National Forest to protect and manage administratively or congressionally designated, unique, proposed, or recommended areas, including acquisition of 307 acres of land to the administratively proposed candidate Research Natural Areas, which are managed by preserving and maintaining areas for ecological research, observation, genetic conservation, monitoring, and educational activities;

(F) promote more effective land management that would meet specific National Forest needs for management, including acquisition of over 6,500 acres of land for new public access, watershed protection, ecologically rare habitats, wetlands, water frontage, and improved ownership patterns;

(G) convey Federal land generally not needed for other Forest resource management objectives, because such land is adjacent to intensively developed private land including ferrous mining areas, where abundant mining infrastructure and transportation are already in place, including—

(i) a large, intensively developed open pit mine lying directly to the north of the Federal land;

(ii) a private mine railroad, powerlines, and roads lying directly to the south of the Federal land; and

(iii) already existing ore processing, milling, and tailings facilities located approximately 5 miles to the west of the Federal land; and

(H) provide a practical resolution to complex issues pertaining to the development of private mineral rights underlying the Federal land surface, and thereby avoid potential litigation which could adversely impact the status and management of the Federal land and other National Forest System land acquired under the authority of section 6 of the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Law; 16 U.S.C. 515).

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COLLECTION AGREEMENTS.**—The term “Collection Agreements” means the following agreements between the Secretary and Poly Met pertaining to the NorthMet Land Exchange:

(A) The agreement dated August 25, 2015.

(B) The agreement dated January 15, 2016.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND PARCEL.**—The term “Federal land parcel” means all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 6,650 acres of National Forest System land, as identified in the Final Record of Decision, within the Superior National Forest in St. Louis County, Minnesota, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Federal Land Parcel–NorthMet Land Exchange”, and dated June 2017.

(3) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “non-Federal land” means all right, title, and interest of Poly Met in and to approximately 6,690 acres of land in four separate tracts (comprising 10 separate land parcels in total) within the Superior National Forest to be conveyed to the United States by Poly Met in the land exchange as generally depicted on an overview map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels–NorthMet Land Exchange” and dated June 2017, and further depicted on separate tract maps as follows:

(A) **TRACT 1.**—Approximately 4,650 acres of land in St. Louis County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels–NorthMet Land Exchange–Hay Lake Tract”, and dated June 2017.

(B) **TRACT 2.**—Approximately 320 acres of land in 4 separate parcels in Lake County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels–NorthMet Land Exchange–Lake County Lands”, and dated June 2017.

(C) **TRACT 3.**—Approximately 1,560 acres of land in 4 separate parcels in Lake County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcels–NorthMet Land Exchange–Wolf Lands”, and dated June 2017.

(D) **TRACT 4.**—Approximately 160 acres of land in St. Louis County, Minnesota, generally depicted on the map entitled “Non-Federal Land Parcel–NorthMet Land Exchange–Hunting Club Lands”, dated June 2017.

(4) **NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.**—The term “NorthMet Land Exchange” means the land exchange specifically authorized and directed by subsection (c).

(5) **POLY MET.**—The term “Poly Met” means Poly Met Mining Corporation, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation with executive offices in St. Paul, Minnesota, and headquarters in Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota.

(6) **RECORD OF DECISION.**—The term “Record of Decision” means the Final Record of Decision of the Forest Service issued on January 9, 2017, approving the NorthMet Land exchange between the United States and PolyMet Mining, Inc., a Minnesota Corporation, involving National Forest System land in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota.

(7) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

(8) **STATE.**—The term “State” means the State of Minnesota.

(c) **NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.**—

(1) **EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsection (d)(3)(A) and other conditions imposed by this section, if Poly Met offers to convey to the United States all right, title, and interest of Poly Met in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept the offer and convey to Poly Met all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land parcel.

(B) **LAND EXCHANGE EXPEDITED.**—Subject to the conditions imposed by this section, the NorthMet Land Exchange directed by this section shall be consummated not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) **FORM OF CONVEYANCE.**—

(A) **NON-FEDERAL LAND.**—Title to the non-Federal land conveyed by Poly Met to the United States shall be by general warranty deed subject to existing rights of record, and otherwise conform to the title approval regulations of the Attorney General of the United States.

(B) **FEDERAL LAND PARCEL.**—The Federal land parcel shall be quitclaimed by the Secretary to Poly Met by an exchange deed.

(3) **EXCHANGE COSTS.**—

(A) **REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.**—Poly Met shall pay or reimburse the Secretary, either directly or through the Collection Agreements, for all land survey, appraisal, land title, deed preparation, and other costs incurred by the Secretary in processing and consummating the NorthMet Land Exchange. The Collection Agreements, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, may be modified through the mutual consent of the parties.

(B) **DEPOSIT OF FUNDS.**—All funds paid or reimbursed to the Secretary under subparagraph (A)—

(i) shall be deposited and credited to the accounts in accordance with the Collection Agreements;

(ii) shall be used for the purposes specified for the accounts; and

(iii) shall remain available to the Secretary until expended without further appropriation.

(4) **CONDITIONS ON LAND EXCHANGE.**—

(A) **RESERVATION OF CERTAIN MINERAL RIGHTS.**—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the United States shall reserve the mineral rights on approximately 181 acres of the Federal land parcel as generally identified on the map entitled “Federal Land Parcel–NorthMet Land Exchange”, and dated June 2017.

(B) **THIRD-PARTY AUTHORIZATIONS.**—As set forth in the Final Record of Decision, Poly Met shall honor existing road and transmission line authorizations on the Federal land parcel. Upon relinquishment of the authorizations by the holders or upon revocation of the authorizations by the Forest Service, Poly Met shall offer replacement authorizations to the holders on at least equivalent terms.

(d) **VALUATION OF NORTHMET LAND EXCHANGE.**—

(1) **APPRAISALS.**—The Congress makes the following new findings:

(A) Appraisals of the Federal and non-Federal lands to be exchanged in the NorthMet Land Exchange were formally prepared in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, and were approved by the Secretary in conjunction with preparation of the November 2015 Draft Record of Decision on the NorthMet Land Exchange.

(B) The appraisals referred to in subparagraph (A) determined that the value of the non-Federal lands exceeded the value of the Federal land parcel by approximately \$425,000.

(C) Based on the appraisals referred to in subparagraph (A), the United States would ordinarily be required to make a \$425,000 cash equalization payment to Poly Met to equalize exchange values under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), unless such an equalization payment is waived by Poly Met.

(2) **VALUES FOR CONSUMMATION OF LAND EXCHANGE.**—The appraised values of the Federal and non-Federal land determined and

approved by the Secretary in November 2015, and referenced in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be the values utilized to consummate the NorthMet Land Exchange; and

(B) shall not be subject to reappraisal.

(3) WAIVER OF EQUALIZATION PAYMENT.—

(A) CONDITION ON LAND EXCHANGE.—Notwithstanding section 206(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 U.S.C. 1716(b)), and as part of its offer to exchange the non-Federal lands as provided in subsection (c)(1)(A), Poly Met shall waive any payment to it of any monies owed by the United States to equalize land values.

(B) TREATMENT OF WAIVER.—A waiver of the equalization payment under subparagraph (A) shall be considered as a voluntary donation to the United States by Poly Met for all purposes of law.

(e) MAPS AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) MINOR ADJUSTMENTS.—By mutual agreement, the Secretary and Poly Met may correct minor or typographical errors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of the Federal land parcel or non-Federal land to be exchanged in the NorthMet Land Exchange.

(2) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a map, an acreage estimate, or a description of land under this section, the map shall control unless the Secretary and Poly Met mutually agree otherwise.

(3) EXCHANGE MAPS.—The maps referred to in subsection (b) depicting the Federal and non-Federal lands to be exchanged in the NorthMet Land Exchange, and dated June 2017, depict the identical lands identified in the Final Record of Decision, which are on file in the Office of the Supervisor, Superior National Forest.

(f) POST-EXCHANGE LAND MANAGEMENT.—

(1) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—Upon conveyance of the non-Federal land to the United States in the NorthMet Land Exchange, the non-Federal land shall become part of the Superior National Forest and be managed in accordance with—

(A) the Act of March 1, 1911 (commonly known as the Weeks Law; 16 U.S.C. 500 et seq.); and

(B) the laws and regulations applicable to the Superior National Forest and the National Forest System.

(2) PLANNING.—Upon acquisition by the United States in the NorthMet Land Exchange, the non-Federal lands shall be managed in a manner consistent with the land and resource management plan applicable to adjacent federally owned lands in the Superior National Forest. An amendment or supplement to the land and resource management plan shall not be required solely because of the acquisition of the non-Federal lands.

(3) FEDERAL LAND.—Upon conveyance of the Federal land parcel to Poly Met in the NorthMet Land Exchange, the Federal land parcel shall become private land and available for any lawful use in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations pertaining to mining and other uses of land in private ownership.

(g) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.—

(1) WITHDRAWAL OF ACQUIRED NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The non-Federal lands acquired by the United States in the NorthMet Land Exchange shall be withdrawn, without further action by the Secretary, from appropriation and disposal under public land laws and under laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

(2) WITHDRAWAL REVOCATION.—Any public land order that withdraws the Federal land parcel from appropriation or disposal under a public land law shall be revoked without further action by the Secretary to the extent necessary to permit conveyance of the Federal land parcel to Poly Met.

(3) WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL LAND PENDING CONVEYANCE.—The Federal land parcel to be conveyed to Poly Met in the NorthMet Land Exchange, if not already withdrawn or segregated from appropriation or disposal under the mineral leasing and geothermal or other public land laws upon enactment of this Act, is hereby so withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, until the date of conveyance of the Federal land parcel to Poly Met.

(4) ACT CONTROLS.—In the event any provision of the Record of Decision conflicts with a provision of this section, the provision of this section shall control.

**SA 2524.** Mr. BOOKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**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 of Defense 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 of Defense 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.

**SA 2525.** Ms. HIRONO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. ESTABLISHMENT OF MILITARY DENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 104 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2116 the following new section:

**“§ 2116a. Military dental research**

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘military dental research’ means research on the furnishing of dental care and services by dentists in the armed forces.

“(2) The term ‘TriService Dental Research Program’ means the program of military dental research authorized under this section.

“(b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may establish at the University a program of military dental research.

“(c) TRISERVICE RESEARCH GROUP.—The TriService Dental Research Program shall be administered by a TriService Dental Research Group composed of Army, Navy, and Air Force dentists who are involved in military dental research and are designated by the Secretary concerned to serve as members of the group.

“(d) DUTIES OF GROUP.—The TriService Dental Research Group described in subsection (c) shall—

“(1) develop for the Department of Defense recommended guidelines for requesting, reviewing, and funding proposed military dental research projects; and

“(2) make available to Army, Navy, and Air Force dentists and officials of the Department of Defense who conduct military dental research—

“(A) information about dental research projects that are being developed or carried out in the Army, Navy, and Air Force; and

“(B) expertise and information beneficial to the encouragement of meaningful dental research.

“(e) RESEARCH TOPICS.—For purposes of this section, military dental research includes research on the following issues:

“(1) Issues regarding how to ensure the readiness of members of the armed forces on active duty and in the reserve components with respect to the provision of dental care and services.

“(2) Issues regarding preventive dentistry and disease management, including early detection of needs.

“(3) Issues regarding how to improve the results of dental care and services provided in the armed forces in time of peace.

“(4) Issues regarding how to improve the results of dental care and services provided in the armed forces in time of war.

“(5) Issues regarding minimizing or eliminating emergent dental conditions and dental disease and non-battle injuries in deployed settings.

“(6) Issues regarding how to prevent complications associated with dental-related battle injuries.

“(7) Issues regarding how to prevent complications associated with the transportation of dental patients in the military medical evacuation system.

“(8) Issues regarding the use of technological advances, including distance learning and teledentistry.

“(9) Issues regarding psychological distress in receiving dental care and services.

“(10) Issues regarding how to improve methods of training dental personnel, including dental assistants and dental extenders.

“(11) Wellness issues relating to dental care and services.

“(12) Case management issues relating to dental care and services.

“(13) Issues regarding the use of alternate dental care delivery systems, including the employment of interprofessional practice models incorporating multiple health professions.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 104 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2116 the following new item:

“2116a. Military dental research.”.

**SA 2526.** Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FROM THE PERIODIC INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ACQUISITION-RELATED DOLLAR THRESHOLD.**

Subparagraph (B) of section 1908(b)(2) of title 41, United States Code, is amended by inserting “3131 to 3134,” after “sections”.

**SA 2527.** Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, insert the following:

**SEC. 1052. STUDY ON PHASING OUT OPEN BURN PITS.**

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) details of any ongoing use of open burn pits; and

(2) the feasibility of phasing out the use of open burn pits by using technology incinerators.

(b) OPEN BURN PIT DEFINED.—In this section, the term “open burn pit” means an area of land—

(1) that is designated by the Secretary of Defense to be used for disposing solid waste by burning in the outdoor air; and

(2) does not contain a commercially manufactured incinerator or other equipment specifically designed and manufactured for the burning of solid waste.

**SEC. 1053. AIRBORNE HAZARDS AND OPEN BURN PIT REGISTRY.**

Beginning not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out an annual education campaign to inform individuals who may be eligible to enroll in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry of such eligibility. Each such campaign shall include at least one electronic method and one physical mailing method to provide such information.

**SA 2528.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . ASSESSMENT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMOUNT AND DISTRIBUTION OF INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE, AND RECONNAISSANCE RESOURCES.**

(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of National Intelligence, the secretaries of the military departments, the commanders of the relevant combatant support agencies, and the commanders of the combatant commands, carry out an assessment of the amount and distribution of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources across the intelligence community and the Armed Forces.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the assessment required by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the amount and distribution of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources across the intelligence community and the Armed Forces, specifically—

(i) the balance of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources being used to support the demands of policymakers (via the intelligence community) relative to the distribution of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance being used to support the demands of the commanders of the combatant commands (via the military services);

(ii) whether the distribution of such resources is optimally aligned with the National Security Strategy; and

(iii) where risks are being assumed based on balancing the distribution of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources.

(B) An assessment of the distribution of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources among the various combatant commands, including—

(i) whether the resources are optimally aligned with the 2018 National Defense Strategy; and

(ii) where risks are being assumed based on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resource levels.

(C) An assessment of the distribution of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources within each combatant command, including—

(i) the balance between intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources being used to support ongoing operations versus intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources being used to support contingency operations; and

(ii) whether the resources are optimally aligned with the 2018 National Defense Strategy; and

(iii) where risks are being assumed based on intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resource levels.

(D) An assessment of the effect of increasing the overall level of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources on achieving national security objectives of the United States, as well as the effect of increasing the level of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources for the highest priority requirements for the Director of National Intelligence and commanders of the combatant commands.

(E) Recommendations for maximizing any additional intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources to support national security objectives of the United States, particularly for the highest priority requirements for the Director and the commanders of the combatant commands, as well as how most effectively to buy-down significant strategic risks.

(3) FORM.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include an unclassified summary, but may otherwise be classified, as appropriate.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

**SA 2529.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XVI, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . UPDATING THE NATIONAL COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE STRATEGY.**

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that an updated National Counter-Intelligence Strategy should—

(1) recognize and prioritize the national security threat posed by covert influence operations by foreign intelligence entities;

(2) include coordinating a whole-of-government approach to effectively detect and

counter covert influence operations by foreign intelligence entities; and

(3) be aligned with the National Security Strategy, which acknowledges the national security threat posed by covert influence operations conducted by foreign intelligence entities.

(b) **UPDATE REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this act, the Director of National Intelligence shall update the National Counterintelligence Strategy to include a strategy to effectively detect and counter covert influence operations by foreign intelligence entities.

**SA 2530.** Ms. STABENOW (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 316. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH STATES FOR REMOVAL AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS TO ADDRESS DRINKING, SURFACE, AND GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION FROM PFAS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “perfluorinated compound” means perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that are man-made chemicals with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

(2) The term “fully fluorinated carbon atom” means a carbon atom on which all the hydrogen substituents have been replaced by fluorine.

(3) The term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601).

(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Upon request from the governor or chief executive of a State, the Department of Defense shall work expeditiously to finalize a cooperative agreement for testing, monitoring, removal, and remedial actions to address contamination or suspected contamination of drinking, surface, or ground water from PFAS originating from an active or decommissioned military installation, including a National Guard facility.

(2) **MINIMUM STANDARDS.**—A cooperative agreement under this subsection shall meet or exceed the most stringent of the following standards for PFAS in any environmental media:

(A) An enforceable State standard for drinking, surface, or ground water, as required under section 121(d) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 4621(d)).

(B) Federal Health Advisories issued by the Environmental Protection Agency.

(C) Any Federal standards, requirements, criteria, or limits, including those issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.), the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq., 1447 et seq., 33 U.S.C. 1401 et seq., 2801 et seq.), or the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(c) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If a cooperative agreement is not reached pursuant to subsection (b) within one year after the request from a State, the Secretary of Defense shall report to the appropriate congressional committees, as well as the Senators from the State with the contamination and the member of Congress representing the district with the PFAS contamination. The report shall provide a detailed explanation for why an agreement has not been reached and a projected timeline for completing the cooperative agreement.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2531.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.**

(a) **REQUIREMENT.**—All defense articles, defense services, security and military assistance, and related cooperation provided to a country in sub-Saharan Africa shall be provided as part of a comprehensive strategy for democracy and institution-building in such country.

(b) **PROHIBITION OF ASSISTANCE.**—Defense articles, defense services, security and military assistance, and related cooperation may not be provided in any fiscal year to any country in sub-Saharan Africa in which less than \$2,000,000 in United States assistance in democracy and governance programming is being administered in such fiscal year unless, not less than 15 calendar days before such assistance is provided, the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense, as applicable, notifies the appropriate committees of Congress of the intent to provide such assistance.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

**SA 2532.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military

personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12 \_\_\_\_ . STRATEGY AND REPORT ON UNITED STATES SUPPORT FOR SECURITY AND STABILITY IN THE SAHEL-MAGHREB.**

(a) **STRATEGY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall jointly develop an integrated strategy to support security and stability in the Sahel-Maghreb.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) Clear goals and measurable benchmarks to measure security and stability.

(B) Funding requirements.

(C) Plans for enhancing coordination among United States and international partners and agencies to plan and implement counterterrorism and countering violent extremism assistance and development cooperation programs so as to improve coordination among donors in the Sahel-Maghreb.

(D) A specific strategy on Mali that—

(i) details the goals, aims, and objectives of United States engagement in Mali;

(ii) describes specific actions and efforts the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other relevant United States agencies will take between the date of the enactment of this Act and December 2020, relating to—

(I) sustained, high level diplomatic engagement with Mali, the African Union, and relevant allies and partners in Europe, the Middle East, and elsewhere;

(II) coordination with traditional and non-traditional donors on security assistance provided to the G-5 Sahel Joint Force and to G-5 member countries bilaterally;

(III) support for the implementation of the 2015 peace agreement;

(IV) proposals under consideration for resumption of United States security assistance programs and activities;

(V) United States support for the activities of the G-5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance in Mali;

(VI) prevention of mass atrocities;

(VII) plans to enhance and expand support for democracy and governance activities including support for electoral reforms and support for elections; and

(VIII) plans of the United States Agency for International Development for developing a flexible approach for implementing programs such as access to justice, anti-corruption, civil society strengthening, countering violent extremism, conflict resolution and mitigation, and decentralization in unstable areas of Mali, including northern and central Mali.

(E) A specific strategy for Niger that—

(i) details the goals, aims, and objectives of United States engagement in Niger; and

(ii) relays specific actions and efforts the Department of Defense, the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other relevant United States agencies will take between the date of enactment of this Act and December 2020, relating to ensuring an appropriate balance between engagements in defense, diplomacy, and development, including—

(I) plans for fully staffing embassy and United States Agency for International Development positions in Niger, with a specific focus on a building a robust public diplomacy team;

(II) an assessment of the utility of and plans for standing up an independent United

States Agency for International Development mission;

(III) a robust plan for increased activities and funding to counter violence extremism and for conflict prevention and mitigation;

(IV) enhanced support for economic opportunity with a focus on youth employment; and

(V) increased support for democracy and governance, including support for strengthening civil society and elections preparations.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the strategy developed under subsection (a) and includes a description of specific diplomatic actions, including United States Government-funded programs and activities, to advance peace and security, counter terrorism, increase economic growth and investment, promote democracy and good governance, and support development in the Sahel-Maghreb.

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR A SECURITY SECTOR REVIEW.**—Prior to the resumption of security sector activities authorized by this Act or any other Act of Congress, the Secretary of Defense, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, shall conduct a review of the security sector in Mali to better inform planning and programming by relevant United States Government agencies.

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

**SA 2533.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. REPORT ON TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL EAST AFRICA COUNTERTERRORISM.**

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

(1) updates the report submitted under section 1206(a)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 (Public Law 113-66; 127 Stat. 900; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note); and

(2) provides a comprehensive review of the manner in which the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism support the policy priorities of the President in the west and northwest regions of Africa and east Africa.

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

(1) Each of the elements set forth in section 1206(a)(3) of such Act.

(2) A detailed description of the policy priorities of the President in the west and northwest regions of Africa and east Africa;

(3) An assessment of the manner in which the strategic priorities of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism, as described in the report submitted under section 7042(b) of the Consolidated Further and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235), support priorities of the President in such regions.

(4) An assessment of the manner in which security cooperation authorized to be conducted in Africa under this Act and under title 10 of the United States Code, has been coordinated with activities of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism to meet identified policy priorities during each of the three fiscal years beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) A description of countering violence extremism and any additional counterterrorism programs and activities implemented in Africa by the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the United States Agency for International Development that—

(A) support such policy priorities; and

(B) are separate from the programs and activities of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism.

(6) The amounts programmed through the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism during each of the three fiscal years beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act, including, to the maximum extent practicable, funding information disaggregated by country.

(7) Data on allocations, unobligated balances, unliquidated obligations, and disbursements for the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism by country and account for each of the three fiscal years beginning before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(8) A description of the processes in each administering agency for collecting and maintaining financial data related to the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership and the Partnership For Regional East Africa Counterterrorism.

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

(d) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

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

**SA 2534.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. REPORT ON INTERAGENCY STRATEGY TO PROMOTE STABILITY IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an update to the report on the interagency strategy to promote stability in the Central African Republic, as required by the Senate report accompanying the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235).

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include an update of the elements originally submitted and the following:

(1) A detailed description of—

(A) the measures the President is taking to prevent mass atrocities in the Central African Republic; and

(B) an inventory of United States programs to promote conflict mitigation and community reconciliation in the Central African Republic, and the status of implementation of such programs.

(2) Plans for coordinating with donors to ensure full funding for humanitarian assistance to the people of the Central African Republic.

(3) Actions carried out to implement programs and activities to support robust civilian oversight of state security forces in the Central African Republic, including activities to strengthen key ministries and parliamentary oversight of defense and law enforcement bodies.

(4) An assessment of progress, current obstacles to progress, and plans of the President to support progress in disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration in the Central African Republic.

(5) An assessment of—

(A) the current status of the Special Criminal Court;

(B) whether there are any obstacles that remain to full operation of such court;

(C) United States financial support specifically for the court as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(D) any manner in which the United States may provide support to such court, including financial support and technical assistance.

(6) Recommendations for ways in which the United States may strengthen the ability of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic to protect civilians, including by assisting the United Nations to develop measures to enhance the operational readiness of the police and military forces of troop-contributing countries through enhanced training on protection of civilians.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

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

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

**SA 2535.** Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019

for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 622. ONE-YEAR OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR THE SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2019.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 645 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (10 U.S.C. 1448 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “the open enrollment period specified in subsection (f)” and inserting “an open enrollment period specified in subsection (f)”; and

(2) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following new subsection (f):

“(f) OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIODS.—The open enrollment periods under this section shall be the periods as follows:

“(1) The one-year period beginning on October 1, 2005.

“(2) The one-year period beginning on October 1, 2019.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is further amended by striking “the open enrollment period” each place it appears and inserting “an open enrollment period”.

(c) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 645. ONE-YEAR OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIODS IN SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN COMMENCING OCTOBER 1, 2005, AND OCTOBER 1, 2019.”.**

**SA 2536.** Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 622. ELECTION OF SUPERSEDING BENEFICIARY IN THE SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH OF A DEPENDENT CHILD BENEFICIARY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1448(b) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8) ELECTION OF NEW BENEFICIARY UPON DEATH OF DEPENDENT CHILD BENEFICIARY.—If a dependent child who is a beneficiary under the Plan dies, the participant in the Plan may elect a new beneficiary. The new beneficiary so elected shall be a natural person with an insurable interest in that participant who is not otherwise ineligible to be elected as a beneficiary under any other provision of this section at the time of election. The election shall be made, if at all, not later than 180 days after the date of death of the dependent child.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply with respect to participants in the Survivor Benefit Plan for deaths of dependent child beneficiaries in the Plan that, subject to paragraph (2), occur on or after that date.

(2) DEATHS OF CHILDREN BEFORE ENACTMENT.—A participant in the Survivor Benefit Plan may make an election under paragraph (8) of section 1448(b) of title 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), in connection with the death of a dependent child beneficiary that occurred before the date of the enactment of this Act, regardless of the date of death. Any such election shall be made, if at all, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 2537.** Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 100. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO SOO LOCKS, SAULT SAINTE MARIE, MICHIGAN.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, are of critical importance to the national security of the United States;

(2) the Soo Locks are the only waterway connection from Lake Superior to the Lower Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway;

(3) only the Poe Lock is of sufficient size to allow for the passage of the largest cargo vessels that transport well over 90 percent of all iron ore mined in the United States, and this lock is nearing the end of its 50-year useful lifespan;

(4) a report issued by the Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security concluded that an unscheduled 6-month outage of the Poe Lock would cause—

(A) a dramatic increase in national and regional unemployment; and

(B) 75 percent of Great Lakes steel production, and nearly all North American appliance, automobile, railcar, and construction, farm, and mining equipment production to cease;

(5) the Corps of Engineers is reevaluating a past economic evaluation report to update the benefit-to-cost ratio for building a new lock at the Soo Locks; and

(6) the Secretary of the Army and all relevant Federal agencies should—

(A) expedite the completion of the report described in paragraph (5) and ensure the analysis adequately reflects the critical importance of the Soo Locks infrastructure to the national security and economy of the United States; and

(B) expedite all other necessary reviews, analysis, and approvals needed to speed the required upgrades at the Soo Locks.

**SA 2538.** Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRAN RELATING TO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES UNDERMINING UNITED STATES CYBERSECURITY.**

(a) INVESTIGATION.—The President shall initiate an investigation into the possible designation of an Iranian person under subsection (b) upon receipt by the President of credible information indicating that the person has engaged in conduct described in subsection (b).

(b) DESIGNATION.—The President shall designate under this subsection any Iranian person that the President determines has knowingly—

(1) engaged in significant activities undermining United States cybersecurity conducted by the Government of Iran; or

(2) acted for or on behalf of the Government of Iran in connection with such activities.

(c) SANCTIONS.—The President shall block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of any Iranian person designated under subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(d) SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may suspend the application of sanctions under subsection (c) with respect to an Iranian person only if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees in writing a certification described in paragraph (2) and a detailed justification for the certification.

(2) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A certification described in this paragraph with respect to an Iranian person is a certification by the President that—

(i) the person has not, during the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the certification, knowingly engaged in activities that would qualify the person for designation under subsection (b); and

(ii) the person is not expected to resume any such activities.

(B) FORM OF CERTIFICATION.—The certification described in subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(e) REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—If sanctions are suspended with respect to an Iranian person under subsection (d), such sanctions shall be reinstated if the President determines that the person has resumed the activity that resulted in the initial imposition of sanctions or has engaged in any other activity subject to sanctions relating to the involvement of the person in significant activities undermining United States cybersecurity on behalf of the Government of Iran.

(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the President pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.), or any other provision of law.

(g) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that describes significant activities undermining United States

cybersecurity conducted by the Government of Iran, a person owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that Government, or any person acting for or on behalf of that Government.

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

(A) An assessment of the extent to which a foreign government has provided material support to the Government of Iran, to any person owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that Government, or to any person acting for or on behalf of that Government, in connection with the conduct of significant activities undermining United States cybersecurity.

(B) A strategy to counter efforts by Iran to conduct significant activities undermining United States cybersecurity that includes a description of efforts to engage foreign governments in preventing the Government of Iran, persons owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that Government, and persons acting for or on behalf of that Government from conducting significant activities undermining United States cybersecurity.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form but may include a classified annex.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) CYBERSECURITY.—The term “cybersecurity” means the activity or process, ability or capability, or state whereby information and communications systems and the information contained therein are protected from or defended against damage, unauthorized use or modification, or exploitation.

(3) IRANIAN PERSON.—The term “Iranian person” means—

(A) an individual who is a citizen or national of Iran; or

(B) an entity organized under the laws of Iran or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of Iran.

(4) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly” has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

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

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

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

**SA 2539.** Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

#### **SEC. 823. PREVENTING OUTSOURCING.**

(a) CONSIDERATION OF OUTSOURCING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2327 the following new section:

#### **“§ 2327a. Contracts: consideration of outsourcing of jobs**

“(a) DISCLOSURE OF OUTSOURCING OF JOBS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an agency shall require a contractor that submits a bid or proposal in response to a solicitation issued by the agency to disclose in that bid or proposal if the contractor, or a subsidiary of the contractor, owns a facility for which there is an outsourcing event during the three-year period ending on the date of the submittal of the bid or proposal.

“(2) OUTSOURCING EVENT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘outsourcing event’ means a plant closing or mass layoff (as described in section 2(a) of the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (29 U.S.C. 2101(a)) in which the employment loss (excluding any part-time employees) for positions which will be moved to a country outside of the United States exceeds 50 employees.

“(b) CONSIDERATION AUTHORIZED.—(1) Agency contracting officers considering bids or proposals in response to a solicitation issued by the agency may take into account any disclosure made pursuant to subsection (a) in such bids and proposals.

“(2) The head of an agency may establish a negative preference of up to 10 percent of the cost of a contract for purposes of evaluating a bid or proposal of a contractor that makes a disclosure pursuant to subsection (a).

“(c) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that agency contracting officers should, using section 2304(b)(3) of this title, exclude contractors making a disclosure pursuant to subsection (a) in response to solicitations issued by the agency from the bidding process in connection with such solicitations on the grounds that the actions described in the disclosures are against the public interests of the United States.

“(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—The head of each agency shall submit to Congress each year a report on the following:

“(1) The number of solicitations made by the agency during the preceding year for which disclosures were made pursuant to subsection (a) in responsive bids or proposals.

“(2) The number of contracts awarded by the agency during the preceding year in which such disclosures were taken into account in the contract award.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 137 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2327 the following new item:

“2327a. Contracts: consideration of outsourcing of jobs.”.

(b) EXCLUSION OF FIRMS FROM SOURCES.—Section 2304(b) of such title is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) The head of an agency may provide for the procurement of property and services covered by this chapter using competitive procedures but excluding a source making a disclosure pursuant to section 2327a(a) of this title in the bid or proposal in response to the solicitation issued by the agency if the head of the agency determines that the actions described by disclosure are against the public interests of the United States and the source is to be excluded on those grounds. Any such determination shall take into account the sense of Congress set forth in section 2327a(c) of this title.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (1), (2), and (3)”.

(c) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall amend the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to carry out the requirements of section 2327a of title 10, United States Code, as added by this section.

(2) TRAINING AND GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall develop and provide clear training and guidance to acquisition officials, contracting officers, and current and potential contractors regarding implementation policies and practices for section 2327a of title 10, United States Code, as added by this section.

(3) DEFINITION OF OUTSOURCING.—For purposes of defining outsourcing pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary of Defense may utilize regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Labor.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section, and the amendments made by this section, shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

**SA 2540.** Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

#### **SEC. 1250. REVIEW OF ASSESSMENT OF COMPLIANCE OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH UNITED STATES AND UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL NUCLEAR- AND MISSILE-RELATED SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the assessment of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State of the compliance of the People's Republic of China with nuclear- and missile-related sanctions imposed by the United States and the United Nations Security Council with respect to North Korea.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The review required by subsection (a) shall include the following, for the period beginning on January 1, 2016, and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act:

(1) A description of the key economic and trade relationships between the People's Republic of China and North Korea.

(2) An examination of the assessment of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State of the compliance of the People's Republic of China with sanctions described in subsection (a), including during the period in 2018 during which the United States and North Korea conducted negotiations relating to the nuclear program of North Korea.

(3) An analysis of the efforts of the United States to obtain the compliance of the People's Republic of China with such sanctions.

(c) INTERIM BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees an interim briefing on the review required by subsection (a).

(d) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the results of the review required by subsection (a).

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

(1) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2541.** Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1226. REVIEW OF REINSTATEMENT OF UNITED STATES SANCTIONS IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO IRAN AND WAIVED PURSUANT TO JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the reinstatement by the United States of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran that were waived pursuant to the terms of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The review required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A description and evaluation of the United States interagency processes involved in planning for and implementing the reinstatement of the sanctions described in subsection (a), from 2017 through 2019.

(2) An analysis of the effect of personnel and resource shortfalls at the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State on the implementation of the reinstatement of such sanctions.

(3) An analysis of the anticipated compliance and enforcement challenges resulting from unilaterally reinstating sanctions with respect to Iran.

(c) **INTERIM BRIEFING.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees an interim briefing on the review required by subsection (a).

(d) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the results of the review required by subsection (a).

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Perma-

nent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) **JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION.**—The term “Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” means the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed at Vienna on July 14, 2015, by Iran and by France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and all implementing materials and agreements related to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

**SA 2542.** Mr. DONNELLY (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 94, lines 21 and 22, strike “to the maximum extent practicable” and insert “based on the Federal Acquisition Regulations”.

**SA 2543.** Mr. DONNELLY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 864. PILOT PROGRAM TO DEVELOP INDUSTRIAL BASE PLANS AND PROJECTIONS FOR MAJOR DEFENSE ACQUISITION PROGRAMS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense, working through the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, and in coordination with the Secretaries of the military departments, shall establish a pilot program to develop industrial base plans and projections for elements of the defense industrial bases that support selected major defense acquisition programs.

(b) **DESIGNATION OF MDAPs.**—The Secretary of Defense shall designate not less than two major defense acquisition programs for each military department to participate in the pilot program. Not less than two of the programs designated shall be software-intensive systems.

(c) **INFORMATION REPOSITORY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—For each major defense acquisition program designated to participate in the pilot program, the Secretary concerned, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, shall develop an information repository that includes information on—

(A) primary and subtier suppliers of major and critical components, technologies, and services supporting the program;

(B) the location of each supplier, as well as the location of any supplier facilities supporting the program that are located outside of the United States;

(C) the ability of each supplier to support the requirements of the program over the future-years defense program and the next 10 years;

(D) for each supplier or supplier facility as referenced in subsection (b)(1)(B) that is not located in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, or the United Kingdom, an assessment of the time and cost associated with securing an alternative domestic source of supply should the need arise;

(E) critical shortfalls in specific elements of the program's supporting industrial base; and

(F) other information as deemed appropriate by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.

(2) **USE OF REPOSITORY.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and other appropriate officials shall use the repositories established under paragraph (1) to assess critical shortfalls and dependence on industrial base capabilities that affect multiple programs, including programs not participating in the pilot program under this section.

(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on activities under the pilot program, including—

(1) identification of programs participating in the pilot;

(2) a description of the information repository and analysis tools being used to support the program;

(3) a description of industrial base shortfalls identified in the pilot program; and

(4) a description of the overseas locations identified under subsection (c)(1)(B), and an assessment of industrial base risks associated with those locations over the future-years defense program and the next 10 years.

**SA 2544.** Mr. REED submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1026. RISKS FACED BY FORMER DETAINEES AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA, WHO ARE OF LIBYAN, UIGHUR, OR YEMENI ORIGIN IN RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY.**

(a) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—

(1) **FINDINGS.**—The Senate makes the following findings:

(A) Countries that have agreed to accept detainees from the detention center at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, have an obligation under international law to ensure the individuals are not transferred to countries where there is a real risk of torture, arbitrary deprivation of life, or other violations of fundamental rights.

(B) Dozens of former detainees at the detention center who are of Libyan, Uighur and Yemeni origin are currently resettled in third countries.

(2) **SENSE OF SENATE.**—It is the sense of the Senate that the countries that host former detainees who are of Libyan, Uighur, or

Yemini origin should be cognizant of their obligations under international law when making decisions about such former detainees.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the Secretary of State, submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the risk of torture, arbitrary deprivation of life, or other violations of fundamental rights that former detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, who are of Libyan, Uighur, or Yemeni origin would face if returned to their country of nationality.

**SA 2545.** Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

**SEC. —. PLAN FOR RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATIONS OF AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE SYSTEMS TO REDUCE BASE OPERATIONS COSTS.**

(a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment shall, in consultation with the Secretaries of the military departments and the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, submit to the congressional defense committees a plan for the development, demonstration, and employment of autonomous vehicle technologies to reduce base operations costs.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An overview of the potential for autonomous vehicles to reduce base operations costs.

(2) A description of the potential of commercially-available autonomous vehicles to be demonstrated on military installations in the next three years, including emerging transportation technologies on-base, especially those that help reduce costs, improve safety, and deliver required services more efficiently and effectively.

(3) A description of the benefits of coordination with industrial, academic, and State and local partners in demonstrations of and deployment of autonomous vehicles to reduce base operations costs.

(4) Plans for research and development activities, including establishment of testbeds, that would improve the capabilities of autonomous vehicles to reduce base operations costs.

(5) Plans to develop data collection methodologies, data analysis techniques, and metrics to evaluate the success of initiatives relating to the development, demonstration, and employment of autonomous vehicle technologies to reduce base operations costs.

(6) Plans for specific demonstration activities at military installations relating to employment of autonomous vehicle technologies to reduce base operations costs.

**SA 2546.** Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations

for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. —. STRATEGY FOR MAINTAINING UNITED STATES LEADERSHIP AND COMPETITIVENESS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.**

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Defense shall, in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, develop a long-term strategy for maintaining the leadership and competitiveness of the United States in the use of artificial intelligence technologies in national security.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the strategy required by paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense shall consider the following:

(A) Long-term global trends of state and non-state actor development and use of artificial intelligence technologies.

(B) Ethical implications of development of and use of artificial intelligence in national security.

(C) Domestic and international legal implications of artificial intelligence in national security.

(D) Opportunities for international cooperation to establish international norms for the use of artificial intelligence technologies in national security.

(E) The benefits and risks of using artificial intelligence technologies in national security.

(F) Workforce development requirements and challenges.

(G) Assessments of capabilities and technologies under development by the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

(3) **SUBMITTAL.**—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the strategy required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the strategy. Such strategy shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

**(b) REPORT ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the following:

(A) Long-term global trends of state and non-state actor development and use of artificial intelligence technologies.

(B) Ethical implications of development of and use of artificial intelligence in national security.

(C) Legal (both domestic and international) implications of artificial intelligence in national security.

(D) Opportunities for international cooperation to establish international norms for the use of artificial technologies in national security.

(E) The benefits and risks of using artificial intelligence technologies for national security.

(2) **FORM.**—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the congressional defense committees;

(2) the congressional intelligence committees (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2547.** Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Mr. COONS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 1626 and insert the following:

**SEC. 1626. ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL MANUFACTURERS IN THE DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY CHAIN ON MATTERS RELATING TO CYBERSECURITY.**

(a) **DISSEMINATION OF CYBERSECURITY RESOURCES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, shall take such actions as may be necessary to enhance awareness of cybersecurity threats among small manufacturers in the defense industrial supply chain.

(2) **PRIORITY.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall prioritize efforts to increase awareness to help reduce cybersecurity risks faced by small manufacturers described in paragraph (1), including through the use of small business development centers and the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

(3) **SECTOR FOCUS.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall carry out this subsection with a focus on such industry sectors as the Under Secretary considers critical.

(4) **OUTREACH EVENTS.**—Under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall conduct outreach to support activities consistent with this section. Such outreach may include live events with a physical presence and outreach conducted through Internet websites.

(b) **VOLUNTARY CYBERSECURITY SELF-ASSESSMENTS.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall develop mechanisms to provide assistance to help small manufacturers conduct voluntary self-assessments in order to understand operating environments, cybersecurity requirements, and existing vulnerabilities, including through the Mentor Protégé Program, small business programs, and engagements with defense laboratories and test ranges.

(c) **TRANSFER OF RESEARCH FINDINGS AND EXPERTISE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall promote the transfer of appropriate technology and techniques developed in the Department of Defense to small manufacturers throughout the United States to implement security measures that are adequate to protect covered defense information, including controlled unclassified information.

(2) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL EXPERTISE AND CAPABILITIES.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall coordinate efforts, when appropriate, with the expertise and capabilities

that exist in Federal agencies and federally sponsored laboratories.

(3) **AGREEMENTS.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering may enter into agreements with private industry, institutes of higher education, or a State, United States territory, local, or tribal government to ensure breadth and depth of coverage to the United States defense industrial base and to leverage resources.

(d) **DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE CYBER TRAINING PROGRAM.**—The Secretary of Defense shall establish a cyber counseling certification program, or approve a similar existing program, to certify small business professionals and other relevant acquisition staff within the Department of Defense and designated employees of small business development centers to provide cyber planning assistance to small manufacturers in the defense industrial supply chain. Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Department of Defense may reimburse small business development centers for costs related to certification training under this subsection.

(e) **AUTHORITIES.**—In executing this program, the Secretary may use the following authorities:

(1) The Manufacturing Technology Program established under section 2521 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The Centers for Science, Technology, and Engineering Partnership program under section 2368 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The Manufacturing Engineering Education Program established under section 2196 of title 10, United States Code.

(4) The Small Business Innovation Research program.

(5) The mentor-protégé program.

(6) Other legal authorities as the Secretary deems necessary for the effective and efficient execution of the program.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **RESOURCES.**—The term “resources” means guidelines, tools, best practices, standards, methodologies, and other ways of providing information.

(2) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.**—The term “small business concern” means a small business concern as that term is used in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(3) **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER.**—The term “small business development center” means a small business development center described in section 21 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648).

(4) **SMALL MANUFACTURER.**—The term “small manufacturer” means a small business concern that is a manufacturer.

(5) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, Territories, and possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**SA 2548.** Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 718, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

(3) affect the integrity or outcome of United States elections at any level, including at the Federal, State, and local levels;

**SA 2549.** Mr. JONES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 550. REPORTS ON RACIAL AND SEXUAL DISPARITIES IN DEMOGRAPHICS OF MILITARY JUSTICE AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each Secretary of a military department shall submit to the President, and to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, a report on racial and sexual disparities in the demographics of military justice and disciplinary proceedings against members of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary during the 15-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following, conducted by the Secretary of the military department concerned for purposes of such report:

(1) A comprehensive demographic analysis of military justice and other disciplinary proceedings against members of the Armed Forces concerned during the period described in subsection (a).

(2) A comprehensive analysis and description of any disparities in justice or other proceedings among such members based on race or sex.

**SA 2550.** Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

**SEC. 633. POLICY ON CONSIDERATION OF FRAUD AGAINST MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OR THEIR DEPENDENTS IN DETERMINATIONS TO PERMIT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO OPERATE ON MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

The Secretary of Defense may issue a formal policy, applicable Department of Defense-wide, requiring that any determination after the date of issuance of the policy on whether to permit or continue to permit a financial institution to operate on a military installation of the Department of Defense shall take into account, in such manner as the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the policy, the nature and scope of any order against the financial institution pursuant to section 987 of title 10, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Military Lending Act”), or the Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501 et seq.) involving members of the Armed Forces or their dependents.

**SA 2551.** Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for

military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12. REPORTS ON MID-AIR REFUELING OF AIRCRAFT OF THE SAUDI-LED COALITION CONDUCTING OPERATIONS IN YEMEN.**

(a) **REPORTS REQUIRED.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 60 days thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on any mid-air refueling provided by the United States under a covered acquisition or cross-servicing agreement for any aircraft of the Saudi-led coalition for purposes of a mission in or against Yemen.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report under subsection (a) shall include, for the 60-day period ending on the date of such report, the following:

(1) An identification of each aircraft of the Saudi-led coalition provided mid-air refueling as described in subsection (a).

(2) The intended target or targets of such aircraft on the mission during which refueled.

(3) The targets struck by such aircraft on such mission.

(4) The results of such mission.

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

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term “covered acquisition or cross-servicing agreement” means an agreement under section 2342 of title 10, United States Code, or any other acquisition or cross-servicing agreement, with Saudi Arabia or a country of the Saudi-led coalition.

(2) The term “Saudi-led coalition” means the coalition of countries led by Saudi Arabia that is conducting military operations in or against Yemen.

**SA 2552.** Mr. UDALL (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 3119. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING URANIUM MINING AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING.**

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should compensate and recognize all of the miners, workers, downwinders, and others suffering from the effects of uranium mining and nuclear weapons testing carried out during the Cold War.

**SA 2553.** Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. TILLIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize

appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 682, line 18, strike “the title for” and insert “or deliver”.

**SA 2554.** Mrs. FISCHER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 340. REPORT ON AIR FORCE AIRFIELD OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2019, the Secretary of the Air Force shall conduct an assessment and submit to the congressional defense committees a report detailing the operational requirements for Air Force airfields.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment of the state of airfields where runway degradation currently poses a threat to operations and airfields where such degradation threatens operations in the next five and ten years.

(2) A description of the operational requirements for airfields, including an assessment of the impact to operations, cost to repair, cost to replace, remaining useful life, and the required daily maintenance to ensure runways are acceptable for full operations.

(3) A description of any challenges with infrastructure acquisition methods and processes.

(4) An assessment of the operational impact in the event a runway were to become inoperable due to a major degradation incident, such as a crack or fracture resulting from lack of maintenance and repair.

(5) A plan to address any shortfalls associated with the Air Force's runway infrastructure.

(c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a) shall be in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex as necessary.

**SA 2555.** Mr. CASSIDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 316. REQUIRED GULF OF MEXICO LEASE SALES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note; Public Law 109-432) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “June 30, 2022” and inserting “June 30, 2019”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM.—Effective during the period beginning on July 1, 2019 and ending on June 30, 2026, the Secretary shall not offer for leasing, preleasing, or any related activity any area in the Eastern Planning Area that is within 50 miles of the coastline of the State of Florida.”.

(b) REQUIRED LEASE SALES.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) EASTERN PLANNING AREA.—The term “Eastern Planning Area” means the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area of the outer Continental Shelf, as designated in the document entitled “2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program” and dated January 2018.

(B) OIL AND GAS LEASING PROGRAM.—The term “oil and gas leasing program” means the 5-year oil and gas leasing program prepared by the Secretary of the Interior under section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) (as in effect on the date of the applicable lease sale under paragraph (2)).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) REQUIRED LEASE SALES.—Notwithstanding any omission of any portion of the Eastern Planning Area from the oil and gas leasing program, the Secretary shall—

(A) offer for oil and gas leasing under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) all available leases in the Eastern Planning Area; and

(B) conduct—

(i) not fewer than 1 lease sale in the Eastern Planning Area before December 31, 2020; and

(ii) a second lease sale in the Eastern Planning Area before December 31, 2023.

**SA 2556.** Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following:

**TITLE XVIII—AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE**

**SEC. 1801. SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Authorization for Use of Military Force Against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria”.

**SEC. 1802. PURPOSES.**

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To update the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) in order to provide legal authority for military action against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria due to the continued threat they pose to the United States.

(2) To establish a process for oversight by Congress of military action against persons or forces associated with al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria that pose a direct threat to the United States.

(3) To repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force and the Authorization for Use

of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note).

**SEC. 1803. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES TO PREVENT FUTURE ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—In order to prevent any future acts of international terrorism against the United States, the President is authorized to use all necessary and appropriate force against—

(1) al-Qaeda and the Taliban;

(2) the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the Islamic State, Daesh, ISIS, and ISIL); and

(3) associated persons or forces as provided in section 1804.

(b) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.—Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1547(a)(1)), Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1544(b)).

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this title supersedes any requirements of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

**SEC. 1804. ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES.**

(a) ASSOCIATED PERSONS AND FORCES.—For purposes of section 3(a)(3), the term “associated persons or forces” means any person or force, other than a sovereign nation, that—

(1) is a part of, or substantially supports al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria; and

(2) is engaged in hostilities against the United States, its Armed Forces, or its other personnel.

(b) INITIAL ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(a)(3), the term “associated persons or forces” includes any person or force meeting the definition in subsection (a) that is specified in the report under paragraph (2).

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the President shall submit to Congress a report specifying the persons or forces (other than the groups al-Nusra Front (also known as Jabhat al-Nusra and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham), Khorasan Group, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and al-Shabaab, which Congress considers to be associated persons or forces for purposes of this title) that are associated persons or forces under subsection (a) as of the date of the enactment of this title.

(3) DISAPPROVAL.—The treatment of persons or forces specified in the report under paragraph (2) as associated persons or forces under subsection (a) is subject to disapproval in accordance with section 1806.

(c) ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 3(a)(3), the term “associated persons or forces” shall also include any person or force meeting the definition in subsection (a) that is specified in a report under paragraph (2).

(2) REPORT.—Upon a determination by the President that any persons or forces not previously treated as associated persons or forces for purposes of section 1803(a)(3) shall be treated under this subsection as associated persons or forces, the President shall submit to Congress a report specifying that such persons or forces are to be treated under this subsection as associated persons or forces. Persons or forces may not be specified in such a report if such persons or forces have previously been disapproved in accordance with section 6 for treatment as associated persons or forces under subsection (a).

(3) **DISAPPROVAL.**—The treatment of persons or forces specified in a report under paragraph (2) as associated persons or forces under subsection (a) is subject to disapproval in accordance with section 1806.

**SEC. 1805. COUNTRIES IN WHICH OPERATIONS AUTHORIZED.**

Subject to disapproval in accordance with section 1806, the use of force authorized by section 3 may take place in a country (other than Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Libya, or Yemen) if the President submits to Congress a report on the use of force in such country that includes the following:

(1) The name of the country in which the use of force will take place.

(2) A description of the presence in the country of al-Qaeda, the Taliban, or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or associated persons or forces currently covered by section 1804.

(3) A justification why the use of force in the country is necessary and appropriate.

**SEC. 1806. EXPEDITED PROCEDURES FOR JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF USE OF FORCE AGAINST INITIAL OR ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES OR IN OTHER COUNTRIES.**

(a) **RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.**—For purposes of this section, the term “resolution” means only a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress—

(1) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution of disapproval of an addition by the President to the scope of the Authorization for Use of Military Force against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.”;

(2) which does not have a preamble; and

(3) either—

(A) with respect to a report submitted under section 1804(b) or 1804(c), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That Congress does not approve the use of force against \_\_\_\_\_ under the Authorization for Use of Military Force against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.”, the blank space being filled with the persons or forces concerned; or

(B) with respect to a report submitted under section 1805, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That Congress does not approve the use of force in \_\_\_\_\_ under the Authorization for Use of Military Force against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.”, the blank space being filled with the country concerned.

(b) **CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.**—

(1) **REFERRAL.**—Any resolution introduced in the Senate shall be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(2) **IN GENERAL.**—If the committee has not reported a resolution within 10 session days after the date of referral of the resolution, the committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the resolution and the resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) **PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.**—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order, not later than 2 days of session after the date on which the resolution is reported or discharged from the committees, for the Majority Leader of the Senate or the Majority Leader’s designee to move to proceed to the consideration of the resolution. Thereafter, it shall be in order for any Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the consideration of the resolution at any time. A motion to proceed is not in order if a previous motion to the same effect has been disposed of. All points of order against the motion to proceed to the resolution are waived. The motion to proceed is not debatable. The mo-

tion to proceed to the resolution is not subject to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion to proceed is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order.

(4) **WAIVER OF ALL POINTS OF ORDER.**—All points of order against the resolution (and against consideration of the resolution) are waived.

(5) **RULES TO COORDINATE ACTION WITH OTHER HOUSE.**—If, before the passage by one House of a resolution of that House, the House receives from the other House a resolution identical to a resolution introduced in that House, then the following procedures shall apply:

(A) The resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

(B) The procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no resolution has been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the identical resolution received from the other House shall supplant the resolution of the receiving House.

(C) If one House fails to introduce or consider a resolution identical to one passed by the other House, the resolution of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this subsection.

(D) If, following passage of the resolution in the Senate, the Senate receives an identical resolution from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the identical resolution in the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on passage of the resolution received from the House of Representatives.

(c) **ACTION AFTER PASSAGE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If Congress passes a resolution, the period beginning on the date the President is presented with the resolution and ending on the date the President takes action with respect to the resolution shall be disregarded in computing the 60-calendar-day period described in section 1807(b).

(2) **VETOES.**—If the President vetoes a resolution—

(A) the period beginning on the date the President vetoes the resolution and ending on the date the Congress receives the veto message with respect to the resolution shall be disregarded in computing the 60-calendar-day period described in section 1807(b); and

(B) debate in the Senate of any veto message with respect to the resolution, including all debatable motions and appeals in connection with the resolution, shall be limited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate or their designees.

**SEC. 1807. EFFECT OF ENACTMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL OF USE OF FORCE AGAINST INITIAL OR ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES OR IN OTHER COUNTRIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

(1) **AGAINST INITIAL OR ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATED PERSONS OR FORCES.**—Subject to subsection (b), upon the enactment by Congress of a resolution described in section 1806(a) with respect to the use of force pursuant to section 3 against initial associated persons or forces pursuant to 1804(b), or against additional associated persons or forces pursuant to section 1804(c), the authority under this title to use force against such persons or forces shall cease.

(2) **IN OTHER COUNTRIES.**—Subject to subsection (b), upon the enactment by Congress of a resolution described in section 1806(a) with respect to the use of force pursuant to section 3 in another country pursuant to section 5, the authority under this title to use force in that country shall cease.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR EFFECTIVENESS.**—Except as provided in section 1806(c), a resolution

described in section 1806(a) is effective only if enacted during the 60-calendar-day period beginning on the date on which the President submits to Congress the report on the associated persons or forces concerned under section 1804(b) or 1804(c) or on the country concerned under section 1805, as applicable.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The authority sought by the President pursuant to the report under section 1804(b), to specify initial associated persons or forces to be covered by section 1803(a)(3), pursuant to a report under section 1804(c), to add additional associated persons or forces to the associated persons or forces currently covered by section 1803(a)(3), or pursuant to a report under section 1805, to authorize the use of force under section 1803 in a country or countries not explicitly set forth in section 1805, shall exist as of the date of the report concerned and continue until a resolution of disapproval described in section 1806(a), if any, is enacted by Congress in accordance with section 1806.

**SEC. 1808. DURATION OF AUTHORIZATION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to encourage periodic review of the use of force authorized by this title, the authorization for use of force in section 1803 shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this title, unless reauthorized by Congress.

(b) **REAUTHORIZATION.**—Before the expiration of this title, this title may be reauthorized pursuant to section 1811.

**SEC. 1809. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE.**

The Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is repealed, effective 60 days after the date of the enactment of this title.

**SEC. 1810. REPEAL OF AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST IRAQ RESOLUTION OF 2002.**

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is repealed, effective 60 days after the date of the enactment of this title.

**SEC. 1811. EXPEDITED PROCEDURES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE.**

(a) **RESOLUTION OF REAUTHORIZATION.**—For purposes of this section, the term “resolution” also means a joint resolution of the two Houses of Congress—

(1) which is introduced not later than 180 before the date of the expiration of this title in accordance with section 8(a);

(2) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution to reauthorize the Authorization for Use of Military Force against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.”;

(3) which does not have a preamble; and

(4) the matter after the enacting clause of which is as follows: “The Authorization for the Use of Military Force against al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria is amended in section 8(a) by striking ‘5 years’ and inserting ‘10 years’.”.

(b) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURES.**—Consideration of the resolution described in subsection (a) shall be governed by the procedures set forth in section 1806, as if the resolution described in subsection (a) were a resolution described in section 1806(a), including the procedures relating to veto messages specified in section 1806(c).

**SEC. 1812. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

(a) **STRATEGY.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this title, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees and leadership of Congress a report setting forth a comprehensive strategy of the United States, encompassing military, economic, humanitarian, and diplomatic capabilities, to protect the United States from al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and the Islamic State

of Iraq and Syria in their fight to defeat such organizations.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY.—

(1) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this title, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees and leadership of Congress a written report setting forth a current comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the strategy required by subsection (a), including a description of any substantive change to the strategy (including the reasons for the change and the effect of the change on the rest of the strategy).

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under this subsection shall include a description of the specific actions taken pursuant to this title to address the threat to the United States posed by transnational terrorist organizations and associated persons or forces, including—

(A) a description of the specific authorities relied upon for such actions;

(B) the persons and forces targeted by such actions;

(C) the nature and location of such actions; and

(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of such actions.

(c) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON OPERATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this title, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall submit to Congress a report setting forth the following:

(1) A list of the organizations, persons, and forces against which operations were conducted under the authority of this title during the 90-day period ending on the date of the report.

(2) A list of all foreign countries in which the United States conducted operations under the authority of this title during such 90-day period.

(d) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—Any report submitted under this section may include a classified annex.

(e) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees and leadership of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(2) the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.

**SA 2557.** Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 873. REPORTING ON PROJECTS PERFORMED THROUGH TRANSACTIONS OTHER THAN CONTRACTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND GRANTS.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than December 31, 2018, and each December 31 thereafter through December 31, 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report covering the preceding fiscal year on projects described in subsection (b).

(b) CONTENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) for each project performed through a transaction (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants) entered into pursuant to section 2371 or 2371b of title 10, United States Code, for which payments made by the Department of Defense exceeded \$5,000,000 for such transaction—

(A) an identification of the element of the Department of Defense and the person or entity outside of the Department of Defense entering into such transaction;

(B) the date of entry into such transaction;

(C) the amount of the payments made by the Department of Defense for such transaction;

(D) the goals and status of each project carried out under such transaction; and

(E) the start date and anticipated end date of each project carried out under such transaction; and

(2) a description of the mechanisms, including any policies, guidance, and reporting requirements, established by the Secretary of Defense to regulate the use of authority relating to a transaction (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants) entered into pursuant to section 2371 or 2371b of title 10, United States Code.

**SA 2558.** Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 823. MODIFICATIONS TO PROCUREMENT THROUGH COMMERCIAL E-COMMERCE PORTALS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 846 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 41 U.S.C. 1901 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (j) and (k) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsections:

“(j) MICRO-PURCHASE THRESHOLD.—Notwithstanding section 2338 of title 10, United States Code, and section 1902 of title 41, United States Code, the micro-purchase threshold for a procurement of a product through a commercial e-commerce portal used under the program established under subsection (a) is \$25,000.

“(k) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—Procedures established by the Administrator for a procurement through a commercial e-commerce portal used under the program established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be considered use of competitive procedures for purposes of division C of subtitle I of title 41, United States Code (as defined in section 152 of such title).

“(1) EXCEPTIONS FOR GOVERNMENT-WIDE INDEFINITE DELIVERY, INDEFINITE QUANTITY MULTIPLE-AWARD CONTRACTS.—Pursuant to subsection (a), if the Administrator issues a solicitation for one or more contracts under the authority of sections 4103 and 4106 of title 41, United States Code (multiple award task or delivery order contracts), or section 152(3) of such title and section 501(b) of title 40, United States Code (Federal Supply Schedule contracts), then—

“(1) the requirements at section 3306(c)(1)(B) and (C) of title 41, United States Code, shall not apply; and

“(2) cost or price to the Federal Government shall be considered in conjunction with the issuance pursuant to section 4106(c) of title 41, United States Code, of a task or delivery order under any contract resulting from the solicitation.”

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (n)(3) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a) of this section, is amended by striking “agencies.” and inserting “agencies, unless such portal is designed for the purpose of accessing multiple other e-commerce portals, including commercial portals, via a single view for the purchase of commercial products.”.

**SA 2559.** Mr. DURBIN (for Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle I of title VIII, add the following:

**SEC. 896. DEFENSE CONTRACT AUDIT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT.**

(a) REVISIONS TO REPORT ELEMENTS.—Subsection (a) of section 2313a(a) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “significant” and all that follows through the semicolon at the end, and inserting “the regulatory requirements that create compliance difficulties for contractors, including an analysis of how those regulatory requirements affect contractors of different sizes and industries;”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking subparagraphs (A) through (E) and inserting the following:

“(A) the total number of new audit or advisory engagements, by type (pre-award, incurred cost, other post-award, and business system), with time limits expiring during the fiscal year that were completed or were awaiting completion, as compared to total audit and advisory engagements completed or awaiting completion during the year;

“(B) on-time performance relative to time limits for each type of audit or advisory engagement (shown separately for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and qualified private auditors retained by the agency);

“(C) the time limit (expressed in days) for each type of audit or advisory engagement, along with the shortest period, longest period, and average period of actual performance (shown separately for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and qualified private auditors retained by the agency);

“(D) for pre-award audits and advisory engagements of contractor costs, sustained costs as a total number and as a percentage of total questioned costs, where questioned

costs are expressed as the impact on negotiable contract costs (shown separately for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and qualified private auditors retained by the agency);

“(E) for post-award audits and advisory engagements of contractor costs, the questioned costs accepted by the contracting officers and contractors as a total number and as a percentage of total questioned costs, where questioned costs are expressed as the impact on reimbursable contract (shown separately for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and qualified private auditors retained by the agency);” and

(B) in subparagraph (H)—

(i) by inserting “post-award” after “dollar value of”; and

(ii) by striking “submission” and inserting “proposal”;

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), and (9), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) A summary of the reasons for the difference between questioned and sustained costs shown in the statistical tables under paragraph (2).”;

(5) in paragraph (4) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection), by striking “needed to improve the audit process;” and inserting “needed by the Defense Contract Audit Agency to improve the audit process or that would enhance compliance with regulatory requirements.”;

(6) in paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection), by striking “more effective use of audit resources;” and inserting “contract compliance and professional development of the Defense Contract Audit Agency workforce (shown separately for collaborative outreach actions and other outreach actions).”; and

(7) by inserting after paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (3) of this subsection) the following new paragraph:

“(8) A statistically representative survey of contracting officers from Department of Defense buying commands, the Defense Contract Management Agency, and small and large business representatives from industry to measure the timeliness and effectiveness of audit and advisory services provided (shown separately for the Defense Contract Audit Agency and qualified private auditors retained by the Defense Contract Audit Agency).”;

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (a) of such section is further amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “shall include, at a minimum—” and inserting “shall include the following.”;

(2) by capitalizing the first letter following the paragraph designation in each of paragraphs (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (9); and

(3) by striking the semicolon at the end of each of paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (6) and inserting a period.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by striking “qualified incurred cost submission” and inserting “qualified private auditor”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2020.

**SA 2560.** Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy,

to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

**SEC. —. STUDY ON RECRUITMENT OF STUDENTS WITH EXPERIENCE IN CERTAIN TECHNICAL FIELDS.**

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study to determine how the Department of Defense can attract and recruit from institutions of higher education, including the institutions described in subsection (b), students with educational backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including the fields of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cybersecurity.

(b) **INSTITUTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The institutions described in this subsection are—

(1) Hispanic Serving Institutions (as defined in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a));

(2) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (as defined in section 322 of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1061)); and

(3) Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (as defined in Section 371(c) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(c))).

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

**SA 2561.** Ms. HARRIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 558. DIRECT EMPLOYMENT PILOT PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE COMPONENTS AND VETERANS.**

(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Defense may enter into agreements with the chief executives of the States to carry out pilot programs to enhance the efforts of the Department of Defense to provide job placement assistance and related employment services directly to unemployed or underemployed members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and veterans.

(b) **COST-SHARING.**—Any agreement under subsection (a) shall require that the State must contribute an amount, derived from non-Federal sources, that equals or exceeds 50 percent of the funds provided by the Secretary to the State under this section to support the operation of the pilot program in that State.

(c) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The pilot program in a State shall be administered by the adjutant general in that State appointed under section 314 of title 32, United States Code. If the adjutant general is unavailable or unable to administer a pilot program, the Secretary, after consulting with the chief executive of the State, shall designate an official of that State to administer that pilot program.

(d) **PROGRAM MODEL.**—A pilot program under this section—

(1) shall use a job placement program model that focuses on working one-on-one with individuals described in subsection (a) to provide cost-effective job placement services, including—

(A) job matching services;

(B) resume editing;

(C) interview preparation; and

(D) post-employment follow up; and

(2) shall incorporate best practices of State-operated direct employment programs for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and veterans, such as the programs conducted in California and South Carolina.

(e) **SKILLBRIDGE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.**—A pilot program under this section shall utilize civilian training opportunities through the SkillBridge transition training program administered by the Department of Defense.

(f) **EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall develop outcome measurements to evaluate the success of any pilot program established under this provision.

(g) **REPORTING.**—

(1) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than March 1, 2021, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Chief of the National Guard Bureau, shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report describing the results of any pilot program established under this section.

(2) **ELEMENTS.**—A report under paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

(A) A description and assessment of the effectiveness and achievements of the pilot program, including—

(i) the number of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces and veterans hired; and

(ii) the cost-per-placement of participating members and veterans.

(B) An assessment of the impact of the pilot program and increased reserve component employment levels on—

(i) the readiness of members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces; and

(ii) retention of service members.

(C) A comparison of the pilot program to other programs conducted by the Department of Defense or Department of Veterans Affairs to provide unemployment and underemployment support to members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces or veterans, including best practices the improved the effectiveness of such programs.

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

(h) **DURATION OF AUTHORITY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the authority to carry out a pilot program under this section expires on September 30, 2023.

(2) **EXTENSION.**—The Secretary may extend a pilot program under this section beyond the date in paragraph (1) by not more than two years.

**SA 2562.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. —. REPORT ON HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, AND EL SALVADOR.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, 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 regarding narcotics trafficking corruption and illicit campaign finance in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the names of senior government officials in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador who are known to have committed or facilitated acts of grand corruption or narcotics trafficking;

(2) the names of elected officials in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador who are known to have received campaign funds that are the proceeds of narco-trafficking or other illicit activities in the last 2 years; and

(3) the names of individuals in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador who are known to have facilitated the financing of political campaigns in any of the Northern Triangle countries with the proceeds of narco-trafficking or other illicit activities in the last 2 years.

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

**SA 2563.** Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WORKFORCE.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) **APPLICANT FLOW DATA.**—The term “applicant flow data” means data that tracks the rate of applications for job positions among demographic categories.

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(3) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means the Department of Defense and the Coast Guard.

(4) **DIVERSITY.**—The term “diversity” means all the different characteristics and attributes of the total workforce of the Department, which are consistent with the core values of the Department, integral to overall readiness and mission accomplishment, and reflective of the Nation.

(5) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means—

(A) the Secretary of Defense; and

(B) the Secretary of Homeland Security in the case of the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Department of the Navy.

(6) **WORKFORCE.**—The term “workforce” means an individual serving in a position—

(A) in the civil service (as defined in section 2101 of title 5, United States Code); or

(B) as a member of the Armed Forces, including commissioned officers and senior enlisted personnel of each Armed Force, including the reserve components.

(b) **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION STRATEGIC PLAN.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Department should—

(1) employ an aligned strategic outreach effort to identify, attract, and recruit from a broad talent pool reflective of the best of the Nation;

(2) be an employer of choice that is competitive in attracting and recruiting top talent;

(3) develop, mentor, and retain top talents from across the total force;

(4) establish the position of the Department as an employer of choice by creating a merit-based workforce life-cycle continuum that focuses on personal and professional development through training, education, and developing employment flexibility to retain a highly-skilled workforce;

(5) ensure leadership commitment to an accountable and sustained diversity effort; and

(6) develop structures and strategies to equip leadership with the ability to manage diversity, be accountable, and engender an inclusive work environment that cultivates innovation and optimization within the Department.

(c) **INITIAL REPORTING PERIOD.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every fiscal year through fiscal year 2024, the Secretary shall make available to the public and the appropriate congressional committees a report which includes aggregate demographic data and other information regarding the diversity and inclusion efforts of the workforce of the Department.

(2) **DATA.**—Each report made available under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall include barrier analysis related to diversity and inclusion efforts;

(B) shall include aggregate demographic data—

(i) by segment of the workforce of the Department and grade or rank;

(ii) by military service and civil service job code;

(iii) relating to attrition and promotion rates;

(iv) that addresses the compliance of the Department with validated inclusion metrics;

(v) that provides demographic comparisons to the relevant non-Governmental labor force and the relevant civilian labor force;

(vi) on the diversity of selection boards;

(vii) on the employment of minority and service-disabled veterans during the most recent 10-year period, including—

(I) the number hired through direct hires, internships, and fellowship programs; and

(II) attrition rates by grade, in the civil service and military service, and in the senior positions; and

(viii) on mentorship and retention programs;

(C) shall include an analysis of applicant flow data, including the percentage, number, and level of positions (which shall include internships) for which data are collected and a discussion of any resulting policy changes or recommendations;

(D) may include a recommendation (which shall be made after close consultation with internal stakeholders, such as employee resource or affinity groups) regarding whether the Department should voluntarily collect more detailed data on demographic categories in addition to the race and ethnicity categories specified in the statistical policy directive issued by the Office of Management and Budget entitled “Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity”; and

(E) shall include demographic data relating to participants in professional development programs of the Department and the

rate of placement into senior positions for participants in such programs;

(F) shall include any voluntarily collected demographic data relating to the membership of any external advisory committee or board to which individuals in senior positions in the Department appoint members;

(G) shall be organized in terms of real numbers and percentages at all levels; and

(H) shall be made available in a searchable database format.

(3) **OTHER CONTENTS.**—Each report made available under paragraph (1) shall describe the efforts of the Department to—

(A) propagate fairness, impartiality, and inclusion in the work environment domestically and abroad;

(B) ensure that harassment, intolerance, and discrimination are not tolerated;

(C) refrain from engaging in unlawful discrimination in any phase of the employment process, including recruitment, hiring, evaluation, assignments, promotion, retention, and training;

(D) prevent illegal retaliation against employees for participating in a protected equal employment opportunity activity;

(E) provide reasonable accommodation for qualified employees and applicants with disabilities;

(F) resolve workplace conflicts, confrontations, and complaints in a prompt, impartial, constructive, and timely manner; and

(G) recruit a diverse workforce by—

(i) recruiting women, minorities, veterans, and undergraduate and graduate students;

(ii) recruiting at historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, women’s colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(iii) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(iv) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward women and people of color; and

(v) recruiting mid-level and senior-level professionals through programs designed to increase minority representation in national security.

(4) **INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.**—The elements of the intelligence community of the Department may make available a single report with respect to the diversity and inclusion efforts of the workforce of the elements of the intelligence community under this subsection.

(d) **UPDATES.**—After making available the first report under subsection (c), the Secretary shall annually provide a report (which may be provided as part of an annual report required under another provision of law) to the public and the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) demographic data and information on the status of diversity and inclusion efforts of the Department;

(2) an analysis of applicant flow data;

(3) demographic data relating to participants in professional development programs of the Department and the rate of placement into senior positions for participants in such programs; and

(4) the specified data in a searchable database format.

(e) **CONDUCT EXIT INTERVIEWS OR SURVEYS.**—

(1) **RETAINED MEMBERS.**—The Director of the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity shall conduct periodic interviews or surveys with a representative and diverse cross-section of the members of the workforce of the Department to—

(A) understand the reasons of the members for remaining in a position in the Department; and

(B) receive feedback on workplace policies, professional development opportunities, and

other issues affecting the decision of the members to remain.

(2) **DEPARTING MEMBERS.**—The Director of the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity shall provide an opportunity for an exit interview or survey to each member of the workforce of the Department who separates from service with the Department, to understand better the reasons of the member for leaving.

(3) **USE OF ANALYSIS FROM INTERVIEWS AND SURVEYS.**—The Director of the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity shall analyze and use information obtained through interviews and surveys under paragraphs (1) and (2), including to evaluate—

(A) if and how the results of the interviews differ among gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and other demographic categories; and

(B) whether to implement any policy changes or make any recommendations as part of a report required under subsection (c).

(4) **TRACKING DATA.**—The Department shall—

(A) track demographic data relating to participants in professional development programs and the rate of placement into senior positions for participants in such programs;

(B) evaluate such data on an annual basis to look for ways to improve outreach and recruitment for such programs consistent with merit system principles;

[(C) understand how participation in any program offered or sponsored by the Department under subsection (f)(1) differs by gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and other demographic categories; and]

(D) actively encourage participation from a range of demographic categories, especially from categories with consistently low participation.

(f) **EXPAND PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department is authorized to expand professional development opportunities that support the mission needs of the Department, such as—

(A) academic programs;

(B) private-public exchanges; and

(C) detail assignments to relevant positions in—

(i) private or international organizations;

(ii) State, local, and tribal governments;

(iii) other branches of the Federal Government; or

(iv) professional schools of international affairs.

(2) **TRAINING FOR SENIOR POSITIONS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department may offer, or sponsor members of the workforce of the Department to participate in, a Senior Executive Service candidate development program or other program that trains members of the workforce of the Department on the skills required for appointment to senior positions in the Department.

(B) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In determining which members of the workforce of the Department are granted professional development or career advancement opportunities, the Department shall—

(i) ensure any program offered or sponsored by the Department under subparagraph (A) comports with the requirements of subpart C of part 412 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, including merit staffing and assessment requirements;

(ii) consider the number of expected vacancies in senior positions as a factor in determining the number of candidates to select for such programs;

[(iii) understand how participation in any program offered or sponsored by the Department under subparagraph (A) differs by gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability status, and other demographic categories; and]

(iv) actively encourage participation from a range of demographic categories, especially from categories with consistently low participation.

(g) **RECRUITMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department should—

(A) continue to seek a diverse and talented pool of applicants;

(B) have diversity recruitment as a goal of the human resources department or equivalent entity, with outreach at appropriate colleges, universities, and diversity organizations and professional associations; and

(C) intensify, identify, and build relationships with qualified potential minority candidates.

(2) **SCOPE.**—The diversity recruitment initiatives described in paragraph (1) should include—

(A) recruiting at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, women's colleges, and colleges that typically serve majority minority populations;

(B) sponsoring and recruiting at job fairs in urban communities;

(C) placing job advertisements in newspapers, magazines, and job sites oriented toward diverse groups;

(D) providing opportunities through highly respected, international leadership programs, that focus on diversity recruitment and retention; and

(E) cultivating partnerships with organizations dedicated to the advancement of the profession of international affairs and national security to advance shared diversity goals.

**SA 2564.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PILOT PROGRAM TO TEST MACHINE-VISION TECHNOLOGIES TO DETERMINE THE AUTHENTICITY AND SECURITY OF MICROELECTRONIC PARTS IN WEAPON SYSTEMS.**

(a) **PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, in coordination with the Defense Microelectronics Activity, shall establish a pilot program to test the feasibility and reliability of using machine-vision technologies to determine the authenticity and security of microelectronic parts in weapon systems.

(b) **OBJECTIVES OF PILOT PROGRAM.**—The objective of the pilot program required by subsection (a) shall include determining the following:

(1) The effectiveness and technology readiness level of machine-vision technologies to determine the authenticity of microelectronic parts at the time of the creation of such part through final insertion of such part into weapon systems.

(2) The best method of incorporating machine-vision technologies into the process of

developing, transporting, and inserting microelectronics into weapon systems.

(3) The rules, regulations, or processes that hinder the development and incorporation of machine-vision technologies, and the application of such rules, regulations, or processes to mitigate counterfeit microelectronics proliferation throughout the Department of Defense.

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out the pilot program required by subsection (a), the Under Secretary may consult with the following:

(1) Manufacturers of semiconductors or electronics.

(2) Industry associations relating to semiconductors or electronics.

(3) Original equipment manufacturers of products for the Department of Defense.

(4) Nontraditional defense contractors (as defined in section 2302 of title 10, United States Code) that are machine-vision companies.

(5) Federal laboratories (as defined in section 2500 of title 10, United States Code).

(6) Other elements of the Department of Defense that fall under the authority of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

(d) **COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION.**—The pilot program established under this section shall be established not later than April 1, 2019, and all activities under such pilot program shall terminate not later than December 31, 2020.

**SA 2565.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.**

(a) **VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Part V of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new chapter:

**“CHAPTER 80—VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION**

**“Sec.**

“8001. Organization of Administration.

“8002. Functions of Administration.

**“§ 8001. Organization of Administration**

“(a) **VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION ADMINISTRATION.**—(1) There is in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(2) The primary function of the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is the administration of the programs of the Department that provide assistance related to economic opportunity to veterans and their dependents and survivors.

“(b) **UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.**—The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is under the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of the Administration.

**“§ 8002. Functions of Administration**

“The Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration is responsible for the administration of the following programs of the Department:

“(1) Vocational rehabilitation and employment programs.

“(2) Educational assistance programs.

“(3) Veterans’ housing loan and related programs.

“(4) The verification of small businesses owned and controlled by veterans pursuant to subsection (f) of section 8127 of this title, including the administration of the database of veteran-owned businesses described in such subsection.

“(5) The Transition Assistance Program under section 1144 of title 10.

“(6) Any other program of the Department that the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The tables of chapters at the beginning of title 38, United States Code, and of part V of title 38, United States Code, are each amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 79 the following new item:

**“80. Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration .... 8001”.**

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

(c) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES.—For fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the total number of full-time equivalent employees authorized for the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, as established under chapter 80 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), may not exceed 21,543.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . UNDER SECRETARY FOR VETERANS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND TRANSITION.**

(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 306 the following new section:

**“§ 306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition**

“(a) UNDER SECRETARY.—(1) There is in the Department an Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, who is appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition shall be appointed without regard to political affiliation or activity and solely on the basis of demonstrated ability in—

“(A) information technology; and

“(B) the administration of programs within the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration or programs of similar content and scope.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition is the head of, and is directly responsible to the Secretary for the operations of, the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(c) VACANCIES.—(1) Whenever a vacancy in the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition occurs or is anticipated, the Secretary shall establish a commission to recommend individuals to the President for appointment to the position.

“(2) A commission established under this subsection shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Secretary:

“(A) Three persons representing education and training, vocational rehabilitation, employment, real estate, mortgage finance and related industries, and survivor benefits activities affected by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(B) Two persons representing veterans served by the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration.

“(C) Two persons who have experience in the management of private sector benefits programs of similar content and scope to the economic opportunity and transition programs of the Department.

“(D) The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“(E) The chairman of the Veterans’ Advisory Committee on Education formed under section 3692 of this title.

“(F) One person who has held the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition, if the Secretary determines that it is desirable for such person to be a member of the commission.

“(3)(A) A commission established under this subsection shall recommend at least three individuals for appointment to the position of Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.

“(B) The commission shall submit all recommendations to the Secretary.

“(C) The Secretary shall forward the recommendations to the President and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives with any comments the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(D) After receiving recommendations under subparagraph (C), the President may request the commission to recommend additional individuals for appointment.

“(4) The Assistant Secretary or Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs who performs personnel management and labor relations functions shall serve as the executive secretary of a commission established under this subsection.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 306 the following new item:

“306A. Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

(1) in section 306(c)(2), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (E) and redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), and (F), as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively;

(2) in section 317(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”;

(3) in section 318(d)(2), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the following: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”;

(4) in section 516(e)(2)(C), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(5) in section 541(a)(2)(B), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(6) in section 542(a)(2)(B)(iii), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(7) in section 544(a)(2)(B)(vi), by striking “Health and the Under Secretary for Benefits” and inserting “Health, the Under Secretary for Benefits, and the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition”;

(8) in section 709(c)(2)(A), by inserting after “Under Secretary for Benefits,” the fol-

lowing: “the Under Secretary for Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition.”;

(9) in section 7701(a), by inserting after “assistance” the following: “, other than assistance related to Economic Opportunity and Transition.”; and

(10) in section 7703, by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 306A of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and the amendments made by this section, shall take effect on October 1, 2019.

**SA 2566.** Mr. RUBIO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . NATIONAL SECURITY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY.**

(a) STRATEGY.—Not later than February 4, 2019, the Secretary of Defense shall develop and implement a strategy (to be known as the “National Security Science and Technology Strategy”) to prioritize the science and technology efforts and investments of the Department of Defense.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy under subsection (a) shall—

(1) include specific goals for the science and technology programs of the Department of Defense in which personnel and resources of the Department are invested;

(2) be aligned with the National Defense Strategy and governmentwide strategic science and technology priorities, including the defense budget priorities of the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the President;

(3) align the acquisition priorities, programs, and timelines of the Department with the acquisition priorities, programs, and timelines of defense enterprise laboratories and services;

(4) contain an assessment of high-priority emerging technology programs of the Department, including programs relating to hypersonics, directed energy, synthetic biology, and artificial intelligence;

(5) identify high-priority research and engineering requirements and gaps;

(6) include recommendations for changes in authorities, regulations, policies, or any other relevant areas, that would support the achievement of the goals set forth in the strategy; and

(7) contain such other information as the Secretary of Defense determines to be appropriate.

(c) ANNUAL SUBMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 4, 2019, and annually thereafter through December 31, 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees the most recent version of the strategy developed under subsection (a).

(2) FORM OF SUBMISSION.—Each strategy submitted under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(d) BRIEFING.—Not later than 14 days after the date on which the initial strategy under

subsection (a) is completed, the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering shall provide to the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives a briefing on the implementation of the strategy.

**SA 2567.** Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, add the following:

**Subtitle G—Internet of Things Cybersecurity Improvement Act**

**SEC. 1071. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2018”.

**SEC. 1073. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle:

(1) **COVERED AGENCY.**—The term “covered agency” means—

- (A) the Department of Defense; and
- (B) the National Security Agency.

(2) **COVERED DEVICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “covered device”—

- (i) means a physical object that—
  - (I) is capable of connecting to and is in regular connection with the Internet; and
  - (II) has computer processing capabilities that can collect, send, or receive data; and
- (ii) does not include advanced or general-purpose computing devices, including personal computing systems, smart mobile communications devices, programmable logic controls, and mainframe computing systems.

(B) **MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION.**—The Secretary shall establish a process by which—

(i) interested parties may petition for a device that is not described in subparagraph (A)(i) to be considered a device that is not a covered device; and

(ii) the Secretary acts upon any petition submitted under clause (i) in a timely manner.

(3) **FIRMWARE.**—The term “firmware” means a computer program and the data stored in hardware, typically in read-only memory (ROM) or programmable read-only memory (PROM), such that the program and data cannot be dynamically written or modified during execution of the program.

(4) **FIXED OR HARD-CODED CREDENTIAL.**—The term “fixed or hard-coded credential” means a value, such as a password, token, cryptographic key, or other data element used as part of an authentication mechanism for granting remote access to an information system or its information, that is—

(A) established by a product vendor or service provider; and

(B) incapable of being modified or revoked by the user or manufacturer lawfully operating the information system, except via a firmware update.

(5) **HARDWARE.**—The term “hardware” means the physical components of an information system.

(6) **IoT.**—The term “IoT” means the Internet of Things.

(7) **NIST.**—The term “NIST” means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(8) **PROPERLY AUTHENTICATED UPDATE.**—The term “properly authenticated update” means an update, remediation, or technical fix to a hardware, firmware, or software component issued by a product vendor or service provider used to correct particular problems with the component, and that, in the case of software or firmware, contains some method of authenticity protection, such as a digital signature, so that unauthorized updates can be automatically detected and rejected.

(9) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Defense.

(10) **SECURITY VULNERABILITY.**—The term “security vulnerability” means any attribute of hardware, firmware, software, process, or procedure or combination of 2 or more of these factors that could enable or facilitate the defeat or compromise of the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system or its information or physical devices to which it is connected.

(11) **SOFTWARE.**—The term “software” means a computer program and associated data that may be dynamically written or modified.

**SEC. 1074. CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO COVERED DEVICE CYBERSECURITY.**

(a) **STANDARD SECURITY CLAUSE REQUIRED IN COVERED DEVICES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and any other intelligence or national security agency that the Secretary determines to be necessary, shall issue guidelines for each covered agency to require the inclusion of a standard security clause in any contract, except as provided in paragraph (2), for the acquisition of covered devices.

(2) **CONTENT OF STANDARD SECURITY CLAUSE.**—The standard security clause required under paragraph (1)—

(A) shall establish baseline security requirements that address aspects of device security, including—

- (i) the ability of software or firmware components to accept properly authenticated and trusted updates from the vendor;
- (ii) identity and access management, including prohibiting the use of fixed or hard-coded credentials used for remote administration, the delivery of updates, or communication;
- (iii) participation in a Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure program in accordance with subsection (f);
- (iv) such other aspects as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(B) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, reflect and align with voluntary consensus standards in effect on the date of enactment of this Act;

(C) shall require vendors to provide written attestation that the device meets such requirements as established under subparagraph (A);

(D) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure that the requirements described in subparagraph (A) are—

- (i) tailored to address the characteristics of different types of devices, including risk and intended function;
- (ii) based on technology-neutral, outcome-based security principles;
- (iii) developed through a transparent process that incorporates input from relevant stakeholders in industry and academia;
- (iv) aligned with internationally recognized technical standards; and
- (v) updated regularly based on developments in technology and security methodologies;

(E) shall identify responsibilities for ensuring that a covered device software or firmware component is updated or replaced, consistent with other provisions in the contract governing the term of support, in a manner that allows for any future security vulnerability or defect in any part of the software or firmware to be patched, based on risk, in order to fix or remove a vulnerability or defect in the software or firmware component in a properly authenticated and secure manner; and

(F) shall require the contractor to provide the purchasing agency with general information on the ability of the device to be updated, such as—

- (i) the manner in which the device receives security updates;
- (ii) the business terms, including any fees for ongoing security support, under which security updates will be provided for a covered device;
- (iii) the anticipated timeline for ending security support associated with the covered device;
- (iv) formal notification when security support has ceased; and
- (v) other information as determined necessary by the Secretary.

(3) **WAIVER.**—The Secretary may establish a process for a purchasing covered agency to waive the requirements described in paragraph (2)(A) when a contractor submits a written application for a waiver, if the process—

(A) provides for waivers to be granted only in limited circumstances, including—

(i) if a vendor demonstrates that a device meets a desired level of security through means other than those required under paragraph (2)(A); or

(ii) if the purchasing covered agency reasonably believes that procurement of a covered device with limited data processing and software functionality would be unfeasible or economically impractical; and

(B) provides that, if the head of the purchasing covered agency approves a waiver, the head of the purchasing covered agency shall provide the contractor a written statement that the covered agency accepts risks resulting from use of the device;

(4) **ALIGNMENT WITH FISMA.**—In issuing the guidelines required under paragraph (1), the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall ensure that such guidelines are, to the greatest extent practicable, consistent with, not duplicative of, and in compliance with any applicable established information security policies, procedures, standards, and compliance requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code.

(b) **ALTERNATE CONDITIONS TO MITIGATE CYBERSECURITY RISKS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with NIST, shall establish a set of conditions that—

(A) ensure that a covered device that does not comply with the standard security clause under subsection (a) can be used with a level of security that is equivalent to the level of security described in subsection (a)(2); and

(B) shall be met in order for a covered agency to purchase a covered device described in subparagraph (A).

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In defining a set of conditions that must be met for non-compliant devices as required under paragraph (1), the Secretary, in coordination with NIST and relevant industry entities, may consider the use of conditions including—

(A) network segmentation or micro-segmentation;

(B) the adoption of system level security controls, including operating system containers and microservices;

(C) multi-factor authentication; and

(D) intelligent network solutions and edge systems, such as gateways, that can isolate, disable, or remediate connected devices.

(3) SPECIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONS.—To address the long-term risk of non-compliant covered devices acquired in accordance with an exception under this paragraph, the Secretary, in coordination with NIST and private-sector industry experts, may stipulate additional requirements for management and use of non-compliant devices, including deadlines for the removal, replacement, or disabling of non-compliant devices (or their Internet-connectivity), as well as minimal requirements for gateway products to ensure the integrity and security of the non-compliant devices.

(4) EXISTING THIRD-PARTY SECURITY STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If an existing voluntary consensus standard for the security of covered devices provides an equivalent or greater level of security to that described in subsection (a)(2)(A), the Secretary shall terminate the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(A) and modify security clauses to reflect conformity with that voluntary consensus standard.

(B) WRITTEN CERTIFICATION.—A contractor providing the covered device under this paragraph shall provide third-party written certification that the device complies with the security requirements of the industry certification method of the third party.

(C) NIST.—The Director of NIST, in coordination with the Secretary and other appropriate executive agencies, shall determine—

(i) accreditation standards for third-party certifiers; and

(ii) whether the standards described in clause (i) provide appropriate security and are aligned with the guidelines issued under this subsection.

(5) EXISTING AGENCY SECURITY EVALUATION STANDARDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a covered agency employs a security evaluation process or criteria for covered devices that the agency believes provides an equivalent or greater level of security to that described in subsection (a)(2)(A), a covered agency may, upon the approval of the Secretary, continue to use that process or standard in lieu of the requirements under subsection (a)(2)(A).

(B) NIST.—The Director of NIST, in coordination with the Secretary and other appropriate executive agencies, shall determine whether the process or criteria described in subparagraph (A) provides appropriate security and are aligned with the guidelines issued under this subsection.

(C) REQUIRED GUIDELINES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Administrator of General Services, shall issue guidelines for each covered agency to limit, to the maximum extent practicable, the use of lowest price technically acceptable source selection criteria in the case of a procurement that is predominately for the acquisition of a covered device.

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the guidelines required to be issued under subsections (a) and (c), which shall include any recommendations for legislation necessary to improve cybersecurity in Federal Government acquisition of Internet-connected devices.

(e) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Beginning on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may waive,

in whole or in part, the requirements of the guidelines issued under this section, for a covered agency.

(F) GUIDELINES REGARDING THE COORDINATED DISCLOSURE OF SECURITY VULNERABILITIES AND DEFECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Protection and Programs Directorate, in consultation with cybersecurity researchers and private-sector industry experts, shall issue guidelines for each agency with respect to any covered device in use by the United States Government regarding cybersecurity coordinated disclosure requirements that shall be required of contractors providing such covered devices to the United States Government.

(2) CONTENTS.—The guidelines required to be issued under paragraph (1) shall include policies and procedures for the processing and resolving of potential vulnerability information relating to a covered device, which shall be, to the maximum extent practicable, aligned with Standards 29147 and 30111 of the International Standards Organization, or any successor standard, such as—

(A) procedures for a contractor providing a covered device to the United States Government on how to—

(i) receive information about potential vulnerabilities in the product or online service of the contractor; and

(ii) disseminate resolution information about vulnerabilities in the product or online service of the contractor; and

(B) guidance, including example content, on the information items that should be produced through the implementation of the vulnerability disclosure process of the contractor.

**SEC. 1075. INVENTORY OF DEVICES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each covered agency shall establish and maintain an inventory of covered devices used by the agency procured under this subtitle.

(b) GUIDELINES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall issue guidelines for executive agencies to develop and manage the inventories required under subsection (a), based on the Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation (CDM) program used by the Department of Homeland Security.

(C) DEVICE DATABASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and maintain—

(A) a database of devices and the respective manufacturers of such devices for which limitations of liability exist under this subtitle; and

(B) a database of devices and the respective manufacturers of such devices about which the Government has received formal notification of security support ceasing, as required under section 1074(a)(2)(G).

(2) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the databases established under paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every 30 days.

**SEC. 1076. USE OF BEST PRACTICES IN IDENTIFICATION AND TRACKING OF VULNERABILITIES FOR PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL VULNERABILITY DATABASE.**

The Director of NIST shall ensure that NIST establishes, maintains, and uses best practices in the identification and tracking of vulnerabilities for purposes of the National Vulnerability Database of NIST.

**SA 2568.** Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. —. IMPORTANCE OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and minority-serving institutions play a vital role in educating low-income and underrepresented students in areas of national need;

(2) HBCUs and minority-serving institutions presently are collaborating with the Department of Defense in research and development efforts that contribute to the defense readiness and national security of the Nation;

(3) by their research these institutions are helping to develop the next generation of scientists and engineers who will help lead the Department of Defense in addressing high-priority national security challenges; and

(4) it is important to further engage HBCUs and minority-serving institutions in university research and innovation, especially in prioritizing software development and cyber security by utilizing existing Department of Defense labs, and collaborating with existing programs that help attract candidates, including programs like the Air Force Minority Leaders Programs, which recruit Americans from diverse background to serve their country through service in our Nation's military.

(b) INCREASE.—Funds authorized to be appropriated in Research, Development, Test, and Evaluation, Defense-wide, PE 0601228D8Z, section 4201, for Basic Research, Historically Black Colleges and Universities/Minority Institutions, Line 006, are hereby increased by \$10,000,000.

(c) OFFSET.—Funding in section 4101 for Other Procurement, Army, for Automated Data Processing Equipment, Line 112, is hereby reduced by \$10,000,000.

**SA 2569.** Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. —. IMPROVING PROCESSING OF VETERANS BENEFITS BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) NOTIFICATION OF DEBTS INCURRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make such changes to such information technology systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including the eBenefits system or successor system, as may be necessary so that a

person who is entitled to a payment from the Department by virtue of the person's participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary will receive, at the request of the person, a notice from the Department (by electronic mail or other mechanism) whenever such person incurs a debt to the United States by virtue of such participation.

(b) **UPDATING DEPENDENT INFORMATION.**—The Secretary shall make such changes to such information technology systems of the Department, including the eBenefits system or successor system, as may be necessary so that whenever the Secretary records in such systems information about a dependent of a person, the person is able to review and revise such information.

(c) **TRACKING OF METRICS.**—The Secretary shall make such changes to such information technology systems of the Department as may be necessary to track the following:

(1) The number and amount of payments made by the Department to persons as part of a benefits program administered by the Secretary which result in the persons incurring a debt to the United States by virtue of such payments.

(2) The average debt to the United States incurred by a person by virtue of a payment described in paragraph (1).

(3) The frequency by which applications for relief under section 5302(a) of title 38, United States Code, are approved and denied.

(4) Such other metrics as the Secretary considers appropriate.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REFORMS RELATING TO RECOVERY BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF AMOUNTS OWED BY VETERANS TO THE UNITED STATES.**

(a) **INDEBTEDNESS OFFSETS.**—

(1) **LIMITATION ON SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.**—Subsection (a) of section 5314 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “to subsections (b) and (d) of this section” and inserting “to paragraphs (2) through (6) of this subsection, subsections (b) and (e) of this section.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The Secretary may only deduct under paragraph (1) an amount of the indebtedness of a veteran, the estate of a veteran, or a spouse or child of a veteran who is deceased if the indebtedness is a result of one or more of the following:

“(A) An error made by the veteran, estate, spouse, or child, as the case may be.

“(B) Fraud perpetrated by the veteran, estate, spouse, or child, as the case may be.

“(C) A misrepresentation made by the veteran, estate, spouse, or child, as the case may be.

“(3)(A) The Secretary may not deduct under paragraph (1) from any payment made under chapter 11 or 15 of this title more than the lesser of—

“(i) 25 percent; or

“(ii) such other percent as the Secretary determines, pursuant to a request made under subparagraph (B), is the greatest percent that would not cause a hardship to the recipient of the payment.

“(B) A person whose future payments are to be reduced under paragraph (1) may request, via the administrative process prescribed under subsection (c), the Secretary make a determination under subparagraph (A)(ii) of this paragraph.

“(4) The Secretary may not deduct under paragraph (1) any amount relating to an indebtedness that was incurred by a veteran more than five years previously.

“(5) The Secretary may not deduct under paragraph (1) any amount relating to an indebtedness while the existence or amount of such indebtedness is being disputed under subsection (c).

“(6) The Secretary may not deduct under paragraph (1) any amount if the Secretary determines that the cost that would be incurred by the Department to recover such amount would exceed the amount to be recovered.”.

(2) **DUE PROCESS.**—

(A) **MINIMUM PERIOD FOR NOTICE AND SECONDARY REVIEW.**—Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(i) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) has made reasonable efforts to notify such person of such person's right—

“(A) to dispute through prescribed administrative processes the existence or amount of such indebtedness;

“(B) to request a waiver of such indebtedness under section 5302 of this title; and

“(C) to request the Secretary make a determination under subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii).”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(3) has notified such person, not later than 90 days before making any of such deductions—

“(A) about the proposed deductions; and

“(B) detailed information about the indebtedness, including, in the case of an overpayment, an itemized list of each overpayment and the specific reason for the overpayment; and

“(4) in any case in which the Secretary determines the amount of indebtedness of a person exceeds \$2,500, the Secretary completes a secondary review to ensure that the determination is accurate and the indebtedness is subject to offset under this section.”.

(B) **ADJUDICATION OF DISPUTES.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Such section is amended—

(I) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e); and

(II) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection (c):

“(c)(1) The Secretary shall prescribe an administrative process for—

“(A) the dispute of the existence or amount of an indebtedness subject to subsection (a); and

“(B) making requests under paragraph (3)(B) of such subsection.

“(2) The Secretary shall ensure that each dispute under paragraph (1)(A) is adjudicated not later than 120 days after the dispute is filed.

“(3) The Secretary may not submit to any debt collector (as defined in section 803 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692a)) any debt pending adjudication under the process prescribed under paragraph (1).

“(4) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a person from seeking relief from a court of competent jurisdiction.”.

(ii) **LIMITATIONS ON INTEREST AND FEES CHARGED DURING PERIOD OF DISPUTE.**—Section 5315 of such title is amended—

(I) in subsection (b)(1), in the first sentence by striking “or (B)” and inserting “(B) for any period during which the existence or amount of the indebtedness is being disputed under section 5314(c) of this title, or (C)”;

and

(II) in subsection (c)—

(aa) by inserting “(1)” before “The administrative”; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) No administrative costs may be charged under this section with respect to an indebtedness described in subsection (a) while the existence or amount of the indebtedness is being disputed under section 5314(c) of this title.”.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This subsection and the amendments made by this subsection

shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to deductions made under section 5314 of such title on or after such date.

(b) **LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO SUE TO COLLECT CERTAIN DEBTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 5316(a) of title 38, United States, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(2) and (3)” and inserting “(2), (3), and (4)”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph (3):

“(3) No suit may be filed under this section to recover any indebtedness incurred more than five years previously.”.

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This subsection and the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to suits filed under section 5316 of such title on or after such date.

(c) **REPAIR OF CREDIT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 53 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 5320. Correction of erroneous information submitted to consumer reporting agencies**

“(a) **CORRECTING ERRORS BY THE DEPARTMENT.**—In any case in which the Secretary finds that the Department has submitted erroneous information to a consumer reporting agency about the indebtedness of any person who has been determined by the Secretary to be indebted to the United States by virtue of such person's participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall—

“(1) instruct the consumer reporting agency to remove such erroneous information from the consumer report of such person or take such other action as may be required to ensure that such erroneous information is not included in the report of such person; and

“(2) transmit to the consumer reporting agency such information as the consumer reporting agency may require to take such appropriate actions.

“(b) **CORRECTING ERRORS BY DEBT COLLECTORS.**—In any case in which the Secretary finds that a debt collector acting on behalf of the Department has submitted erroneous information to a consumer reporting agency about the indebtedness of any person who has been determined by the Secretary to be indebted to the United States by virtue of such person's participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall instruct the debt collector to request the consumer reporting agency remove such erroneous information from the consumer report of such person or take such other action as may be required to ensure such erroneous information is not included in the report of such person.”.

“(c) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary issues an instruction under subsection (a)(1) or (b) with respect to a person, the Secretary shall notify the person that the Secretary issued such instruction.

“(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) The terms ‘consumer report’ and ‘consumer reporting agency’ have the meanings given such terms in section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681a).

“(2) The term ‘debt collector’ has the meaning given such term in section 803 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692a).”.

(2) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 53 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"5320. Correction of erroneous information submitted to consumer reporting agencies."

(d) **AUDIT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall complete an audit to determine the following:

(1) The frequency by which the Department of Veterans Affairs makes an error that results in a payment to a person by virtue of such person's participation in a benefits program administered by the Secretary that such person is not entitled to or in an amount that exceeds the amount to which the person is entitled.

(2) Whether and to what degree vacant positions in the Veterans Benefits Administration affect such errors.

(e) **PLAN.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan and description of resource requirements necessary to align information technology systems to ensure that errors described in subsection (d)(1) are not the result of communication or absence of communication between information technology systems.

**SA 2570.** Mr. BROWN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 578. INCLUSION OF SPECIFIC ELECTRONIC MAIL ADDRESS BLOCK ON CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY.**

(a) **MODIFICATION REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of Defense shall modify the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) to include a specific block explicitly identified as the location in which a member of the Armed Forces may provide one or more electronic mail addresses by which the member may be contacted after discharge or release from active duty in the Armed Forces.

(b) **DEADLINE FOR MODIFICATION.**—The Secretary shall release a revised Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, modified as required by subsection (a), not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SA 2571.** Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BROWN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 729. EXPOSURE TO OPEN BURN PITS AND TOXIC AIRBORNE CHEMICALS AS PART OF PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.**

(a) **PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that any periodic health assessment provided to members of the Armed Forces includes an evaluation of whether the member has been—

(1) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used; or

(2) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, including any information recorded as part of the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry.

(b) **SEPARATION HISTORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.**—Section 1145(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(C) The Secretary concerned shall ensure that each physical examination of a member under subparagraph (A) includes an assessment of whether the member was—

"(i) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit, as defined in subsection (c) of section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note), was used; or

"(ii) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, including any information recorded as part of the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under such section 201."

(c) **DEPLOYMENT ASSESSMENTS.**—Section 1074f(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) An assessment of whether the member was—

"(i) based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit, as defined in subsection (c) of section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note), was used; or

"(ii) exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, including any information recorded as part of the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under such section 201."

(d) **SHARING OF INFORMATION.**—

(1) **DOD-VA.**—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly enter into a memorandum of understanding providing for the sharing by the Department of Defense with the Department of Veterans Affairs of the results of covered evaluations regarding the exposure by a member of the Armed Forces to toxic airborne chemicals.

(2) **REGISTRY.**—If a covered evaluation of a member of the Armed Forces establishes that the member was based or stationed at a location where an open burn pit was used, or the member was exposed to toxic airborne chemicals, the member shall be enrolled in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, unless the member elects to not so enroll.

(e) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude eligibility for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by reason of the open burn pit exposure history of a veteran not being recorded in a covered evaluation.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) The term "Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry" means the registry established by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term "covered evaluation" means—

(A) a periodic health assessment conducted in accordance with subsection (a);

(B) a separation history and physical examination conducted under section 1145(a)(5) of title 10, United States Code, as amended by this section; and

(C) a deployment assessment conducted under section 1074f(b)(2) of such title, as amended by this section.

(3) The term "open burn pit" has the meaning given that term in section 201(c) of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

**SA 2572.** Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. GARDNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 315(g), amend paragraphs (1) and (2) to read as follows:

(1) the local water authority or state requested such a payment from the National Guard Bureau or Air Force prior to March 1, 2018, or the National Guard Bureau or Air Force was aware of a treatment plan by the local water authority or state prior to that date; and

(2) the local water authority or the State, as the case may be, waives all claims against the United States and the National Guard and the Air Force for treatment expenses incurred before January 1, 2018.

**SA 2573.** Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 316. CRITICAL MINERALS PRODUCTION.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CRITICAL MINERAL.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "critical mineral" means any mineral, element, substance, or material designated as critical by the Secretary under subsection (c).

(B) **EXCLUSIONS.**—The term "critical mineral" does not include—

(i) oil, natural gas, or any other fossil fuels; or

(ii) water, ice, or snow.

(2) **CRITICAL MINERAL MANUFACTURING.**—The term "critical mineral manufacturing" means—

(A) the exploration, development, mining, production, processing, refining, alloying, separation, concentration, magnetic sintering, melting, or beneficiation of critical minerals within the United States;

(B) the fabrication, assembly, or production, within the United States, of equipment,

components, or other goods with energy technology-, defense-, agriculture-, consumer electronics-, or health care-related applications; and

(C) any other value-added, manufacturing-related use of critical minerals carried out within the United States.

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means—

- (A) a State;
- (B) the District of Columbia;
- (C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;
- (D) Guam;
- (E) American Samoa;
- (F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- (G) the United States Virgin Islands.

(b) POLICY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1602) is amended in the second sentence—

(A) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

“(3) establish an analytical and forecasting capability for identifying critical mineral demand, supply, and other factors to allow informed actions to be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts;”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end; and

(C) by striking paragraph (7) and inserting the following:

“(7) facilitate the availability, development, and environmentally responsible production of domestic resources to meet national material or critical mineral needs;

“(8) avoid duplication of effort, prevent unnecessary paperwork, and minimize delays in the administration of applicable laws (including regulations) and the issuance of permits and authorizations necessary to explore for, develop, and produce critical minerals and to construct critical mineral manufacturing facilities in accordance with applicable environmental and land management laws;

“(9) strengthen—

“(A) educational and research capabilities at the secondary and higher level; and

“(B) workforce training for exploration and development of critical minerals and critical mineral manufacturing;

“(10) bolster international cooperation through technology transfer, information sharing, and other means;

“(11) promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals;

“(12) develop alternatives to critical minerals; and

“(13) establish contingencies for the production of, or access to, critical minerals for which viable sources do not exist within the United States.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2(b) of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1601(b)) is amended by striking “(b) As used in this Act, the term” and inserting the following:

“(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

“(1) CRITICAL MINERAL.—The term ‘critical mineral’ means any mineral, element, substance, or material designated as a critical mineral pursuant to section 316(c) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

“(2) MATERIALS.—The term”.

(c) CRITICAL MINERAL DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) DRAFT METHODOLOGY AND LIST.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of

the United States Geological Survey (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), shall publish in the Federal Register for public comment—

(A) a description of the draft methodology used to identify a draft list of critical minerals; and

(B) a draft list of minerals, elements, substances, and materials that qualify as critical minerals.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—If available data is insufficient to provide a quantitative basis for the methodology developed under this subsection, qualitative evidence may be used to the extent necessary.

(3) FINAL METHODOLOGY AND LIST.—After reviewing public comments on the draft methodology and the draft list of critical minerals published under paragraph (1) and updating the methodology and list as appropriate, not later than 45 days after the date on which the public comment period with respect to the draft methodology and draft list closes, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register—

(A) a description of the final methodology for determining which minerals, elements, substances, and materials qualify as critical minerals; and

(B) the final list of critical minerals.

(4) DESIGNATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Secretary shall maintain a list of minerals, elements, substances, and materials designated as critical, pursuant to the final methodology published under paragraph (3), that the Secretary determines—

(i) are essential to the economic or national security of the United States;

(ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption (including restrictions associated with foreign political risk, abrupt demand growth, military conflict, violent unrest, anti-competitive or protectionist behaviors, and other risks throughout the supply chain); and

(iii) serve an essential function in the manufacturing of a product (including energy technology-, defense-, currency-, agriculture-, consumer electronics-, and health care-related applications), the absence of which would have significant consequences for the economic or national security of the United States.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—Notwithstanding the criteria under paragraph (3), the Secretary may designate and include on the list any mineral, element, substance, or material determined by another Federal agency to be strategic and critical to the defense or national security of the United States.

(C) REQUIRED CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult with the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, and Energy and the United States Trade Representative, in designating minerals, elements, substances, and materials as critical under this subsection.

(5) SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Commerce, Agriculture, and Energy and the United States Trade Representative, shall review the methodology and list under paragraph (3) and the designations under paragraph (4) at least every 3 years, or more frequently as the Secretary considers to be appropriate.

(B) REVISIONS.—Subject to paragraph (4)(A), the Secretary may—

(i) revise the methodology described in this subsection;

(ii) determine that minerals, elements, substances, and materials previously determined to be critical minerals are no longer critical minerals; and

(iii) designate additional minerals, elements, substances, or materials as critical minerals.

(6) NOTICE.—On finalization of the methodology and the list under paragraph (3), or any revision to the methodology or list under paragraph (5), the Secretary shall submit to Congress written notice of the action.

(d) SECRETARIAL ORDER NOT AFFECTED.—This section shall not apply to any mineral described in Secretarial Order No. 3324, issued by the Secretary on December 3, 2012, in any area to which the order applies.

(e) RESOURCE ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, in consultation with applicable State (including geological surveys), local, academic, industry, and other entities, the Secretary shall complete a comprehensive national assessment of each critical mineral that—

(A) identifies and quantifies known critical mineral resources, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories; and

(B) provides a quantitative and qualitative assessment of undiscovered critical mineral resources throughout the United States, including probability estimates of tonnage and grade, using all available public and private information and datasets, including exploration histories.

(2) SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may carry out surveys and field work (including drilling, remote sensing, geophysical surveys, topographic and geological mapping, and geochemical sampling and analysis) to supplement existing information and datasets (including 3-dimensional maps) available for determining the existence of critical minerals in the United States.

(B) PUBLIC ACCESS.—Subject to applicable law, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall make all data and metadata collected from a survey carried out under subparagraph (A) publicly and electronically accessible.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—At the request of the Governor of a State or the head of an Indian tribe, the Secretary may provide technical assistance to State governments and Indian tribes conducting critical mineral resource assessments on non-Federal land.

(4) PRIORITIZATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may sequence the completion of resource assessments for each critical mineral such that critical minerals considered to be most critical under the methodology established under subsection (c) are completed first.

(B) REPORTING.—During the period beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date of completion of all of the assessments required under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to Congress on an annual basis an interim report that—

(i) identifies the sequence and schedule for completion of the assessments if the Secretary sequences the assessments; or

(ii) describes the progress of the assessments if the Secretary does not sequence the assessments.

(5) UPDATES.—The Secretary may periodically update the assessments conducted under this subsection based on—

(A) the generation of new information or datasets by the Federal Government; or

(B) the receipt of new information or datasets from critical mineral producers, State geological surveys, academic institutions, trade associations, or other persons.

(6) ADDITIONAL SURVEYS.—The Secretary shall complete a resource assessment for each additional mineral, element, substance, or material subsequently designated as a

critical mineral under subsection (c)(5)(B) not later than 2 years after the designation of the mineral, element, substance, or material.

(7) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the status of geological surveying of Federal land for any mineral commodity—

(A) for which the United States was dependent on a foreign country for more than 25 percent of the United States supply, as depicted in the report issued by the United States Geological Survey entitled “Mineral Commodity Summaries 2018”; but

(B) that is not designated as a critical mineral under subsection (c).

(f) **PERMITTING.**—

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

(A) critical minerals are fundamental to the economy, competitiveness, and security of the United States;

(B) to the maximum extent practicable, the critical mineral needs of the United States should be satisfied by minerals responsibly produced and recycled in the United States; and

(C) the Federal permitting process has been identified as an impediment to mineral production and the mineral security of the United States.

(2) **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENTS.**—To improve the quality and timeliness of decisions, the Secretary, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, with respect to critical mineral production on Federal land, complete Federal permitting and review processes with maximum efficiency and effectiveness, while supporting vital economic growth, by—

(A) establishing and adhering to timelines and schedules for the consideration of, and final decisions regarding, applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for mineral-related activities on Federal land;

(B) establishing clear, quantifiable, and temporal permitting performance goals and tracking progress against those goals;

(C) engaging in early collaboration among agencies, project sponsors, and affected stakeholders—

(i) to incorporate and address the interests of those parties; and

(ii) to minimize delays;

(D) ensuring transparency and accountability by using cost-effective information technology to collect and disseminate information regarding individual projects and agency performance;

(E) engaging in early and active consultation with State, local, and Indian tribal governments to avoid conflicts or duplication of effort, resolve concerns, and allow for concurrent, rather than sequential, reviews;

(F) providing demonstrable improvements in the performance of Federal permitting and review processes, including lower costs and more timely decisions;

(G) expanding and institutionalizing permitting and review process improvements that have proven effective;

(H) developing mechanisms to better communicate priorities and resolve disputes among agencies at the national, regional, State, and local levels; and

(I) developing other practices, such as preapplication procedures.

(3) **REVIEW AND REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) identifies additional measures (including regulatory and legislative proposals, as appropriate) that would increase the timeliness of permitting activities for the exploration and development of domestic critical minerals;

(B) identifies options (including cost recovery paid by permit applicants) for ensuring adequate staffing and training of Federal entities and personnel responsible for the consideration of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land; and

(C) quantifies the amount of time typically required (including range derived from minimum and maximum durations, mean, median, variance, and other statistical measures or representations) to complete each step (including those aspects outside the control of the executive branch, such as judicial review, applicant decisions, or State and local government involvement) associated with the development and processing of applications, operating plans, leases, licenses, permits, and other use authorizations for critical mineral-related activities on Federal land, which shall serve as a baseline for the performance metric under paragraph (4).

(4) **PERFORMANCE METRIC.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of submission of the report under paragraph (3), the Secretary, after providing public notice and an opportunity to comment, shall develop and publish a performance metric for evaluating the progress made by the executive branch to expedite the permitting of activities that will increase exploration for, and development of, domestic critical minerals, while maintaining environmental standards.

(5) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Beginning with the first budget submission by the President under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, after publication of the performance metric required under paragraph (4), and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(A) summarizes the implementation of recommendations, measures, and options identified in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3);

(B) using the performance metric under paragraph (4), describes progress made by the executive branch, as compared to the baseline established pursuant to paragraph (3)(C), on expediting the permitting of activities that will increase exploration for, and development of, domestic critical minerals; and

(C) compares the United States to other countries in terms of permitting efficiency and any other criteria relevant to the globally competitive critical minerals industry.

(6) **INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS.**—Using data from the Secretary generated under paragraph (5), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall prioritize inclusion of individual critical mineral projects on the website operated by the Office of Management and Budget in accordance with section 1122 of title 31, United States Code.

(7) **REPORT OF SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.**—Not later than 1 year and 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the applicable committees of Congress a report that assesses the performance of Federal agencies with respect to—

(A) complying with chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Regulatory Flexibility Act”), in promulgating regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry; and

(B) performing an analysis of regulations applicable to the critical minerals industry that may be outmoded, inefficient, duplicative, or excessively burdensome.

(8) **APPLICATION.**—Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)) is amended in the matter preceding clause (i) by striking “manufacturing,” and inserting “manufacturing (including critical mineral manufacturing (as defined in section 316(a) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authoriza-

tion Act for Fiscal Year 2019), mining and mineral exploration.”.

(g) **FEDERAL REGISTER PROCESS.**—

(1) **DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW.**—Absent any extraordinary circumstance, and except as otherwise required by law, the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that each Federal Register notice described in paragraph (2) shall be—

(A) subject to any required reviews within the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture; and

(B) published in final form in the Federal Register not later than 45 days after the date of initial preparation of the notice.

(2) **PREPARATION.**—The preparation of Federal Register notices required by law associated with the issuance of a critical mineral exploration or mine permit shall be delegated to the organizational level within the agency responsible for issuing the critical mineral exploration or mine permit.

(3) **TRANSMISSION.**—All Federal Register notices regarding official document availability, announcements of meetings, or notices of intent to undertake an action shall be originated in, and transmitted to the Federal Register from, the office in which, as applicable—

(A) the documents or meetings are held; or

(B) the activity is initiated.

(h) **RECYCLING, EFFICIENCY, AND ALTERNATIVES.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of Energy (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”) shall conduct a program of research and development—

(A) to promote the efficient production, use, and recycling of critical minerals throughout the supply chain; and

(B) to develop alternatives to critical minerals that do not occur in significant abundance in the United States.

(2) **COOPERATION.**—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall cooperate with appropriate—

(A) Federal agencies and National Laboratories;

(B) critical mineral producers;

(C) critical mineral processors;

(D) critical mineral manufacturers;

(E) trade associations;

(F) academic institutions;

(G) small businesses; and

(H) other relevant entities or individuals.

(3) **ACTIVITIES.**—Under the program, the Secretary shall carry out activities that include the identification and development of—

(A) advanced critical mineral extraction, production, separation, alloying, or processing technologies that decrease the energy consumption, environmental impact, and costs of those activities, including—

(i) efficient water and wastewater management strategies;

(ii) technologies and management strategies to control the environmental impacts of ore tailings, including ore tailings that contain radionuclides; and

(iii) technologies for separation and processing;

(B) technologies or process improvements that minimize the use, or lead to more efficient use, of critical minerals across the full supply chain;

(C) technologies, process improvements, or design optimizations that facilitate the recycling of critical minerals, and options for improving the rates of collection of products and scrap containing critical minerals from post-consumer, industrial, or other waste streams;

(D) data on commercial markets, advanced storage methods, energy applications, and other beneficial uses of critical minerals processing byproducts;

(E) alternative minerals, metals, and materials, particularly those available in abundance within the United States and not subject to potential supply restrictions, that lessen the need for critical minerals; and

(F) alternative energy technologies or alternative designs of existing energy technologies, particularly those that use minerals that—

(i) occur in abundance in the United States; and

(ii) are not subject to potential supply restrictions.

(4) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report summarizing the activities, findings, and progress of the program.

(i) ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING.—

(1) CAPABILITIES.—In order to evaluate existing critical mineral policies and inform future actions that may be taken to avoid supply shortages, mitigate price volatility, and prepare for demand growth and other market shifts, the Secretary, in consultation with the Energy Information Administration, academic institutions, and others in order to maximize the application of existing competencies related to developing and maintaining computer-models and similar analytical tools, shall conduct and publish the results of an annual report that includes—

(A) as part of the annually published Mineral Commodity Summaries from the United States Geological Survey, a comprehensive review of critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(i) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically produced during the preceding year;

(ii) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically consumed during the preceding year;

(iii) market price data or other price data for each critical mineral;

(iv) an assessment of—

(I) critical mineral requirements to meet the national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States during the preceding year;

(II) the reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs during the preceding year; and

(III) the implications of any supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions during the preceding year;

(v) the quantity of each critical mineral domestically recycled during the preceding year;

(vi) the market penetration during the preceding year of alternatives to each critical mineral;

(vii) a discussion of international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, prices, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(viii) such other data, analyses, and evaluations as the Secretary finds are necessary to achieve the purposes of this subsection; and

(B) a comprehensive forecast, entitled the “Annual Critical Minerals Outlook”, of projected critical mineral production, consumption, and recycling patterns, including—

(i) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically produced over the subsequent 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods;

(ii) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically consumed over the subsequent 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods;

(iii) an assessment of—

(I) critical mineral requirements to meet projected national security, energy, economic, industrial, technological, and other needs of the United States;

(II) the projected reliance of the United States on foreign sources to meet those needs; and

(III) the projected implications of potential supply shortages, restrictions, or disruptions;

(iv) the quantity of each critical mineral projected to be domestically recycled over the subsequent 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods;

(v) the market penetration of alternatives to each critical mineral projected to take place over the subsequent 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year periods;

(vi) a discussion of reasonably foreseeable international trends associated with the discovery, production, consumption, use, costs of production, and recycling of each critical mineral as well as the development of alternatives to critical minerals; and

(vii) such other projections relating to each critical mineral as the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of this subsection.

(2) PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—In preparing a report described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure, consistent with section 5(f) of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1604(f)), that—

(A) no person uses the information and data collected for the report for a purpose other than the development of or reporting of aggregate data in a manner such that the identity of the person or firm who supplied the information is not discernible and is not material to the intended uses of the information;

(B) no person discloses any information or data collected for the report unless the information or data has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate form that does not allow the identification of the person or firm who supplied particular information; and

(C) procedures are established to require the withholding of any information or data collected for the report if the Secretary determines that withholding is necessary to protect proprietary information, including any trade secrets or other confidential information.

(j) EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE.—

(1) WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year and 300 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary, the Director of the National Science Foundation, institutions of higher education with significant expertise in mining, institutions of higher education with significant expertise in minerals research, including fundamental research into alternatives, and employers in the critical minerals sector, shall submit to Congress an assessment of the domestic availability of technically trained personnel necessary for critical mineral exploration, development, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, education, and research, including an analysis of—

(A) skills that are in the shortest supply as of the date of the assessment;

(B) skills that are projected to be in short supply in the future;

(C) the demographics of the critical minerals industry and how the demographics will evolve under the influence of factors such as an aging workforce;

(D) the effectiveness of training and education programs in addressing skills shortages;

(E) opportunities to hire locally for new and existing critical mineral activities;

(F) the sufficiency of personnel within relevant areas of the Federal Government for achieving the policies described in section 3 of the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 (30 U.S.C. 1602); and

(G) the potential need for new training programs to have a measurable effect on the supply of trained workers in the critical minerals industry.

(2) CURRICULUM STUDY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary and the Secretary of Labor (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretaries”) shall jointly enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering under which the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering shall coordinate with the National Science Foundation on conducting a study—

(i) to design an interdisciplinary program on critical minerals that will support the critical mineral supply chain and improve the ability of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, production, manufacturing, research, including fundamental research into alternatives, and recycling;

(ii) to address undergraduate and graduate education, especially to assist in the development of graduate level programs of research and instruction that lead to advanced degrees with an emphasis on the critical mineral supply chain or other positions that will increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, development, production, manufacturing, research, including fundamental research into alternatives, and recycling;

(iii) to develop guidelines for proposals from institutions of higher education with significant capabilities in the required disciplines for activities to improve the critical mineral supply chain and advance the capacity of the United States to increase domestic, critical mineral exploration, research, development, production, manufacturing, and recycling; and

(iv) to outline criteria for evaluating performance and recommendations for the amount of funding that will be necessary to establish and carry out the program described in paragraph (3).

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries shall submit to Congress a description of the results of the study required under subparagraph (A).

(3) PROGRAM.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretaries shall jointly conduct a competitive grant program under which institutions of higher education may apply for and receive 4-year grants for—

(i) startup costs for newly designated faculty positions in integrated critical mineral education, research, innovation, training, and workforce development programs consistent with paragraph (2);

(ii) internships, scholarships, and fellowships for students enrolled in programs related to critical minerals;

(iii) equipment necessary for integrated critical mineral innovation, training, and workforce development programs; and

(iv) research of critical minerals and applications of critical minerals, particularly concerning the manufacture of critical components vital to national security.

(B) RENEWAL.—A grant under this paragraph shall be renewable for not more than 2 additional 3-year terms based on performance criteria outlined under paragraph (2)(A)(iv).

(k) NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL DATA PRESERVATION PROGRAM.—Section 351(k) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15908(k)) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006

through 2010" and inserting "\$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, to remain available until expended".

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3(d) of the National Superconductivity and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 5202(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “, with the assistance of the National Critical Materials Council as specified in the National Critical Materials Act of 1984 (30 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.),”.

(3) SAVINGS CLAUSES.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section modifies any requirement or authority provided by—

(A) the matter under the heading “**GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**” of the first section of the Act of March 3, 1879 (43 U.S.C. 31(a)); or

(B) the first section of Public Law 87–626 (43 U.S.C. 31(b)).

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

**SA 2574.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON THE INDEFINITE DETENTION OF PERSONS BY THE UNITED STATES.**

Section 1021 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (Public Law 112–81; 10 U.S.C. 801 note) is amended by striking subsections (a) through (f) and inserting the following:

“(a) A general authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority, on its own, shall not be construed to authorize the imprisonment or detention without charge or trial of a person apprehended in the United States.

“(b) Subsection (a) applies to an authorization to use military force, a declaration of war, or any similar authority enacted before, on, or after the date of enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019.

“(c) This section shall not be construed to authorize the imprisonment or detention of any person who is apprehended in the United States.”.

**SA 2575.** Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 598. PROHIBITION ON THE REDUCTION IN THE FORCE CAPACITY OF THE MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS PROGRAM OF THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.**

(a) PROHIBITION ON REDUCTION.—No action may be taken to reduce the capacity of the Military Funeral Honors Program (MFH) of the Army National Guard if such reduction would result in a State without at least one coordinator to meet requirements and obligations to coordinate, perform, and facilitate funerals for veterans.

(b) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN DISPERSAL OR CONSOLIDATION OF COORDINATOR WORKFORCE.—No action may be taken to disperse or consolidate the workforce or responsibilities of coordinators described in subsection (a) across State lines.

(c) POLICIES.—The Secretary of the Army shall, in coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, ensure that the policies of the Army National Guard provide for the ongoing maintenance and presence of the Military Funeral Honors Program of the Army National Guard in each State.

**SA 2576.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 1066. CERTAIN SERVICE DEEMED TO BE ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE FOR PURPOSES OF LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 401(a)(1)(A) of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–202; 38 U.S.C. 106 note), the Secretary of Defense is deemed to have determined that qualified service of an individual constituted active military service.

(b) DETERMINATION OF DISCHARGE STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall issue an honorable discharge under section 401(a)(1)(B) of the GI Bill Improvement Act of 1977 to each person whose qualified service warrants an honorable discharge.

(2) TIMING.—A discharge under paragraph (1) shall be issued before the end of the one-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PROHIBITION OF RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—No benefits may be paid to any individual as a result of the enactment of this section for any period before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) QUALIFIED SERVICE DEFINED.—In this section, the term “qualified service” means service of an individual as a member of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during the period beginning on July 1, 1943, and ending on December 15, 1945.

**SA 2577.** Mr. GARDNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense

activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12 \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON REGULAR FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION OPERATIONS IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT.**

It is the sense of Congress that the United States should conduct regular freedom of navigation operations in the Taiwan Strait.

**SA 2578.** Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2282 submitted by Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

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

**SEC. 12 \_\_\_\_ . ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING DESIGNATIONS AND EXTENSIONS OF DESIGNATIONS OF TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The United States Embassies in Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti recommended that it would be in the United States national interest to extend temporary protected status (TPS) designations for each such country, per diplomatic cables sent in June 2017, July 2017, and August 2017, respectively.

(2) The United States Embassy in Haiti, in a diplomatic cable sent in August 2017, stated that repatriating tens of thousands of TPS beneficiaries and their United States citizen children would pose challenges to the ability of the Haitian National Police to guarantee security throughout Haiti.

(3) In his October 31, 2017, letter to the Department of Homeland Security, then Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned that terminating the TPS designations for El Salvador and Honduras may lead to retaliatory actions by both governments that would be counter to United States national security interests, including a potential reduction in bilateral cooperation to address narcotics trafficking and the illicit activities of criminal gangs, such as MS–13.

(4) In recommendations accompanying then Secretary Tillerson’s October 31, 2017, letter to the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State warned that the prevalence of violence and lack of economic opportunities in El Salvador and Honduras would leave some repatriated TPS beneficiaries and their accompanying United States citizen children vulnerable to recruitment by criminal gangs, such as MS–13, or other forms of illicit employment.

(5) The Executive announced the termination of the TPS designations for El Salvador and Haiti in November 2017 and for Honduras in May 2018.

(b) ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING DESIGNATIONS.—Section 244(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(1)) is amended by inserting “in coordination with the Secretary of State, and” before “after consultation with appropriate agencies of the Government”.

(c) ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGARDING EXTENSION OR TERMINATION OF DESIGNATIONS.—Section 244(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) respectively;

(2) by inserting before subparagraph (B) the following:

“(A) ASSESSMENT OF COUNTRY CONDITIONS.—Not less than 90 days before the date on which the initial period of designation or any extended period of designation of a foreign state (or a part of a foreign state) under this section ends, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security—

“(i) an assessment of the conditions in the foreign state (or the part of the foreign state) based on 1 or more reports from the United States Embassy located in the foreign state; and

“(ii) a recommendation for whether such designation should be extended.”;

(3) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated in paragraph (1), by inserting “in coordination with the Secretary of State, and” before “after consultation with appropriate agencies of the Government”;

(4) in subparagraph (C), as redesignated in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in coordination with the Secretary of State,” before “determines under subparagraph (A)”;

(5) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in coordination with the Secretary of State,” before “does not determine under subparagraph (A)”.

(d) REPORT ON THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT STATE REGARDING DESIGNATIONS AND EXTENSION OR TERMINATION OF DESIGNATIONS.—Section 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report that includes the assessment and recommendation submitted to the Secretary of Homeland Security at the time at which—

“(i) a foreign state is designated for temporary protected status; or

“(ii) the existing designation of a foreign state for temporary protected status is extended or terminated.

“(B) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include assessments and recommendations submitted to the Secretary of State by—

“(i) each relevant bureau of the Department of State; and

“(ii) the United States Embassy located in the applicable foreign state.”.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 7,

2018, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting and hearing following nominations: nominations of Ryan Wesley Bounds, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, J. Campbell Barker, and Jeremy D. Kernodle, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Susan Brnovich, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Chad F. Kenney, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Maureen K. Ohlhausen, of Virginia, to be Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, Britt Cagle Grant, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, Allen Cothrel Winsor, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida, and Patrick R. Wyrick, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 10 a.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Mark Bedrin, a defense fellow in Senator MORAN's office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 115th Congress.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Matthew Starr, a fellow in Senator MCCAIN's office, and Daniel Glickstein, a fellow at the Armed Services Committee, be given floor privileges for the remainder of the consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Allie McDonnell, an intern in Senator SULLIVAN's office, be granted floor privileges until the end of the day.

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

#### WALTER H. RICE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 429, S. 2377.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2377) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the “Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 2377) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2377

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

#### SECTION 1. WALTER H. RICE FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the “Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

#### GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 430, S. 2734.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2734) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 2734) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2734

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

#### SECTION 1. GEORGE P. KAZEN FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, shall be known and designated as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”.

# COMMENDING THE YALE UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 537, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 537) commending the Yale University Men's Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship.

There being no objection the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 537) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

# COMMENDING THE WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 538, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 538) commending the Wesleyan University Men's Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men's Lacrosse Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 538) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

# ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, June 11; 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. I further ask that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 5515. Finally, I ask that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 5515 occur at 5:30 p.m., Monday.

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

# ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018, AT 3 P.M.

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.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:52 p.m., adjourned until Monday, June 11, 2018, at 3 p.m.

# NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MICHAEL R. BRIGHT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, VICE THEODORE W. TOZER.

## CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

PETER A. FELDMAN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2019. (REAPPOINTMENT)

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

## To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN C. THOMSON III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

## To be brigadier general

COL. JOSEPH R. BALDWIN

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

## To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. WILLIAM P. PENNINGTON

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 716:

## To be major

WILLIAM P. MORSE  
NICHOLAS M. STRELCHUK

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be colonel

PETER R. PURRINGTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

## To be major

ALEXIS N. MENDOZADEJESUS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

## To be major

CHAD K. BRINTON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER K. JAMES

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

JAY D. LUTZ  
LESTER ORTIZ  
DAVID W. WILHITE  
MARC F. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

JEROME R. CAYANGYANG  
WASHINGTON JOHNSON II  
TIMOTHY J. LONEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

DONNA M. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

KEVIN M. CORCORAN  
GREGORY M. EATON  
TROY S. PUGH  
MATTHEW M. WILLS  
SUNG H. YI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

DEBRA A. BRENDLEY  
ANGEL A. CARDONA  
AMY L. GRACZYK  
CYNTHIA A. JONES  
MICHELLE L. MARTIN  
GWEN E. METZ  
CYNTHIA M. SCHWARTZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

CHRISTOPHER C. BURRIS  
KEVIN B. GERRITY  
ERIC B. MOLLDEM  
DENA M. PANECALDO  
TIMOTHY J. STINSON  
PING WANG  
JASON L. WEISSMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

MICHAEL R. BASSO  
WALTER J. BOMBKA  
JEFFERY W. DIAL  
ELIZABETH A. DYKSTRA  
DAVID J. FABRIZIO  
SHARLENE S. GEE  
DONALD H. YAGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

STEVEN A. BLAUSTEIN  
SONJA A. CARL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

## To be captain

JAMES G. COX  
ALBERTO L. FERNANDEZMILO  
EDGAR A. GONZALEZ  
MIN K. KIM  
RICHARD A. KIRBY  
MICHAEL G. MAURIZI  
JESSICA M. MILLER  
MARGARET M. MOORE  
DAVID L. MOULTON  
DENNIS J. RIVET II  
ROBERTA L. ROTHEN  
MATTHEW J. SWIBER  
KHANG V. N. THAI  
JOHN P. WEI  
DARYL S. WONG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

RICHFIELD F. AGULLANA  
SAMUEL A. BORNINO, SR.  
LISA A. CLARK  
MICHAEL Y. DAGDAGAN  
BRIAN J. HAWKINS  
EDWARD U. HOOD  
ERIC A. NAGLEY  
ERIC L. QUARLES  
TAMMY L. SHIPMAN  
JERICHO B. TIMOG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

SARAH E. ABBOTT  
LINDSEY C. BUZZELL  
DEAN B. FARMER II  
THOMAS J. FLORA  
DAVID B. GELESZYNSKI  
MITCHELL P. GRANT  
BRIAN H. HARRINGTON  
SCOTT G. JOHNSON  
TODD M. KEITH  
DANIEL W. PERSON  
CASSIDI A. REESE  
WALTER A. REYNOLDS  
DANIEL D. ROPP  
JACOB P. SCHOFIELD  
JAMES R. STRUCK  
JUSTIN R. WIESEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

MATTHEW R. ARGENZIANO  
RICHARD K. ARLEDGE  
TROY D. BAILEY  
ROBERT D. BLANCHARD  
ERIC D. BREGE  
KATHLEEN M. CAMPBELL  
AARON D. COUDRAY  
CAROLYN J. ENGLAND  
CAROLE J. ETHERINGTON  
THOMAS P. FINLEY  
JAMES M. FLETCHER  
DANIEL L. HEMMINGER  
GABRIEL D. HERNANDEZ  
JUSTIN C. HLAVIN  
KYLE D. KOBOLD  
ANTHONY G. LARSON  
NICHOLAS D. LEVINE  
JOSHUA L. LUSK  
ANDREW M. LUTERAN  
CALEB W. MACDONALD  
ERIC P. MCDUGALL  
CRYSTAL A. MILLER  
COLIN S. MONK  
KRISTOPHER D. NETEMEYER  
PETER L. NORGAARD  
BRIAN K. RYGLOWSKI  
JUSTIN J. SALVIA  
BARTHOLOMEW J. SIEVENPIPER  
DAMIAN J. SMITH  
KEVIN A. WHITE  
JAMES R. WILKINS IV  
CHRISTOPHER J. WING  
KYLE L. WOERNER  
MICHAEL A. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

JEANINE F. BENJAMIN  
EDWARD A. CARLTON  
MARTIN F. FAJARDO  
BENJAMIN W. FISCHER  
CHARLES R. HARMON  
DOUGLAS W. JONES  
MICHAEL J. KEPPEEN  
NATHALIE C. KOCIS  
MATTHEW S. LARKIN  
QUINTRELL L. MCCREARY  
BRANDI S. MCGEHEE  
AARON SANCHEZ  
SAVANNA S. STEFFEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

CHARLES B. ABBOTT  
JAMES S. ACKERMAN  
ALLEN M. AGOR  
JASON M. AGOSTINELLI  
MELANIE K. AHLE  
DARIUS V. AHMADI  
MATTHEW P. ALLAN  
COLIN S. ALLEN  
JAMES V. ALLENBURG  
BENJAMIN AMDUR  
BENJAMIN M. ANDERSON  
BJORN A. ANDERSON  
GEOFFREY D. ANDERSON  
MARK K. ANDERSON  
HIRAM ANDREU  
STEPHEN T. ANDROS

BRIAN S. ANTHONY  
WADE C. ASHLEY  
KURT C. ASTROTH  
FREDERICK ATIENZA  
STEPHEN K. AUGUSTYN  
ANDRES J. AVILES  
JOHN P. BABICK  
JOSHUA L. BACCA  
DANIEL A. BAILEY  
APRIL D. BAKKEN  
THEALOS C. BALLAS  
BRENT L. BANKS  
JEREMY J. BARDIN  
DENNIS A. BAREFOOT  
JEREMY D. BARNES  
EDWARD J. BARRY  
TIMOTHY K. BATTLES  
JONATHAN R. BAUGH  
JONATHAN S. BEATON  
KEVIN J. BEHM  
ALEXANDER L. BEIN  
SAMUEL D. BELL  
WILLIAM M. BENCINI  
MICHAEL A. BENDER  
CHRISTOPHER B. BENNETT  
DARRICK M. BERENS  
DIANA L. BETZ  
JESSICA F. BETZ  
CHRISTOPHER E. BLAIS  
CHRISTIAN W. BLASY  
BRIAN C. BLAYDES  
PATRICK E. BLIND  
PETER M. BORSZICH  
MARK S. BOVEE II  
TODD C. BOWERS  
BRANDON P. BOYCE  
BRADLEY M. BOYD  
GREGORY F. BRANT  
SCOTT A. BRESNAHAN  
TIMOTHY S. BREWER  
SCOTT E. BRICKNER  
DAMON J. BRIDGES  
ROBERT J. BRIGGS  
JEFFREY K. BROWN, JR.  
MICHAEL D. BROWN  
MICHAEL J. BROWN  
RANDALL M. BROWN  
THOMAS J. BROWNING  
VALERIE E. BROZNAK  
KEITH R. BUCKINGHAM  
JUSTIN M. BUMMARA  
BRIAN C. BUNGAY  
JOSEPH C. BURGON  
DAVID B. BURKE  
ROBERT C. BURKE  
NICHOLAS A. BURKLE  
MATTHEW D. BUTT  
JOHN M. CADY  
FREDERICK B. CALALANG  
JESSICA E. CALDWELL  
CALVIN M. CAMPBELL, JR.  
JOSEPH L. CAMPBELL  
JOHN A. CAMPGOTTTO  
RENE R. CANO, JR.  
ALAN J. CARLSON  
DONALD J. CARTER  
DAVID J. CATTERALL  
CHRISTOPHER CAUSEE  
CHARLES E. CHAMBERS II  
PATRICK M. CHAPMAN  
TIMOTHY C. CHARLEBOIS  
TARUS D. CHATMAN  
MICHAEL S. CHEE  
RANDALL J. CLEMONS  
CHARLES H. CLINE  
ANDREW F. COATES  
MARK D. COCHRAN, JR.  
STEPHEN M. COL  
NICHOLAS S. COLLIER  
JORGE R. COLON  
TREVOR J. CONGER  
ERIC A. COOP  
CHARLES T. COOPER  
LIDA P. COOPER  
WILLIAM J. COOPER  
JAMES R. CORDONNIER  
JOSE B. CORTEZ  
EARL A. CRAWFORD  
FREDERICK D. CRAYTON  
JEFFREY J. CREIGHAN  
GREGORY J. CROSBY  
COLLIER C. CROUCH  
JAMES J. DALO  
MICHAEL S. DALRYMPLE  
LOUIS A. DANTONIO  
MATTHEW J. DATTOLI  
CHRISTOPHER M. DAVIS  
ROGER A. DAVIS  
ANDREW B. DEAN  
BRYAN R. DEAROLF  
DAVID L. DEATON  
JOHN P. DEBENK  
GEORGE DEGENNARO  
CHRISTOPHER T. DEITZ  
JASON DELANEUVILLE  
SHANE R. DENNIS  
SHAUN E. DENNIS  
DAVID M. DESROCHERS  
JAMIE J. DIAZ  
JAMES R. J. DIEDENDERFER  
MATTHEW J. DILLON  
DUSTIN D. DINOLA  
JASON D. DIVITO  
JAMES R. DOBY  
ANDREW L. DOMINA  
MEGAN M. DONNELLY  
JOHN T. DONOHUE

THOMAS J. DORAN  
JONATHAN D. DORSEY  
KELLY J. DOSSENBACK  
SEAN R. DOUGHERTY  
PAUL S. DUENAS  
JOHN J. DUES, JR.  
STEPHEN A. DURAN  
STEVEN A. DYKSTRA  
VICTOR EBERLE  
STEPHEN P. ECKHART  
JUSTIN P. ECKHOPF  
ROBERT L. EDMONSON III  
DAVID F. EDWARDS  
GREGORY W. EDWARDS  
LLOYD R. EDWARDS  
BRIAN J. EHRHARDT  
SETH R. EISENMENGER  
MICHAEL E. EK  
JAMES M. ELMORE II  
KIRK D. EMANUELSEN II  
GREGORY B. ENZINGER  
JAMIE M. EPPS  
SETH J. ERVIN  
HENRY P. ESHENOUR  
RICHARD C. EYTEL  
BRAD A. FANCHER  
JONATHAN D. FARLEY  
JEREMIAH W. FARWELL  
CHRISTINE FELICE  
ERIK S. FIGUEROA  
JEFFREY S. FINDLAY  
SPENCER M. FISHMAN  
WAYNE T. FITTS  
NEIL B. FLETCHER  
JOSEPH A. FONTENOT  
LARRY R. FORD, JR.  
SHANNYN W. FOWLER  
SHANE M. FOX  
JOSEPH W. FRANKS  
ROBERT J. FRANTZ  
KURT N. FREDLAND  
JAMIE L. FRENCH  
SCOTT B. FRENCH  
ROGER L. FRINGER  
MICHAEL L. FRISBY II  
JAMES E. FULKS  
CHARLES C. GALLAGHER III  
RAYMOND H. GAMBEL, JR.  
JEFFREY S. GAMMON, JR.  
DAVID A. GARRETT  
JOHN K. GARRETT  
FRANCISCO X. GARZA  
NOMER I. GATCHALIAN  
JONATHAN T. GIBSON  
ROBERT B. GILLENWATER  
ROBERT J. GILLIS, JR.  
ANN K. GILSON  
MICHELLE A. GIRE  
SEAN T. GLARNER  
PENNY L. GLOVER  
MICHAEL C. GRAHAM  
SHEMAYL A. GRANT  
CHRISTOPHER J. GREEN  
CULLEN M. GREENFIELD  
ANDREW J. GREENLEES  
GREGORY A. GRUBBS  
JOSEPH GUNTA  
NICHOLAS E. GURLEY  
CHRISTOPHER M. GZYBOWSKI  
DAVID M. HAFEMAN  
KEVIN R. HAGAN  
JAMES C. HAGERTY  
DAVID Y. HAILE  
JAMES M. HALL  
KRISTEN M. HANSEN  
JOHN D. HARKINS  
STEPHEN C. HARRINGTON  
JACK A. HARRISON III  
BRYAN P. HART  
BENJAMIN R. HARTMAN  
MATTHEW G. HAYS  
NEAL D. HEATON  
JOEL D. HEFFENTRAGER  
ANDREAS R. HELCHINGER  
MICHAEL J. HELLARD  
MICHAEL HENDERSON  
BENJAMIN B. HENDRICKS  
EDMUND D. HENRY  
PHILLIP C. HERNDL  
FREDERICK G. HETTLING  
SAMUEL HIGGINBOTHAM  
JERRY C. HIGGINS  
JOHN P. HILTZ  
GREGORY A. HINKLE  
RYAN L. HINZ  
KYLE W. HISCOCK  
MATTHEW L. HOBERT  
JUSTIN J. HOFF  
NICHOLAS G. HOFFMAN  
CHRISTOPHER D. HOLLAND  
JAMES F. HOPP  
JAMES H. HORA  
JOHN B. HORN  
JOHN P. HOUSTON  
ADAM HOWELL  
WILLIAM J. HOWEY III  
SCOTT C. HUDSON  
CLAYTON J. HUGHEY  
LEWIS S. IN  
BARCLAY C. IMLE  
ANDREW M. IMPERATORE  
JAMES J. IRRGANG, JR.  
KATIE JACOBSON  
KEVIN E. JAMES  
JASON G. JEANPIERRE  
AMEIAN JEREMIAH  
RICHARD JIMENEZ, JR.

DEREK N. JOHNSON  
DEVINE JOHNSON  
BRETT L. JONES  
RUSSELL W. JONES  
SCOTT A. JONES  
TIMOTHY B. JONES  
JEFFERY A. KAHN  
VINCENT A. KAHNKE  
JOSEPH T. KARAFFA  
THERESA L. KAYLOR  
ERICK M. KEARNS  
MICHAEL L. KENDEL  
CHRISTI N. KENNEDY  
JUSTIN J. KENNEDY  
MARCUS A. KEPHART  
MICHAEL W. KESSLER  
JOHN A. KIRSCHKE III  
MICHAEL S. KISER  
JASON D. KNOX  
THOMAS G. KOLWICZ, JR.  
MICHAEL J. KOS  
KEVIN A. KRAEMER  
DOUGLAS R. KRAMER  
DANIEL J. KRAUSE  
JOSHUA D. KRISTENSON  
PHILLIP R. KRITES  
MARK K. KROZEL  
STEVEN H. KUKLA  
DANIEL W. LANDI  
JONATHAN W. LANG  
PETER D. LANGLEY  
MICHAEL M. LANZILLO  
CHARLES A. LARWOOD III  
TROY R. LAWSON  
ANDREW B. LEATHERWOOD  
ERIC V. LEONHARDI  
PETER E. LESACA  
JEFFREY J. LESSARD  
MATTHEW D. LETCHER  
KRISTEN N. LEVASSEUR  
GREGORY E. LEVEQUE  
MICHAEL A. LILLEBERG  
HUGO M. LIMA  
PHILIPP A. LINES  
CARL S. LIPTAK  
LACY N. LODMELL  
JONATHAN E. LONG  
CHRISTOPHER J. LONGABAUGH  
KEVIN P. LUCAS  
NICHOLAS J. LUNSFORD  
CODY C. LUTKE  
MICHAEL R. LYLE  
STEVEN A. MACGILLIS  
ERIC J. MADONIA  
NICHOLAS C. MADREN  
RYAN E. MAGEE  
DAVID D. MAHONEY  
PAUL J. MAHONEY  
DAWN T. MAKOWSKY  
KYLE P. MALONE  
LAWRENCE D. MALONE  
JOHNPAUL S. MANTONE  
KEISHA N. MARABLE  
HECTOR MARIN  
RYAN J. MARKEY  
MICHAEL R. MARKS  
ANDREW J. MASCOTTI  
THOMAS J. MASHUDA  
JOHN K. MASTRIANI  
JOHN R. MATRIKAT  
ADAM M. MATTHEWS  
JASON A. MAYS  
DUSTIN R. MCCALLISTER  
THOMAS D. MCCANDLESS IV  
BARRY N. MCCONNELL  
MATTHEW A. MCCORMICK  
JOSHUA Q. MCCRIGHT  
CHRISTOPHER G. MCCURRY  
JAMEEL MCDANIEL  
KYLE O. MCDANIEL  
MICHAEL R. MCDONALD  
JOSEPH L. MCGETTIGAN  
MICHAEL S. MCGUIRE  
RICHARD P. MCINNIS  
DAVID J. MCLAUGHLIN  
MICHAEL P. MCLAUGHLIN  
ALEXANDER M. MCMAHON  
MICHAEL T. MCMAHON  
GILLIAN L. MEDINA  
JOHN W. MEISE  
WILLIAM T. MIANTE  
CHRISTOPHER M. MILLER  
RYAN P. MILLER  
SCOTT T. MILLER  
COLLEEN M. MINIHAN  
BRADLEY M. MONGER  
COLLEEN E. MOORE  
FRANK J. MORALES  
JESSICA L. MORERA  
JASON P. MORTIMER  
MATTHEW A. MRAYLA  
THOMAS J. MURRAY III  
KRISTOPHER J. NASTRO  
ROBERT J. NEFF  
BENJAMIN E. NEHRKE  
JASON A. NELSON  
JONATHAN P. NELSON  
BRIAN J. NEWGREN  
MATTHEW R. NEWMAN  
THANH T. NGUYEN, JR.  
DAVID A. NICHOLS  
KEITH S. NIELSEN  
SHELBY M. NIKITIN  
ERIK A. NYHEIM  
JOSHUA D. OAKES  
KRISTEL A. OCANAS  
TOD F. OCONNELL

NATHANIEL I. OKELLY  
STACEY L. ONEAL  
BRENDAN ONEILL  
FRANK J. ORSINO  
CARLOS A. OTERO  
JUSTIN R. OTT  
DAVID R. OWENS  
JONATHAN D. PADGETT  
GREG A. PAGE  
STEVEN C. PARENTE  
JEREMY J. PARM  
ISAAC M. PELT  
GARY L. PEMBLETON  
JOHN H. PERRY  
JEREMIAH N. PETERSEN  
MICHAEL W. PFETTER  
JONATHAN P. PHILLIPS  
MATTHEW D. W. PHILLIPS  
CHRISTOPHER L. POLNASZEK  
ANTHONY J. POLO  
ERIC M. PONSART  
MATTHEW B. POWELL  
JAMES R. POWERS, JR.  
MATTHEW G. PRATT  
RICHARD J. PRESCOTT  
NICHOLAS R. PRICE  
JON B. QUIMBY  
ALEX S. RAFAL  
JOSHUA N. RAGADIO  
DOUGLAS E. RAINEAULT  
ROBERT RAMIREZ III  
RICHARD A. RASCO  
JENNA K. RAUNIG  
JOHN R. REINER  
BRIAN G. REIZISS  
FERNANDO R. REYES  
CHRISTIAN P. RICHER  
MICHAEL T. RICKETTS  
LOGAN T. RIDLEY  
KEVIN F. RILEY  
ERIK S. ROBERTS  
JEFFREY B. ROBERTS, JR.  
ROBERT RODRIGUEZ  
TIMOTHY E. ROGERS  
SUMNER J. ROLLINGS, JR.  
MATTHEW B. ROY  
FRANK C. SANCHEZ  
PHILLIP J. SAUTTER  
MICHAEL A. SAYLOR  
CRYSTAL L. SCHAEFER  
KEVIN M. SCHAEFFER  
JONATHAN P. SCHERMERHORN  
NATHAN R. SCHNAIBLE  
BRENNIA R. SCHNAIBS  
BRADLEY V. SCHOULTZ  
GORDON M. SCHRIVER  
KRISTOPHER J. SCHULTE  
JOSHUA D. SEAMOUNT  
MARCUS H. SEEGER  
BRETT R. SEELEY  
CHRISTOPHER M. SEGUINE  
ERNIQUE L. SENLEY  
TIMOTHY F. SHANLEY  
PHILLIP J. SHERIDAN  
KEVIN K. SHIKUMA  
MICHAEL M. SHORT  
MICHAEL S. SILVER  
RODRIGO B. SIMOES  
RICHARD B. SLADE  
LESLIE A. SLOOTMAKER  
JOHN C. SMITH  
KELLIE J. SMITH  
MICHAEL R. SMITH  
NICKLAUS G. SMITH  
PHILIP D. SOSEBEE  
DONALD E. SPEIGHTS  
CHARLES C. SPIVEY III  
JAMES M. STACHURA  
NATHAN D. STAFF  
MATTHEW G. STARR  
JAMES B. STAUFFER  
MICHAEL T. STEFFENS  
ANNE C. STEHLIN  
DANIEL R. STOCK  
KRISTINA M. STONER  
ANTHONY G. STRANGES  
SCOTT A. STRATMAN  
JARED J. STROUT  
AARON M. STUTZMAN  
JAMES SULLEN, JR.  
JEFFREY R. SWEITZER  
KEITH J. TATE  
PATRICK E. TEMBREULL  
JARED B. THOMAS  
DAVID A. TICKLE  
TODD M. TRAGO  
TIN T. TRAN  
CHRISTOPHER P. TURMEL  
ERIC D. TURNER  
JOSEPH S. TURNER  
KEITH T. TURNER  
SHAUN S. TURNER  
STEPHEN M. VALERIO  
DAVID A. VANKAMPEN  
JAMES S. VANNIST  
ROBERT W. VILLANUEVA  
ANDREW J. VINCENT  
DAVID R. VOGELGESANG  
MATTHEW P. VOSS  
JACOB N. VRBAS  
TIMOTHY P. WALSH  
JASON O. WALTERS  
BRET A. WALTHER  
CHARLES E. WALTMAN II  
TRAVIS E. WANDELL  
JEREMY L. WATKINS  
JEREMY M. WEATHERS

JEFFREY M. WEBB  
MICHAEL R. WEBB  
GERALD V. WEERS  
MICHAEL J. WELGAN  
SCOTT E. WELLES  
JAMES V. WELSCH III  
JAMES M. WENDLER  
CHRISTOPHER A. WERBER  
ELIOT A. WESTON  
SAMUEL WHEELER  
ALFONZA O. WHITE  
THOMAS W. WHITE  
CHRISTOPHER K. WHITEHOUSE  
JASON D. WHITEMAN  
LUKE R. WHITMORE  
ROBERT W. WHITMORE  
BRETT A. WHORLEY  
HENRY J. WICKS  
BRETT M. WILLIAMS  
THOMAS W. WILLIAMS  
ANTHONY M. WILSON  
DANIEL M. WILTFANG  
DAVID L. WILTSHIRE  
MICHAEL L. WINDHAM  
ERIC WINN  
JOSHUA P. WOLF  
BRYAN T. WOLFE  
CHRISTOPHER W. WOLFF  
TRAVIS L. WOOD  
BRANDEN K. WOODS  
ANDREW J. WOOLLEY  
DUSTIN R. WORLEY  
MICHAEL D. WORRELL  
EVAN P. WRIGHT  
MARVIN L. WYNN II  
WESLEY W. YANCEY  
ADAM D. YATES  
CRISTOBAL YERA  
DAVID C. YOON  
KEITH D. YULL  
ADAM I. ZAKER  
AMANDA H. ZAWORA  
STEVEN ZIELECHOWSKI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

HASAN ABDULMUTAKALLIM  
DANNY R. BOUIE  
ROBERT B. CONNER  
JAMES E. DELOSSANTOS  
ANTHONY E. DOBSON  
JOHN E. FALLON  
JACOB P. GALBREATH  
CRAIG M. GILKEY  
JOSEPH A. HOUSER  
BLAKE W. LAFEVER  
DALE R. LISKEY  
AARON M. MASSEY  
JIMMIE L. NELSON  
SEAN M. NELSON  
NATHAN A. WALKER  
STANLEY C. WARE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

BRADLEY H. ABRAMOWITZ  
DON E. BARBER, JR.  
ESTHER E. BRADLEY  
BRIAN C. BROADWELL  
BRIAN D. CUMMINGS  
DAMIEN A. DODGE  
JOSEPH E. DUCHESNEAU  
CRAIG A. FOWLER  
ERIC K. GRAEWERT  
BRANDY L. GROSSI  
RYAN N. HAAG  
JAMES L. HAMMERSLA III  
DUSTIN M. JOHNS  
MATTHEW L. LINDSAY  
LABRISHA A. MASON  
JOSEPH A. MAXWELL  
JONATHAN C. MCCARTER  
GARY A. MCCONAGHY, JR.  
DAVID C. PEREZ  
KURT L. PODRAZIK  
DANIEL A. REDDEG, JR.  
SHAWN D. TEASLEY  
JOHN L. TOMAR  
ERIC A. WEISS  
JAMES M. WILLIS  
JENNIE H. G. WOOD  
CORNNELL A. WOODS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

FRANCIS J. CARMODY III  
MATTHEW S. CUSHANICK  
ERIC L. DALEY  
MICHAEL J. HARRIS  
JENNIFER J. LANDRY  
MATTHEW W. MCKENZIE  
BRIAN D. MCKEON  
DOUGLAS W. PEARMAN  
JAMES A. SCIENNA  
PAMELA A. TELLADO  
ALLISON B. TERRAY  
MATTHEW N. WATTS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

LUCAS G. BARLOW  
CHRISTOPHER S. BERNOTAVICIUS  
GAVIN H. CLOUGH  
JEREMY D. CRESTETTO  
RYAN F. GUARD  
NATALIA C. HENRIQUEZ  
JADA E. JOHNSON  
RANDALL D. JONES  
JOHN E. KRUSE III  
JONATHAN D. LOHN  
PETER A. MALLORY, JR.  
RICHARD L. MCKNIGHT II  
DAVID H. MILLNER  
ANDREW C. OCONNOR  
WILLIAM J. PARISH  
CHAD J. STUEWE  
JESSICA SWANSON  
GEDION T. TEKLEGIORGIS  
DANIEL G. UPP  
BENJAMIN F. VISGER  
CHRISTOPHER L. WALLACE  
CHRISTINA J. WONG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY  
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

KATHARINE M. CEREZO  
ZACHARY F. HARRELL  
COURTNEY L. HILLSON  
HAYLEY C. SIMS  
JOE M. VASQUEZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY  
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

KEVIN J. ALTEMARA  
MARTIN J. ARA  
PETER T. BEUTTENMULLER  
TRAVIS Z. BODE  
JAY E. BOYLES  
ALAN M. BRECHBILL  
DANIEL E. BROWN  
RUSSELL D. CHAPMAN  
JOHN C. COPELAND  
ALEXI N. CUCA  
BART M. DANGELO  
ANDREW C. DAVIS  
MATTHEW P. DOMINGOS  
DALE C. DURLACH  
ADRIAN A. DY  
LYNDON D. EASTON  
NATHAN A. FEEZOR  
JASON M. FLOOD  
JAMES G. GABRIEL

ANDREW M. GADBOIS  
MIMI H. GAFFNEY  
JOHANN A. GUZMAN  
BERTHEA G. HAMPTONGAINES  
JOHN D. HEAVRIN  
DANIEL A. HOLLENDONER  
DANIEL J. HONEBEIN  
BRIAN J. JOHNSON  
CHARLES K. JONES  
NICHOLAS G. KALKAS  
HAK J. KIM  
DANIEL L. KWIATKOWSKI  
MELISSA A. MACLIN  
MELISSA S. MECCA  
RUDOLFO M. MUNOZ  
TERRANCE P. MURPHY  
WALTER PAULI  
ROBERTO R. PEREZ  
JEFFREY P. PRAGER  
JASON T. RITCHIE  
JEFFREY M. ROARK  
MATEO E. ROBERTACCIO  
DAVID N. SAVERY  
JUSTIN L. SCARBROUGH  
OBIE I. SHABAZZ  
JOHN W. STOLZE III  
JEREMY J. WAGNER  
CHAD R. WEDEL  
JEFFREY P. WILLHITE  
JACOB E. WILSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY  
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

PATRICK A. BATISTE  
DAVID E. BYRNE  
MARK K. CORBLISS  
CHRISTOPHER E. CRAVEN  
SCOTT B. CROLY  
KENT L. DAVIS  
RICHARD DIAZ  
MATTHEW J. FINNERAN  
BRENT W. FULTON  
EDWARD E. GOSLEE  
SHAMAR D. GRAY  
ALBERT GUAJARDO  
OMAR A. HAIR  
ZACHARY D. HARRY  
TODD R. HASTINGS  
BRIAN C. HELLMANN  
KEVIN D. KITCHIN  
MICHAEL J. KLAUER  
DAVID J. KRUG  
BRYAN J. KUPYAR  
GERARD P. LETOILE, JR.  
LANCE R. LINDLEY  
TRACY L. MACKEY  
RONALD W. MCCALLISTER

JON A. MILLER  
JOHN C. MORRIS  
JEFFREY A. MOTICHKA  
TROY L. NAATUS  
TIMOTHY M. PRATT  
GREGORY B. PRICE  
MICHAEL A. PRINCE  
MARK W. REID  
ERIC P. RION  
JAIME I. ROMAN  
MANUEL SANCHEZ  
CHAD E. SANER  
DEAN S. SCHOENROCK  
JOHN A. STAHLEY II  
REYNALDO A. STANLEY, JR.  
DAVID S. SWEET  
LARRY E. TARVER  
MICHAEL A. WOODCOCK  
ROBERT J. WRENN

## IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MA-  
RINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

JONATHAN M. PICKUP

## CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by  
the Senate June 7, 2018:

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

KENNETH L. MARCUS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, DEPARTMENT OF EDU-  
CATION.

## WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by  
the President to the Senate on June 7,  
2018 withdrawing from further Senate  
consideration the following nomina-  
tion:

CHARLES E. COOK III, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF FI-  
NANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECUR-  
ITY, VICE CHARLES H. FULGHUM, WHICH WAS SENT TO  
THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 5, 2018.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to congratulate First Baptist Church of Gary, Indiana, as the congregation joins together in celebration of the church's 110th anniversary. First Baptist's leaders and members will be commemorating this milestone with a communal "Unity Circle" around the church and celebration on Sunday, June 10, 2018. The theme for this beautiful event is "Glorifying God for 110 years of Faithfulness."

In 1908, the African American community recognized the need for a Baptist church in Gary, Indiana. Three individuals, Raymond Rankins, Samuel Duncan, and Samuel Clay, called upon Dr. Elijah John Fisher, pastor of Olivet Baptist Church in Chicago, for support in making this dream a reality. Through their hard work and determination, First Baptist emerged in Gary, with the first services being held in the home of Mr. Rankins. Soon after, participation in the church began to increase, and the first house of worship was constructed at 1617 Washington Street in Gary. After various reconstructions and relocations, First Baptist finally settled in its current location at 626 West 21st Avenue in 1955, under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. Robert E. Penn, who served as pastor for more than twenty years. Reverend Penn's legacy continues to resonate as a shining example of selfless service and unwavering commitment to the community. Throughout the years, numerous senior pastors have made remarkable contributions to the First Baptist Church of Gary, as well as to the community of Northwest Indiana, and they are worthy of our deepest appreciation. Currently, the senior pastor of First Baptist is Pastor Timothy F. Brown. Pastor Brown has initiated new programs aimed at improving not only the church but the community as well, and his efforts are worthy of the highest praise.

From its modest beginnings, First Baptist Church has emerged as a pillar of the Gary community. Although First Baptist, the oldest African American congregation in the City of Gary, has seen immense growth, not only in the size of its congregation but also in the depth of the services and programs available to its members, the clergy and congregation have remained dedicated to the fundamental ideal of serving God by serving each other.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating church members Mary Bacon, Herman Borders, Gwendolyn Buggs, Tillman Buggs, Columbus Chambers Jr., Mae Fossett, and Michael J. Houston, each of whom has reached their 50th year of membership with the church this year. I also ask that you join me in recognizing 2018 col-

lege and high school graduates 2nd Lt. Adam Franklin Collins, Sidney Puckett, Melody Walker, Victoria Bacon, Ashley Conerly, Destiny R. Harris, Caleb J. Hiller, Blake Dupre Reasoner, and Rashawn Seels, while congratulating Pastor Timothy F. Brown and all church leaders and members of First Baptist Church of Gary on the special occasion of its 110th anniversary. Throughout the years, the clergy and congregation of First Baptist Church have dedicated themselves to providing spirituality and guidance through their service to their community.

### HONORING JOHN WILLIAM ROBROCK

#### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John William Robrock for his lifelong dedication to art education and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement. Mr. Robrock began his teaching career in 1979 and has taught in California, South Dakota, and Wyoming. He has spent the last eighteen years in my district at San Benito High School. Throughout his career, Mr. Robrock inspired countless young students to explore their creative abilities and pursue their artistic goals.

With his support and guidance, Mr. Robrock's students have earned thousands of dollars in scholarships as well as trips to Washington, D.C. and Japan to present their work. Since 1989, his students have participated in the Congressional District Art Competition, five of which won first place awards and displayed their artwork at the U.S. Capitol. This year I was honored to award first place in the Congressional Art Competition for Congressional District 20 to one of his students.

Mr. Robrock has a great ability to inspire and motivate his students in their artistic endeavors. Mr. Robrock has maintained a lifelong commitment to artistic explorations in a wide variety of mediums. This is apparent in his dedication to the art of comic books, and he has even traveled internationally to spread the appreciation of this art form. Moreover, Mr. Robrock maintains a deep love of classical music and opera, and was even willing to stand-in last minute for the University of Wyoming's marching band. As a teacher, Mr. Robrock has coached students in performing arts who went on to win statewide theater competitions. He has also designed parade floats in the Pasadena Doo Dah Parade and banners for the San Benito Writers Group in the Saddle Horse Association of San Benito parade.

Mr. Robrock has dedicated his life to the proliferation of the arts. His four decades of teaching countless college and high school students—both inside and outside my district—are a testament to his dedication to ensuring younger generations appreciate all art

has to offer. His awards, both personal and those of his students, are too numerous to list in full. It is the tireless dedication of art connoisseurs and instructors like Mr. Robrock that ensure our country continues to rightfully treasure the arts.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to add my name to the recognition of John Robrock's accomplishments and passion for the arts. I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors and encourage all of my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating and appreciating Mr. Robrock's four decades of public service.

### RECOGNIZING THE HONOR FLIGHT OF CENTRAL OREGON VETERANS

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the two World War II veterans and twenty-three Korean War veterans from Oregon who are visiting their memorials on the National Mall on Friday, June 8, 2018, through Honor Flight of Central Oregon. Every time I have the chance to meet one of these heroes, I am reminded of the poignant words of General Dwight D. Eisenhower. In a message to Allied troops just before D-Day, he said, "The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you."

He was right then, of course, Mr. Speaker. But over seventy years later, liberty-loving people everywhere continue to owe these heroes for their extraordinary service and their incredible stories of sacrifice and bravery on behalf of our country. That's why it is my privilege to include their names in the RECORD.

The veterans on this Honor Flight from Oregon are as follows: Bill Apgar, Air Force; Bill Jensen, Air Force; Donald Tuter, Air Force; Jim Roppe, Air Force; John Giles, Air Force; Robert Huntington Sr., Air Force; Robert Wolverton Sr., Air Force; Larry Rose, Air Force; Alexander McKenzie, Army; Denny Kane, Army; Fred Hasenoehrl, Army; Jack Donnelly, Army; Lanny Jones, Army; Lester Davis, Army; Michael Craig, Army; Neil Chase, Army; Paul Knox, Army; Ray Davis, Army; Wallace Smith, Army; Arthur Egren Jr., Marine Corps; John Meyer, Marine Corps; Frankie Bowne, Navy; Jim Prentice, Navy; Leonard Zierlin, Navy; and Paul LaFrance, Navy.

These twenty-five heroes join over 200,000 veterans who have been honored through the Honor Flight Network of volunteers nationwide since 2005.

I would also like to recognize the ten guardians traveling on this trip who have also served our country: Fred Beebe, Air Force; Mike Woods, Air Force; Russell Tuter, Air Force; Christine Gittins, Army; Dennis Dorsett, Army; Lee Thorsell, Army; Dane Prevatt, Marine Corps; Duane Wolf, Marine Corps; Clint McAuliffe, Navy; and Jeff Mackey, Navy.

• 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.

Mr. Speaker, at the height of the Civil War in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote, "Honor to the Soldier, and Sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause." Each of us in this chamber and in this nation should be humbled by the courage of these brave veterans who put themselves in harm's way for our country and way of life. As a nation, we can never fully repay the debt of gratitude owed to them for their honor, commitment, and sacrifice in defense of the freedoms we have today.

My colleagues, please join me in thanking these veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Central Oregon for their exemplary dedication and service to this great country.

---

THE ASTRODOME: THE EIGHTH  
WONDER OF THE WORLD AND  
NOW A TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL  
MARKER

---

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the Houston Astros lead their division, Houstonians can't help but look forward to another exciting season of Astros baseball. As the home of the reigning champions, the people of Houston have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to remember.

Today Astros games are played in the beautiful Minute Maid Ballpark, however many of us old timers remember watching the team's first game in the Astrodome in 1965. There was simply nothing else like the Dome. The players would stand in centerfield and try to hit balls straight up to see if they could hit the roof. It was a marvel for both the players and fans. It was the world's first domed stadium, the only stadium in sports to offer luxury suites, and—since everything is bigger in Texas—the largest dome on Earth.

Home to the Houston Astros for three decades, the stadium has seen thousands of people from all over our country. But Mr. Speaker, baseball fans were not the only ones making their way through the iconic Dome's doors. Elvis Presley performed seven times in the stadium, the Battle of the Sexes tennis match was played here, and the world famous Houston Livestock Show and Radio was held in the Dome for many years. Though the Dome has seen its fair share of cowboys, movie stars, and baseball players, perhaps its greatest moment was when it was transformed into a home for over 60,000 refugees fleeing the destruction of Katrina.

The Astrodome is not an abandoned baseball stadium; it is a part of Houston and Texas history. Nicknamed the Eighth wonder of the world, the Dome is a landmark loved by all Houstonians. Just recently it received its fitting designation as a Texas Historic Landmark. Though it has gone its many years without official recognition, the Astrodome has always been admired by those Houstonians and Texans who know its history. Now, the Astrodome takes its proper place in Texas history as an official Texas Historic Landmark.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING ANGEL ANDERSON

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angel Anderson and her store, The SpiceSuite, on becoming the 2018 District of Columbia Small Business of the Year. This distinction is awarded as part of our 21st annual District of Columbia Small Business Fair, which we are holding today at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.

This year, we are proud to honor Angel and The SpiceSuite, a store located at 6902 4th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20012 where customers can customize spice blends and find unique products like coconut vanilla infused honey and blueberry sugar. Angel opened The SpiceSuite just two years ago as the manifestation of a dream she did not know she had, and has since cultivated it into a community staple. A D.C. native, Angel graduated from Banneker High School, and went on to earn both her bachelor's and master's degrees in psychology from Howard University. After completing her studies, she worked in education for nine years, focusing mainly on underserved communities. Angel began her teaching career at the District's Oak Hill Youth Center, eventually moving on to be a counselor and later an assistant principal at the Cesar Chavez Public Charter School.

The SpiceSuite is an extension of Angel's passion for community service. She operates the store as an avenue to promote other women-owned small businesses by sharing its space with these businesses to launch and sell their products. She has offered this opportunity to over 200 small businesses to date, at no cost to them. Angel continues to employ the various platforms at her disposal to engage the public and advocate for the underserved.

Our fair highlights the importance of small businesses to the District's economy. It provides critical information, counseling and resources to aspiring and current D.C. small business owners. Small businesses are a crucial lifeline in our local economy, and the District thrives because of the expanding success of small businesses throughout the District. We thank the Washington Convention Center for hosting us again this year; the workshop experts who are providing valuable information and assistance to small businesses; and, of course, all of the small business participants.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Angel Anderson, as well as in celebrating small businesses across the District. In the District and in districts around the country, small businesses continue to make indispensable contributions to our economies and communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the vote on passage of H.R. 8 (Roll Call No.

238). Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on final passage.

This bill is the result of a strong bipartisan process, and includes multiple projects beneficial to Colorado.

---

HONORING GORDON L. "BOX"  
BOCHER

---

**HON. THOMAS MacARTHUR**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. MACARTHUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service, scholarship, and contributions of Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher, United States Air Force, retired. Specifically, I'd like to recognize his recent essay based upon his experiences during the Vietnam War. A resident of New Jersey, Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher served in the United States Air Force from January of 1968 until June of 1980.

From February of 1972 until February of 1973, Gordon, served in the 16th Special Operations Squadron as a Fire Control Officer (FCO) assigned to fly the AC-130A Gunship. During that year, he flew over 170 combat sorties. He was in-theatre when the armistice was signed in Paris on January 27, 1973. While compiling research for his book and doing speaking tours, Gordon found a great deal of misinformation regarding the last year of the Vietnam War. He felt compelled to tell his story through an informative essay detailing his experiences.

Mr. Speaker, the people of New Jersey are tremendously honored to have Maj. Gordon L. "Box" Bocher, Ret. as a dedicated member of our community. It is because of his honorable service to our nation, his dedication to his community, and his work to honor the memory of all who served alongside with him, that I rise to recognize his scholarly contributions before the United State House of Representatives.

---

EMBRACING AUTISM

---

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, transitioning into adulthood from high school to college can be a difficult time for anyone. Balancing things such as what classes to take for your major, meeting new people, and finding time to study can be overwhelming. Now imagine doing all of those things while having autism.

Shaelynn "Shae" Castle was initially diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder in elementary school. It wasn't until middle school when she was properly diagnosed with autism. Shae struggled socially and academically, but with the support of her family and the Humble ISD Mosaic Program, she worked hard to learn the skills to advocate for herself.

The Mosaic Program helps people with disabilities from ages 18 to 21 transition from high school to become more independent adults. While attending Mosaic, students have

the option of participating in programs at Lone Star College-Kingwood. They are taught about the disability services that are available and the accommodations to support them in class. With guidance, these students have the option to be successful college students.

At the age of 23, Shae graduated from Lone Star College-Kingwood on May 12 of this year with an associate's degree in education. She has big plans for her future. She does not let her diagnosis limit or define her. Shae utilizes the advocacy skills she learned to help students at Whispering Pines Elementary School, where she works as a tutor for special needs students. She intends on paying it forward by becoming a math teacher who helps special needs students like herself. When asked why she wants to be a special needs teacher, Shae replied "My experiences help me to help other children who are struggling. I can say to them, 'I know what you're going through.'"

Despite a large obstacle, Shae has embraced her uniqueness and always finds a way to accomplish her goals. She has the strength and willingness to overcome, and that is a quality that not all people possess. Congratulations, Shae, on all that you have accomplished and the best of luck with conquering the professional world.

And that's just the way it is.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the Chamber on Tuesday, June 5, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call votes 231, 232, and 233.

#### CONGRATULATING ROB WIDMER

#### HON. RODNEY DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rob Widmer, who will retire this month after more than twenty-two years of service to Heartland Community College in Bloomington-Normal.

Rob has been in higher education for over forty years—half of which he spent with Heartland. He joined the college in 1996, serving as the vice president of business services until 2013, when he began his role as Heartland's third president. I can attest that he has been a great advocate for community colleges and technical education.

During his time there, Heartland expanded into one of Central Illinois' primary institutions for workforce development and is now among the state's most renowned community colleges.

This week, the newly-revitalized quad at Heartland's campus will be dedicated as the Rob Widmer Quad, in recognition of Rob's service to the school.

While he plans to travel and spend time with his four sons and ten grandchildren, I know Rob will continue serving the Bloomington-Normal community with his time and talents.

Congratulations, Rob, and best wishes on this new chapter of life.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARTHA PEEK UPON HER RETIREMENT

#### HON. BRADLEY BYRNE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Martha Lyon Peek upon her retirement as the Superintendent of the Mobile County Public School System.

Martha Peek, a native of Bayou La Batre, Alabama, has worked in the Mobile County School System for over forty years. Throughout her four decades, she has served as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, and deputy superintendent. Notably, she was the first female superintendent to serve in the 180-year history of the Mobile County Public School System.

Her career in education follows behind a line of her family members who have been continuously serving in the Mobile County School System since 1908. She represents the third generation in her family to work in education, and her career carried on an important family tradition.

Martha Peek was formally named Superintendent in July 2012 after serving as Deputy Superintendent since 2008. Prior to that, she was Assistant Superintendent for Academic Affairs, Executive Director of School Improvement and Accountability, and Principal at Dixon Elementary School. Her career in education started in 1972 as an elementary teacher at Alba School before she went on to work at Fonville Elementary School and Brookley Elementary School.

During her tenure, Martha Peek oversaw the largest school system in the State of Alabama with over 56,000 students. She successfully changed the perception of Mobile schools, improved test scores, and increased the graduation rate. She should also take great pride in the strides she made in establishing signature academies to help connect students with the skills they need to thrive in the local workforce.

Beyond her work in the school system, she is an involved community and civic member. She serves as a board member for the United Way of Southwest Alabama and Junior Achievement of Mobile and as a representative on the American Heart Association's National Superintendent Roundtable. Additionally, she is a member of the Leadership Alabama Class XXVI. In 2015, AL.com recognized her as one of the Women Who Shape the State of Alabama.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the countless students she impacted throughout her remarkable career, I wish Martha Peek, and her husband, Tyler, all the best upon her retirement. Her legacy will live on in the Mobile County Public School System for years to come.

#### 2018 HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESEARCH CONFERENCE

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, when the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan sailed westward past South America, he was struck by the serenity of the waters that lay before him. He then proclaimed this body of water Pacifico, meaning "peaceful."

This Pacific Ocean was thus a fitting backdrop for a meeting of a group of people attempting to bring peace into the lives of those affected by human trafficking.

Last month, the Human Trafficking Radar Research and Data Roundtable hosted their annual Human Trafficking Research Conference. Overlooking the Pacific Ocean from their venue in Point Loma, California, individuals committed to ending human trafficking gathered to discuss and share important research and ideas.

The featured speakers of the conference included accomplished academics and professionals, leaders in their fields to combat human trafficking. Two of the speakers, however, delivered a strong message by their mere presence together at the conference.

Ebony Jones suffered sexual abuse as a young girl. Soon after her eighteenth birthday, she found herself a victim of modern day slavery. Since escaping her trafficker, she has become a strong advocate for victims of human trafficking. Motivated by her own personal experience, Jones has worked to spread her message, people outside of low-income backgrounds are not immune to exploitation by traffickers.

Armand King once spent time behind bars for his life of crime, trafficking young women. But now, he's left his former life behind him. Armand is co-founder of Paving Great Futures, an organization that strives to drive at-risk individuals from a life of crime to opportunities of legitimate, respectable professions. King says he was lucky to be alive, and he relishes the opportunity to provide a unique and important perspective on human trafficking at the conference.

Together, near the very spot where the first Europeans landed in California several hundred years ago, Armand and Ebony urged the conference to pursue a new beginning: a world without human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, America needs more individuals like Ebony Jones and Armand King coming together to discuss ways in which we can reduce or eliminate human trafficking altogether. This scourge on humanity traumatizes the lives of thousands of people around the world, and their perspectives and support are a valuable asset as we continue the fight against this heinous crime.

Above all, Armand and Ebony strive to bring to the world what Magellan saw in those serene waters all those years ago: peace.

And that's just the way it is.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUBEN GALLEGO**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and not present for one roll call vote on Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

Roll Call Vote No. 237—Motion to Recommit with Instructions—Water Resources Development Act of 2018—YES.

## IN HONOR OF MARCY RAWITSCHER

**HON. ANN M. KUSTER**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcy Rawitscher, who will retire this spring after teaching for 28 years at Souhegan High School in Amherst, New Hampshire.

Marcy is a resident of Amherst, and is a distinguished graduate of both Middlebury College and Harvard University. Marcy has served as a mentor and inspiration for countless students during her years at Souhegan High School. Through Marcy's leadership, she founded the Eastern Studies elective program and the World Studies Program for Souhegan 11th grade students. Marcy was once even a contestant on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" television program during Teachers' Week.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's Second Congressional District, I thank Marcy for her many years of service and being a part of what makes the Granite State's public schools so special. Her legacy of teaching will continue through the countless students she has inspired. I am honored to recognize and congratulate Marcy on her retirement and wish her the best of luck in the years ahead.

## S. 2155, THE ECONOMIC GROWTH, REGULATORY RELIEF, AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to S. 2155 because it will undermine critical safeguards that protect consumers, communities, and the country from another financial crisis. In the wake of the financial crisis of 2008, Congress passed the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, comprehensive legislation aimed at curbing the risky behavior of big banks and predatory lenders. Many communities in Oregon and around the country are still recovering from the Great Recession, and we should not roll back the regulatory safeguards that are allowing our economy to rebound.

As a former consumer protection attorney, I am deeply troubled by the data breaches that have affected people across the country. Just

last year, the credit-reporting agency Equifax allowed the sensitive information of 148 million Americans to be exposed in a data breach. Individuals were urged to enroll in free credit monitoring, and to consider placing a freeze on their credit. Instead of providing further protections to the millions of people who were affected, this bill will harm them by preempting state credit freeze laws. We should be strengthening consumer rights, not weakening them.

The bill also undermines the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), which requires lenders to report on key data regarding home-mortgage lending in underserved communities. In 2015, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau finalized a rule that requires lenders provide detailed HMDA data about their loan practices to better understand the gaps in access to credit that exist. This bill expands the existing reporting requirement exemption for certain financial institutions, and would exempt nearly 5,400 banks from reporting that data. As long as underserved communities continue to struggle to access home loans, we should continue to collect the data necessary to shed light on the gaps in accessibility.

S. 2155 does include certain provisions to help consumers, including a provision making it easier for financial professionals to identify and report instances of financial fraud against seniors, and a provision to require the Social Security Administration to combat identity fraud. The bill also provides much-needed regulatory relief to our credit unions and community banks. These institutions were not engaging in the risky and speculative behavior that led to the recession, and they have always served an important role in our cities and towns. The bill also provides tools for community banks and credit unions to work with customers who are victims of data breaches. Although I support these commonsense reforms, the bill ultimately will undermine consumer protections, not bolster them. I urge my colleagues to oppose the legislation.

## RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KERN RIVER VALLEY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Kern River Valley Healthcare District.

Nestled in the rolling hills of the southern Sierra Nevada mountain range in Kern County, California, the Kern River Valley Healthcare District was established in 1967 to serve the towns of Kernville, Lake Isabella, Wofford Heights, and many other communities that call the Kern River Valley home. Over the years, the District has grown with the community it serves, providing care for an area that once numbered in the thousands to now playing an integral role in a community with a population now in the tens of thousands.

The Kern Valley Hospital forms the core of the District's services. Recognized as a small rural hospital, Kern Valley Hospital offers both inpatient and outpatient services, capable of hosting up to 27 patients in its Acute Care Unit at a time. The hospital also has a robust

skilled nursing program, offering classes, activities, and 24-hour care for up to 74 patients. To keep at the forefront of a rapidly-developing field, the hospital has recently begun offering telemedicine to provide its patients the best treatment at the greatest convenience.

The work accomplished in the District would not be possible without the assistance of the Hospital Foundation and Auxiliary, which was established shortly after the hospital's inception in 1968. The Pink Ladies and Blue Guys of the Auxiliary help make the work of the District possible, investing countless volunteer hours as companions to hospital residents, as behind-the-counter volunteers at the hospital gift shop and the Lake Isabella Thrift Store, and as community fundraisers so that the hospital can purchase new equipment to better provide for the community it serves. These men and women view each other more as family than colleagues, united not out of obligation, but out of a genuine love of the hospital, its mission, and the Kern River Valley community. Since 2004, the Auxiliary has raised nearly \$2 million for the Kern Valley Hospital, helping and saving countless lives.

I would like to thank District Board Chairman David Derr, along with Board Members Kathryn Knight, John Blythe, Barbara Casas, and Charlie Busch, as well as the doctors, nurses, staff, and volunteers that have made the Kern River Valley Healthcare District the cornerstone of the community that it is today. The success and local support enjoyed by the District is a testament to its key role in the community, and I look forward to seeing the District continue to serve the Kern River Valley for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me to celebrate 50 years of service on behalf of the Kern River Valley Healthcare District and to wish the District another 50 years of continued success.

KINGWOOD PARK BASEBALL—  
STATE BOUND**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Kingwood Park Panthers are heading to the Texas UIL State 5A Baseball Championship for the first time in program history. It was a resounding game 3 win over Tomball Memorial this past weekend in College Station that sealed the Region III Championship. They will head to Dell Diamond Stadium in Round Rock, Texas to face off the V.R. Eaton Eagles this Thursday.

Coach Bruce Cox came to Kingwood Park 5 years ago talking about playing at the Dell Diamond. He has had faith in his community since day one and has pushed the team to play like every game is a championship game. Coach Cox started out this season by intentionally scheduling five games against 6A schools ranked in the top 25 in the state. 12 of the 15 out-of-district games were against 6A teams. Coach Cox knew that the Panthers would quickly learn to handle the competition, and it certainly paid off. The Panthers have played this entire season with heart, grit, and respect for the game.

Kingwood Park senior Bryson Jackson has signed to play both football and baseball for

Texas Christian University. Jackson had the chance to enroll early and start practicing with the football team in Fort Worth, but instead decided to stay to help the Panthers make history. It was Bryson Jackson that hit a three-run home run against Tomball Memorial that clinched the team's trip to State.

It's been a tough season for the Panthers with many tough opponents. One of the tougher games was against Santa Fe High School; just over 24 hours after 10 lives were lost at Santa Fe High School. The Kingwood Park Panthers stepped off the bus wearing "Santa Fe Strong" warm-up shirts. After the game, the Panthers presented the shirts to the Santa Fe players after every player hugged the entire team. It was an emotional game that meant so much more than baseball. One of the Panthers, Jason Rendon, said "We played the strongest team in Texas, and now we play for them."

No matter what the outcome of this weekend might be, these boys have shown true class and have represented the Kingwood community well. So this weekend, head to the Dell Diamond and support the Kingwood Park Panthers as they fight for the State Championship title.

And that's just the way it is.

#### HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPION GRACE BEAL

#### HON. MIKE KELLY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a young lady from my congressional district, 16-year-old Grace Beal. Grace is the daughter of David and Corri Beal and the older sister of Eliza and Lucy Beal. Grace is a Sophomore in High School but has proven herself to be wise beyond her years and honorable in every sense of the word.

In 2009, when Grace was just 7 years old, her youngest sister Lucy died of a congenital heart disease. The loss of 11-month-old Lucy was an absolute tragedy that devastated the entire Beal family and led to a painful mourning period. However, in the midst of grief, Grace developed a sincere desire to honor Lucy's memory and make a difference for those who will unfortunately experience similar circumstances.

When Grace reflects on Lucy's journey she is reminded of the hardships but also recalls the kindness and compassion her family received from the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh (CHP). Even after all of these years, Grace is quick to praise the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and applaud their unwavering dedication to patients and families in need of support. Therefore, beginning in fourth grade, Grace decided to express her appreciation by organizing a book drive which resulted in a donation of 600 books to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Library. The following year, while in fifth grade, Grace came up with the fundraising idea "Laps for Lucy" through her swim team, which raised over \$3,400 for Child Life at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Grace continued to create new initiatives and once again, in sixth grade, she hosted "Lovies for Lucy" by collecting over 150 blankets for the Children's Home of Pitts-

burgh, another facility that played an influential role in Lucy's journey.

By seventh grade, Grace created "Layups for Lucy" which initially began as a 3-on-3 basketball tournament but has developed into much more. Now an annual event, Layups for Lucy has raised over \$70,000 and continues to evolve and prosper each year. Grace was invigorated by raising money and helping others, which led to her decision to create a Layups for Lucy fund and become a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Grace is quick to attribute the success of the event to the involvement of her friends and family, Neshannock High School students and staff, and members of the New Castle community who have been actively involved and extremely generous.

In addition to her philanthropic involvement, Grace is a member of her high school volleyball and basketball teams, she serves as a student government representative, participates in various academic clubs and has been selected to National Honor Society. Grace's community involvement and exceptional volunteerism have caught the attention of many and inevitably led to several prestigious honors. Grace was a 2018 Distinguished Finalist for the Prudential Spirit of Community Award, a 2016 Jefferson Award finalist for the Most Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, the recipient of the Lancer Pride and Promise Award and she qualified to receive the prestigious President's Volunteer Service Award.

In sum, Grace displayed resilience in the face of adversity. She turned her pain into passion and created a commitment to helping others. Grace has demonstrated outstanding civic and charitable responsibility and has thrived as a leader, encouraging others to get involved and give back. Although she has already accomplished so much, Grace has no plans to slow down now. Grace is energized by helping others and she will continue to strive for greatness and uplift those in need, however necessary.

In serving her community, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and the memory of her sister Lucy, Grace is an absolute inspiration. Her compassion and generosity have positively influenced the lives of many and will continue to do so for years to come. Therefore, on behalf of the Third Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I would like to express sincere gratitude and appreciation to Grace Beal, an admirable young lady, a selfless individual, and a true Community Champion.

#### RECOGNIZING PAT VOLKMAR

#### HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Pat Volkmar, a middle school teacher in Great Falls, whose passion for education takes his students beyond the classroom and into the business world.

Through support from the Great Falls community, Pat Volkmar launched and advises Grizz Biz, a program that provides students with opportunities to learn valuable skills, operate a business, and earn a paycheck.

Middle school students, young men and women from 12 to 14 years old, run every aspect of Grizz Biz, including hiring, production,

marketing, management, and accounting. Students develop important trade skills, including woodworking, engraving, and ceramics.

Those wishing to join Grizz Biz must prepare and submit resumes as well as interview with their peers.

The program provides the next generation with experience they will carry with them into their future careers and endeavors. They develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills as well as confidence for opportunities beyond the classroom.

Grizz Biz will build on its success at North Middle School by expanding to East Middle School next school year. Pat Volkmar is the driving force behind it all.

For his commitment to create a unique, valuable education experience and the countless hours he spends inspiring young Montanans, I recognize Pat Volkmar for representing the spirit of Montana.

#### HONORING COLONEL PHILLIP J. DEPPERT

#### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Phillip J. Deppert for his 28 years of military service and congratulate him on his retirement. COL Deppert assumed command of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) in Monterey, California in 2015 and has served this post and our community with distinction. COL Deppert's accomplished career is an inspiration, and I am honored to recognize his service to our country and our community on the central coast of California.

COL Deppert entered active duty in 1990 with the 82d Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1994, he transferred to the Military Intelligence Corps and served in the Republic of Korea as a Battalion Intelligence Officer and in the United States (1995–1998) as the Group Military Intelligence Detachment Commander and Group Senior Intelligence Officer. During this time, COL Deppert took part in numerous Special Operations assignments where he supported the Geographic Combatant Commanders' worldwide contingency planning tasks.

COL Deppert then completed Command and General Staff College and served as the chief, Division Analysis and Control Element, and Military Intelligence Battalion Operations Officer for the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division (2003–2005). During this time, COL Deppert served in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. He was then transferred to U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters where he served as the Special Operations Branch Chief and as the first Director of Intelligence for the U.S. Special Operations Command Interagency Task Force. COL Deppert then became the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division Senior Intelligence Officer when he served in Iraq during Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

After an assignment as the Deputy Mission manager in Mexico, COL Deppert earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College. COL Deppert then served as the

Chief of Staff and the Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force North before coming to the Monterey Bay and assuming command of DLIFLC. During his tenure at DLIFLC, COL Deppert was diligent in strengthening relationships between the Army and the community stakeholders that surround DLIFLC. COL Deppert has inspired those around him, including his wife and family, who have steadfastly supported his service in our nation's armed forces. COL Deppert and his family embody the principle of selfless service to a higher calling, and set an example for us all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating COL Deppert on his well-earned retirement and thanking him for his many years of dedicated service to our country. My district is fortunate to have had the Deppert family working and residing in the Monterey Bay area, and I am delighted that they will remain on the Central Coast after COL Deppert's retirement.

#### KINGWOOD HIGH SCHOOL—NEXT GENERATION OF LIFESAVERS

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this past year, the Houston area suffered a historic hurricane. My Congressional district was hammered by this flood. Hurricane Harvey left tremendous destruction in its wake. Kingwood High School was destroyed. But, the good folks at Humble Independent School District immediately went to work and the students returned to their newly renovated school this past spring. The people of Texas are a resilient bunch. The entire community pulled together, determined to put the school back together. There have been countless donations given by very generous folks in the Kingwood community. Now with the help of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, Kingwood High School is one step closer to normalcy.

After learning that Kingwood High School had lost their CPR Training Kits due to flooding, Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital donated two CPR in Schools Training Kits. The donation was an extension of the Memorial Hermann Northeast sponsorship of the 2018 Greater Lake Houston Heart Walk.

The CPR in Schools Training Kit was created by the American Heart Association. About 90 percent of people who suffer out-of-hospital cardiac arrests die. CPR can double a person's chance of survival, especially if performed immediately. It is the hope that the distribution of such kits to schools can help improve survival rates from sudden cardiac arrest through the coordination of proper CPR training. This curriculum is taught to both middle schools and high schools across the country. The American Heart Association is helping prepare more students, teachers, and families to save lives with the CPR in Schools Curriculum Training Kit. The kits are designed specifically for educational environments and can be facilitated by anyone. Each kit contains everything required to train 10 to 20 students in CPR in just under 30 minutes.

Kingwood High School nursing staff and the Student Council organizes the training. Seniors were given two opportunities to take CPR training before graduation. Thanks to Memorial

Herman, Kingwood High School was able to train over 380 seniors using the two CPR in Schools Kits.

Because of Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, those 380 seniors have been given this lifesaving skill that was not as easily available to them before. These training kits will be used for years to come, training the next generation of lifesavers.

And that's just the way it is.

#### LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR H.R. 1026—NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ROUTE ADJUSTMENT ACT

#### HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful the House recently passed H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act under suspension of the rules by voice vote. My office received a number of letters in support of H.R. 1026 I am including in the RECORD.

Specifically, we received letters from the North Country Trail Association, the American Hiking Society, and the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to timely action in the U.S. Senate to ensure enactment of this bipartisan, commonsense measure before the end of the 115th Congress.

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE  
NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM,  
*Madison, WI, June 1, 2018.*

Re H.R. 1026.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We urge your support for the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, which is scheduled for a floor vote in the House on June 5th.

We ask this on behalf of:

Local communities in northeastern Minnesota and Vermont directly affected by this bill, in order that they enjoy the many economic, recreational and quality of life benefits through this designation of a National Scenic Trail passing through their communities.

The North Country Trail community—now representing over 50,000 hikers, trail builders and trail maintainers—who have worked tirelessly for over 15 years to finally see this legislation passed.

The hundreds of thousands of American families who use the North Country National Scenic Trail to enjoy the many health, recreational, and family values benefits of hiking on a National Trail, and being connected with others who call America's northern heartlands home.

The millions of Americans who annually are refreshed, invigorated, educated, and inspired thru their journeys on our 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails throughout America.

This simple bill corrects an oversight perpetuated in the original 1980 authorization of the North Country National Scenic Trail, adjusts its authorized mileage to the more accurate number and saves money by replacing the far more costly original route in Minnesota that required traversing wetlands with world class trail that is mostly already constructed.

In honor of this 50th Anniversary Year of the National Trails System our community of trail makers and trail users requests your

support of H.R. 1026 to fully realize the public benefit envisioned by Congress for the North Country National Scenic Trail. We hope we can count on you.

Sincerely,

GARY WERNER,  
*Executive Director.*

AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY,

*Silver Spring, MD, June 5, 2018.*

Re American Hiking Society Urges Support of H.R. 1026.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act and work to realize the completion and connection of our National Trails System, American Hiking Society strongly supports the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act. This bill seeks to fully realize the original vision for the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) by rerouting the trail between Jay Cooke State Park and Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota and extending the trail from its current end in Crown Point, New York, to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in Vermont.

H.R. 1026 is enthusiastically supported by the national hiking community at large and especially by the trail's surrounding communities and townships. The legislation is also supported by the entire Minnesota congressional delegation. This trail provides a "close to home" park for millions of Americans and offers low-cost recreational opportunities for families, children, the elderly, and others. It's completion and connection to similar trails would greatly enhance these opportunities and fulfill Congress's vision for this trail when it first authorized it.

The economic impact of this trail and the improved economic activity it would generate if completed and connected with other highly trafficked trails would be significant. According to the Outdoor Industry Association, trails in America accounted for \$201 billion in annual spending in 2017 and were responsible for 1.7 million jobs. Much of this spending takes place in small communities along each of the trails, communities for which this income is substantial, meaningful, and will remain local. Many of the jobs trails create can't be exported offshore: guides and outfitters, hotel staff and restaurateurs, and numerous others directly benefit the community in which they reside.

In response to some concerns raised about an expansion of the federal footprint, AHS notes that, in a cost estimate prepared by the CBO, the CBO stated; "ongoing costs to develop, manage, and maintain the added property would be negligible." How often can Congress approve a project where the brunt of the hard work is taken on by volunteers? And where the volunteers themselves along with nonprofit partners fund raise to support those efforts?

These trails are more than just an economic engine. Since our nation's founding, the outdoors have been a distinctive part of our American heritage and trails such as the NCNST are integral to that. Whether it's a family out for a hike on a nearby trail or as the returning veteran walking off the war, Americans continue to seek places for outdoor recreation, a connection to nature, and healthy exercise. Thanks to Congress, just such a place exists in the NCNST. Now we ask Congress to finish what was begun fifty years ago, allow the volunteers to get to doing what they do so well, and at long last begin the completion of one of America's greatest National Scenic Trails.

Please contact Tyler Ray, Director of Policy and Advocacy with any questions or for additional information.

Sincerely,

TYLER RAY,  
Director of Policy and Advocacy.

NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION,  
Lowell, MI, May 31, 2018.

RE H.R. 1026.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: We urge your support for the passage of H.R. 1026, the North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment Act, which is scheduled for a floor vote in the House on June 5th.

We ask this on behalf of:

Local communities in northeastern Minnesota and Vermont directly affected by this bill, in order that they enjoy the many economic, recreational and quality of life benefits through this designation of a National Scenic Trail passing through their communities.

The North Country Trail community—now representing over 50,000 hikers, trail builders and trail maintainers—who have worked tirelessly for over 15 years to finally see this legislation passed.

The hundreds of thousands of American families who use the North Country National Scenic Trail to enjoy the many health, recreational and family values benefits of hiking on a National Trail, and being connected with others who call America's northern heartlands home.

This simple bill corrects an oversight perpetuated in the original 1980 authorization of the North Country National Scenic Trail, adjusts its authorized mileage to the more accurate number and in fact saves money by replacing the far more costly original route in Minnesota that required traversing wetlands with world class trail that is mostly already constructed.

Using a proven approach based on a public/private partnership that leverages the public benefit with both sweat equity and private funding, our community needs your support of H.R. 1026 to fully realize the public benefit envisioned by Congress for the North Country National Scenic Trail. We hope we can count on you.

Sincerely,

ANDREA KETCHMARK,  
Executive Director.

#### FALLEN WARRIORS MEMORIAL GALLERY

#### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on the wall in my offices in Washington and Texas, hang pictures, faces, of fallen Texas warriors. These pictures remind all those who visit that freedom comes with a price. One man in southeastern Texas is commemorating the memory of these brave men and women in a unique way.

Ken Pridgeon has a deep respect for the military. He served ten years in the Air Force as an electronics technician, until retiring from the military with a profound appreciation for the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform.

During his time in the service, he developed his talents as an artist, transforming Sepia tone family pictures into color photos during deployments for his brothers-in-arms. During a time when he was stationed in Florida, he was

even lucky enough to take an art class run by American legend Norman Rockwell.

His artistic abilities led to him taking a job as a billboard artist in the Houston area after his retirement from the Air Force. Suspended 65 feet above the road, Ken painted advertisements on roadside billboards for decades. It was perilous work, but Pridgeon became a master of his profession.

Ken's high esteem for America's servicemen never left him and eventually inspired him to pursue a new project that would combine this respect with his artistic side. Compelled to commemorate the sacrifice of fallen U.S. members of the military in Iraq and Afghanistan, he began to paint portraits of Texans who gave their lives in defense of our country in those conflicts.

What started as merely a side project turned into a full-time calling, as Ken began expanding his collection to servicemen outside of Texas. To date, he has painted 200 portraits of fallen American warriors. He donates a print of each portrait to the family of the portrayed, and he tries to consult them in creating each piece so that he can add personal touches to the painting. Ken often spends up to fourteen hours a day painting, beginning before the crack of dawn and ending well after sundown.

Ken began displaying these portraits in a gallery in Baytown, Texas, his hometown. Recently, he relocated his works to the newly opened Fallen Warriors Memorial gallery on Cutten Road in Houston. These portraits complement the nearby Fallen Warriors Memorial, and now visitors can come face to face with some of the fallen servicemen honored by the memorial in Ken's gallery.

Mr. Speaker, General George Patton once said, "While we mourn the loss of such men, we should thank God that such men ever lived." Ken Pridgeon's paintings provide a fitting tribute to our country's fallen warriors, a rare breed of Americans.

And that's just the way it is.

IN HONOR OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR MATTHEW T. BRADY

#### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the service of my personal hero, my brother, Command Sergeant Major Matthew Thomas Brady.

Over thirty-five years ago, Matt began his military career when he enlisted in the U.S. Army National Guard. After completing his basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, Matt continued to expand his skill set with Combat Engineer Training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri and Combat Medic Training at Fort Sam Houston in the great state of Texas.

While serving in the National Guard, Matt earned his Bachelor's Degree, and upon his graduation, he began his active-duty military service in the U.S. Army. Always willing to go where there was a need, Matt's service has taken him across the United States and around the world, from postings in Colorado and Alaska to South Korea and Germany. Matt has served with valor and distinction in multiple conflicts, including Operation Desert

Shield, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Matt's distinguished service has not gone unrecognized. He has earned countless awards and honors, including the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star with an oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal with two Bronze Stars, and many others.

Our mother, Nancy, inspired us to have faith, always be optimistic, and to give back. Matt turned this advice into a creed that he followed throughout his storied military career. From his time as a medic to his current role as Command Sergeant Major of the Regional Health Command—Atlantic, Matt has spent most of his career managing healthcare systems to care for our wounded warriors and treat our active duty service members.

After thirty-six years of military service, Matt will begin his hard-earned and well-deserved retirement on September 30, 2018. My brother represents the best of what this country has to offer. Matt; his wife, Christina; and their two children, Matthew and Caitlin, have given so much over the years, and I could not be prouder to pay tribute to my little brother—my hero—and honor his decades of selfless, dedicated service to our family and our country.

#### INTRODUCING THE STUDENTS HELPING YOUNG STUDENTS ACT

#### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2018

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce the Students Helping Young Students Act. This important and bipartisan legislation would provide an additional pathway to enable students to work their way through college, while at the same time enhancing the afterschool opportunities of their younger peers.

The Students Helping Young Students Act would incorporate work at afterschool programs into the Federal Work-Study program. Encouraging students enrolled in higher education to work with vulnerable younger students is a win-win, expanding opportunities for students at colleges and universities to participate in afterschool programs for at-risk youth. The bill creates new paths to achievement and opportunities for students at all levels, a commonsense way to improve our nation's education system.

The hours between 3 p.m.—7 p.m., when children are out of school but parents are not yet home from work, can be a critical time for children, families, and communities. Mentoring and afterschool programs can play a key role in filling this gap. Unfortunately, too few at-risk students have the opportunity to participate in these programs. While not a panacea, afterschool and mentoring programs have been associated with improved educational outcomes, reduced negative behaviors, increased school attendance, and improved social and emotional development.

At the same time, as college costs continue to rise, the Federal Work-Study program provides a key source of financing for students to

attain a degree. Since 2000, colleges and universities participating in Work-Study have been required to use a portion of their federal funding allocation for community service jobs. While a variety of community service opportunities can meet this requirement, many effective afterschool programs are not eligible. Under this legislation, these programs would become eligible for this existing allocation, encouraging students to participate in the programs.

By making it easier for college students to help their younger peers through afterschool programs, students of all ages—as well as the schools they attend—come out ahead. I urge Congress to pass the Students Helping Young Students Act.

#### HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE GANNENMONO

##### HON. COLLEEN HANABUSA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the gannenmono, the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii.

On June 20, 1868, the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii landed in Honolulu harbor. The Hawaiian government had asked its consul in Japan, Eugene Van Reed, to recruit contract laborers for work in the sugar cane fields. Though the original intent was to gather 350 immigrants, Van Reed succeeded in recruiting only 148 immigrants, of which 6 were women. These became the original gannenmono, or “first year people,” so named because they emigrated on the first year of the Meiji Emperor’s reign. Van Reed had secured permission from the Shogunate government for the gannenmono to depart, but the new Meiji government declined to reconfirm these passports, forcing the migrants to depart illegally.

Work and life on the plantations proved to be difficult for the gannenmono. Many of them were craftsmen and displaced samurai unfamiliar with agricultural labor. Conditions on the plantations were also harsh. Work was both tedious and monotonous, living conditions were poor, the pay was hardly sufficient and disproportionately lower for Japanese workers than for laborers of other ethnic groups, and the plantation overseers were often physically abusive. When the Japanese government heard that its citizens were being mistreated, it recalled the gannenmono. However, about 100 of the original group chose to remain in Hawaii, where they settled and intermarried with the locals. For the next seventeen years, the Japanese government refused to endorse any policy of organized immigration to Hawaii.

However, the need for cheap labor on the sugar cane plantations and the declining Native Hawaiian population made the need for Japanese immigrants ever more urgent. In 1881, King David Kalakaua visited Japan during his world tour and made an appeal to the Meiji Emperor for Japanese immigration to Hawaii and closer ties between the two countries. Negotiations over immigration led the Hawaiian government to promise increased wages and improved working conditions for Japanese

workers in future contracts. The first contract labor immigrants from Japan arrived in Hawaii in 1885, beginning a new wave of Japanese immigration. In 1884, the Kingdom of Hawaii reported 116 residents of Japanese descent in its census. By 1900, the Territory of Hawaii recorded over 60,000 people of Japanese descent, most of whom were unskilled male laborers.

Unfortunately, the arrival of Japanese immigrants triggered xenophobic sentiments among those concerned with labor competition and racial purity, leading the United States federal government to restrict Japanese immigration. These nativist movements were strongest in California, where many Japanese and Asian immigrants settled. Under the Gentlemen’s Agreement of 1907, the United States promised not to impose any immigration restrictions if Japan ended its emigration programs. However, the Immigration Acts of 1924 codified the suspension of Japanese immigration by ending immigration of all aliens ineligible for citizenship—a de facto ban on Asian immigration not lifted until the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Immigration was just the first of many challenges Japanese Americans faced. The Japanese immigrants had difficulty integrating into local communities due to persistent prejudice and systemic hostility by neighbors and local, state, and federal governments. During the Second World War, over a hundred thousand Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were United States citizens, were forcibly relocated and incarcerated due largely to the mistaken notion that they would be more loyal to Japan than to the United States. Even today, stereotypes of Japanese Americans as perpetual aliens persist, even if the United States is the only country most Japanese Americans have ever known and called home.

This anniversary of the arrival of the gannenmono reminds us of the difficult histories of Japanese American immigration and, in a broader sense, the immigration of other racial, ethnic, and religious groups to the United States. In examining our public discourse on immigration today, we see that we do not live in a unique moment in our country’s history. Too often in our past have we closed our doors to those seeking a better future in the United States. Even after settling here, these immigrants often face prejudice and other challenges in integration. Yet, through their many sacrifices, perseverance, and resilience, through their hard work to earn their stead in America, they became Americans. Ours is a country not of a single race, ethnicity, language, or culture, but of shared values and beliefs. We are united by our common faith in democracy, confidence in equal justice, and aspirations for a better future. No one today can dispute the positive impact the Japanese American community has made on American life and society.

A hundred and fifty years ago, a small ship of immigrants seeking new lives set sail from their homes for a far-away land. For the vast majority of us in the United States today, this is how our stories and those of our ancestors begin. By learning and remembering the histories of Japanese Americans and other communities that immigrated to this country, we become wiser in crafting our national attitudes and policies towards those seeking better futures for themselves and their families in America today. We must be an example for

future generations to act wisely and honorably, informed by our own history as a country. Mr. Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the gannenmono and remembering their story today.

#### MEMORIAL PARK: A HAVEN FOR HOUSTON

##### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, lately Houston has become synonymous with flooding, but seven years ago a devastating drought caused our beloved Memorial Park to lose nearly 80 percent of its thousands of trees.

Maybe you’ve never heard of Memorial Park. It is Houston’s largest public space; its haven in the heart of Houston—and almost double the size of New York’s Central Park. Daily commuters drive through winding, wooded roads, free of billboards and businesses, as they head to work. The park’s 600-acre urban wilderness is one of the largest centrally located urban forests in the country. Memorial Park is also remarkable because it is home to Camp Logan, the only former World War I training camp site in the United States that is not completely developed.

The 2011 drought underscored the need to fast-track Memorial Park’s Master Plan to create the best urban park in America. This month Houston’s Kinder Foundation granted \$70 million to this effort and energized the park’s public and private partners to invest up to \$205 million more. These efforts will take the Master Plan from proposal to reality in just 10 years and enhance and protect Memorial Park for today and for generations to come.

The restoration will be directed by the Memorial Park Conservancy, Houston Parks and Recreation Department, and Uptown Development Authority. These partners have set new standards in green space planning and public-private funding partnerships.

Kinder Foundation’s inspiring public-private partnerships have changed Houston’s color palette from gray to green. Some of their landmark successes include Discovery Green, Buffalo Bayou Park, and Bayou Greenways 2020. Their legacy continues with Memorial Park. Kinder Foundation chairman Rich Kinder said Memorial Park will now reach its full potential and include a signature land bridge, a restored prairie ecology, natural storm drainage and retention systems, in addition to adding over 30 miles of trails for hiking, biking, running, and equestrian use.

Many joggers, runners and walkers hit the park’s trail daily to make the nearly three-mile loop. I know this park well, Mr. Speaker. In my past life as a criminal court judge, I took to the gravel trail for my daily run, as later did my kids. I can’t tell you how many miles I’ve run in Memorial Park, but I can tell you it’s no overstatement to say the Kinder’s grant along with the day-to-day work by its partners will save this cherished haven in Houston.

And that’s just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLYMOUTH FRAGMENT SOCIETY

### HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 200th Anniversary of the Plymouth Fragment Society of Plymouth, Massachusetts.

This exceptional organization was founded on February 13, 1818 with the goal of aiding families living in poverty. In response to the Embargo Act of 1807 and the War of 1812, Marie de Verdier Turner gathered with 183 women to sew garments for the poor. Their mission was expanded to provide aid such as milk, fuel, and rent to those who needed assistance. As one of the oldest continuously operating charitable organizations in the country, they have adapted to the changing needs of the community, guiding Plymouth through prosperous times and economic downturns, including the Great Depression.

The Plymouth Fragment Society, which was founded and run by dedicated and determined women, exemplifies the work women did for our communities long before they had the ability to engage in politics or business. Those who carry on this legacy remind us all of the power of dedicated individuals and their ability to effect lasting change.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the 200th Anniversary of the Plymouth Fragment Society for their dedication to bettering their community. I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their invaluable service and wishing them all the best in the many years to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MCINTIRE-STENNIS ACT DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EQUALITY ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the McIntire-Stennis Act District of Columbia Equality Act, which would amend the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (Act) to make the District of Columbia eligible for funding. The District is treated as a state under federal programs with a few exceptions, most of them simply oversights or failures to update. This legislation would rectify the exception in the Act, ensuring equitable treatment for the District and allowing the District to benefit from the important funding opportunities available under the Act.

The Act provides U.S. states and territories with formula funds to support state-designated institutions' cooperative forestry research programs. The Act defines "State" to include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. The District's notable, but faulty, absence from this definition makes it ineligible for grant funds that would support research at the University of the District of Columbia's (UDC) College of Agriculture, Urban Stability, and Environmental Science, a program that complements the city's ongoing forestry efforts.

UDC is the nation's only urban land-grant university.

We appreciate that Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam are included under the definition of "State," though, unlike the District of Columbia, their residents do not pay federal income taxes. It would be particularly troubling if the District, whose residents pay the highest amount per capita in federal income taxes, which support farm and other federal programs, were to continue to be excluded.

We have heard that the District may be excluded because of its lack of local timber production. However, the Act says, "[i]n making such apportionments, consideration shall be given to pertinent factors including" local timber production. Proximity to timber is, therefore, only one in a non-exclusive list of factors that are part of the larger analysis regarding the apportionments. Excluding the District from the definition of "State" merely because it is not located in an area with a timber industry runs counter to the intent of the Act. While timber production can be a factor in determining the amount of state allocations, there is no reason that the District should be excluded from the Act.

We believe, therefore, that the omission of the District must have been the result of an oversight during the original drafting of the Act. However, as you can imagine, this omission has serious consequences for the District, rendering UDC ineligible for these formula grant funds. Passage of this bill would allow students and researchers in the nation's capital to take part in this important forestry program.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

RECOGNITION OF THE  
#WEARINGIRISH CAMPAIGN

### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the #WearingIrish social media campaign started by Margaret Molloy, and the Irish designers that will be recognized by the campaign this year.

For the past two years, Molloy has been encouraging her friends and family to wear Irish clothing and jewelry during March and highlighting their fashion choices by using the hashtag #WearingIrish. What started as a small endeavor has grown into a movement that has captured the attention of everyone from the President of Ireland to the top fashion industry leaders in New York City.

She launched the WearingIrish NYC 2018 competition this past March, which will bring Ireland's best fashion and accessory designers to the United States where they will have the opportunity to showcase their talent and gain exposure to leaders in the American fashion industry. Out of 170 applicants, 10 winners will make their way to the iconic Grand Central Terminal in New York to debut their collections.

The winning brands represent the best of modern Ireland: Áine, Alison Conneely, Bláithín Ennis, De Bruir, Inner Island, Jennifer Rothwell, Natalie B. Coleman, Sands and Hall,

The Tweed Project, and Triona. They should be commended for their impressive accomplishments in their field.

I believe that this competition comes at an important time for the U.S.-Ireland relationship. This modern friendship is built not just on shared heritage, but also on strong commercial and economic partnership. The #WearingIrish campaign embodies this spirit and only strengthens the bonds between our two nations. I congratulate Margaret and all of the winning designers on their efforts to make this possible. Their passion for Ireland resonates deeply with my own Irish-American heritage and embodies the forward facing, mutually beneficial relationship our two nations enjoy.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF  
DR. HORACE MITCHELL

### HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today alongside my colleague, Congressman DAVID VALADAO, to honor Dr. Horace Mitchell, President of California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). Dr. Mitchell joined CSUB as its fourth president in 2004, and will be retiring after a near 50-year career in education later this month.

Horace began his professional career at his alma mater of Washington University, Missouri, where he received his PhD in Counseling Psychology. As a member of the faculty, he served in multiple positions, including Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Assistant Professor of Education and Black Studies, and Chair of the Black Studies Program. He went on to serve the University of California, first at Irvine for 17 years, and then Berkeley for nearly 10 years, before learning of an opportunity nestled in the southern part of California's San Joaquin Valley. It was at this school—CSUB—where Dr. Mitchell would leave perhaps the greatest mark of his decades-spanning career. Upon his arrival, Dr. Mitchell announced his goal of making CSUB the pride of the California State University System. Over the next decade, he worked tirelessly to make that vision a reality.

Dr. Mitchell saw an untapped potential in the students he served, and dedicated his career to helping the student body of CSUB reach heights they had never seen before. Under his guidance, CSUB attained both its highest enrollment rate, as well as its highest graduation rate in the University's 53-year history. CSUB has seen its profile rise under Dr. Mitchell's tenure and is frequently cited as one of America's top public universities for both its undergraduate and post-graduate programs. Additionally, Dr. Mitchell was the driving force behind CSUB's transition to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I athletics, allowing the Roadrunners to bring Bakersfield's best athletic talent to the national stage.

More than anything else, Dr. Mitchell will be remembered as a leader who put his students first, factoring the well being of CSUB's student body in every decision he made as President. To cultivate a more supportive learning environment, Dr. Mitchell changed CSUB's

academic calendar from a quarter system to a semester system, offering students more time to focus on the demands of their curriculum. Upon the opening of the CSUB Children's Center, Mr. Mitchell donated his own money to furnish improvements to the center so that CSUB's students could attend courses knowing that their children would receive the best quality childcare a university could offer. For some, work is a means to a paycheck, but Dr. Mitchell's care and concern for the students and faculty at CSUB and the Bakersfield community was a labor of love and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, we join friends, family, students, and faculty of California State University, Bakersfield, and the entire California State University System, in thanking Dr. Mitchell for his commitment to bettering the standard of education in the Bakersfield community and beyond. A man who made Bakersfield his home for 14 years, Dr. Mitchell saw the best that our community had to offer and, in turn, made it his goal to give back to that community. It has been an honor to count Dr. Mitchell as one of our friends, and we will always value the advice and guidance he dispensed over the years on everything from education policy to community volunteerism. After many years in public service, we know that Dr. Mitchell looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Barbara, his children, and his grandchildren. Horace will be missed in the world of CSUB, but we salute his lifetime of service on behalf of our community. We wish him the best as he begins this new chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JEWEL  
SCOTT

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a constituent in my district who went above and beyond to serve our community. Jewel Scott began her work nearly two decades ago in Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, which I proudly represent. Furthermore, her efforts and contributions to the region are nothing short of remarkable.

Of her many accomplishments, Scott is most known for her work with the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, an organization of chief executive officers representing various influential companies in the area. After serving as the Director of Research and Planning, Scott was named the Executive Director of the Civic Council in 1994. Since then, Scott has spearheaded a myriad of projects and initiatives focused solely on the council's four main objectives: innovation economy, human capital, vibrant communities, and leadership development. She has worked tirelessly to uphold the organization's standards and mission of accelerating growth in the region's prosperity and quality of life.

Aside from her work with the Civil Council, Scott boasts a lifelong career of community based innovation and development through her multifaceted involvement with various organizations within the Greater Kansas City area. Currently, she occupies a seat on the Missouri biotechnology association executive committee and is on the board of directors for

both the University of Kansas Advancement Board and the Kansas City Convention and Visitor's Association.

Although she would be the last to admit it, it is my personal belief that her benevolent ambition and persevering dedication has made a profound impact on the community as a whole. Therefore, it is with a sense of bitter-sweet pride that the community must now congratulate Scott on her retirement from the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City. I speak on the behalf of the entire district when I say thank you Ms. Jewel Scott.

Mr. Speaker, please join me and all of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District in expressing our sincerest congratulations to Jewel Scott for her monumental achievements in her community and her tireless efforts in promoting education, innovation, and commerce, not only within her city limits, but throughout the state. I urge all my colleagues and fellow citizens across the country to join me in showing our appreciation to Ms. Jewel Scott's accomplishments and service.

RECOGNIZING MELODY HERZFELD

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of Melody Herzfeld from Parkland, Florida, for being named the fourth recipient of The Tony Awards and Carnegie Mellon University's Excellence in Theater Education Award. Under her guidance, her students have been able to turn to music and theatre to combat the tragedy that they suffered.

Ms. Herzfeld is the director of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Drama Department, where she has been teaching drama since 2003. In that time, she has been responsible for putting on over 50 productions. Her theatre program, Children's Theatre Project, has received numerous Critics Choice awards and South Florida Cappies, which celebrate excellence in regional student theatre and journalism.

On February 14, as the tragic events unfolded at their school, Ms. Herzfeld hid 65 of her students in her office for two hours. Since then, we have seen her students demand their own space on the national stage. While some began to speak out and call for reforms, others turned to theatre and music to make their voices heard. Ms. Herzfeld's students performed their original song titled, "Shine," for national audiences at the CNN Town Hall on February 21 and at the March for Our Lives on March 24.

Mr. Speaker, the Excellence in Theater Education Award recognizes a K-12 theatre educator in the U.S. who has demonstrated monumental impact on the lives of students and who embodies the highest standards of the profession. This is why it is no surprise to us that Ms. Herzfeld was selected to receive this award by a panel of judges comprised of the American Theatre Wing, The Broadway League, Carnegie Mellon and other leaders from the theatre industry.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask this body to recognize Ms. Herzfeld for her endless dedication to both her students and the arts.

Melody Herzfeld represents the kindness and warmth that I see from teachers across

the State of Florida. We thank her for her outstanding leadership and guidance during such a difficult time.

GEORGIA INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the First Republic of Georgia. Georgia first declared independence from Russia in 1918 and was free of Moscow's shackles till the Red Army invasion in 1921.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Georgia once again gained independence and has since been a beacon of hope in a region full of turmoil and corruption. Their faithful commitment to a strong democracy with free and fair elections serves as a shining example for other countries in Eastern Europe.

Georgia has become one of the most valued partners of the United States and the European community. Russia however does not respect Georgia's independence and has occupied large portions of its territory since 2008.

The hungry Russian Bear wants a return to its imperial days. The Kremlin will not stop until all former Soviet republics return to its orbit.

The United States must remain dedicated to upholding Georgia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence. So that in another hundred years, we will still be standing side-by-side with a democratic and prosperous Georgia.

And that's just the way it is.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED  
STATES MERCHANT MARINE  
ACADEMY

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the United States Merchant Marine Academy, located in Kings Point, in my Congressional district, for 75 years of dedicated service to our country.

Acta Non Verba—the school's motto—Acta Non Verba, that's deeds not words, something we all need to strive for.

The midshipmen and graduates of the Academy have exemplified this school's motto by faithfully serving the United States in times of war and peace and for that we are eternally grateful.

Since its founding in 1943, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy has developed a rich history of military and maritime service. It's the only service academy whose students engage in combat during times of war.

In fact, 142 of its students gave their lives on behalf of our country during World War II. In 1974, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy became the first service academy to admit women.

After the 9-11 terrorist attacks, staff and midshipmen evacuated civilians from Lower

Manhattan and transport first responders and supplies to Ground Zero.

Midshipmen are the backbone of our nation's maritime industry and they serve as members of the Armed Services as well.

As a member of the Board of Visitors, I am proud of United States Merchant Marine Academy's rich history and the sacrifices its students and graduates have made for our country.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2018  
SERVICE ACADEMY APPOINTEES  
FROM THE 21ST CONGRESSIONAL  
DISTRICT OF TEXAS

**HON. LAMAR SMITH**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today we congratulate the 2018 Service Academy appointees from the 21st Congressional District of Texas.

The following individuals have accepted Academy appointments:

Amadou Sara Bah, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Military Academy; Conner McNeil Beasley, Westlake High School, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Naval Academy; Ryan Conley Booth, Winston Churchill High School, United States Air Force Academy; Catherine Rose Buckingham, Winston Churchill High School, United States Military Academy; Jack Lowell Erwin, Central Catholic High School, Northwestern Preparatory School (CA), United States Air Force Academy; Hunter Alan Jackson, Regents School of Austin, United States Military Academy.

James Angelo Katson, McLean High School (VA), The Hill School (PA), United States Naval Academy; Chloe Elizabeth Lucas-Brown, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Naval Academy; Micah Peter McAnany, Ronald Reagan High School, Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University, United States Merchant Marine Academy; Kathleen Elizabeth McCusker, STEM Academy, Lee High School, United States Naval Academy; Roman Isaih Ocampo, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson High School, United States Air Force Academy; Marshall Alan Shults, Geneva School of Boerne, United States Air Force Academy; Karyl Vincent Taylor, Jr., International School of the Americas, United States Air Force Academy.

These outstanding students have much to contribute to their chosen Academy and to our country. We appreciate their talents and their patriotism.

HONORING THE AMAZING AND RE-  
MARKABLE LIFE OF FRAZIER  
VONNE THOMAS SCURRY OF  
HOUSTON, TEXAS

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Frazier Vonne Thomas Scurry, a

great American woman and one of the outstanding community leaders in the City of Houston. Her upcoming 100th birthday marks a century of living for this remarkable woman.

Mrs. Scurry, lovingly and rightfully known as the matriarch of the Scurry Family, was born Frazier Vonne Thomas on October 10, 1918. She is the beloved second child of Napoleon Thomas and Martha Waters Thomas of Washington County, Texas. She enjoyed an active childhood with her sister, Willa Winters-Miller and brothers, Donald and Napoleon Jr. Thomas.

She married her late husband of 66 years, Robert Daniel Scurry and relocated to Houston, Texas. This loving union produced five remarkable children: Arthur Daniel (Barbara), Annette Vonne Collett (Billy), Frazier Marie Scurry-Scott (Arthur), Donald Roy (Lesley) and Maggie Vernece Scurry-Frost (Felton).

As a young mother, Mrs. Scurry was an attentive and devoted stay-at-home mom. She made sure that her children received the best upbringing possible and that they were raised in a loving, respectful household. She remained at home until her youngest child reached school age. She then continued her long-deferred education and attended Memorial Hermann Hospital Practical Nursing School. She worked diligently to become a Licensed Practical Nurse and began her career at Memorial Hermann Hospital. She later worked as a private duty nurse where she was able to devote special care and attention to her patients whom she was known for developing special relationships with. She devoted the remainder of her career to the Texas Women's Clinic with Dr. Harold Dailey, as a nurse for the private practice, until her well-deserved retirement.

Mrs. Scurry is one of the oldest members of her church, Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church, where she has continued her membership for over 77 years. She was recently appointed to the newly formed Mothers' Board at Good Hope. She was a Sunday School teacher for the Beginners Class, for over 30 years; teaching the love and grace of God and Jesus Christ. Her faith in God has not wavered in her almost 100 years.

Mrs. Scurry assisted with the Baptist Training Union, mentoring young people on the importance of honoring themselves, as well as others. Mother Scurry was president of the Women Ruth Circle, President of the Deacons and Trustees Wives, and a representative and delegate at the National Baptist Convention and Conference. In her community, Mrs. Scurry served as president of the Heights Y Club. Mrs. Scurry kept busy at work, giving her patients the best care imaginable and served her community and church with her whole heart.

After her retirement, Mrs. Scurry began organizing trips for women's groups; many times driving them cross-country to various states. She loved taking cruises, particularly to warm and sunny destinations and has visited the Caribbean Islands, Alaska, Hawaii, Jamaica and the Virgin Islands.

Mrs. Scurry is a loving grandmother of 14, great-grandmother of 24, great-great-grandmother of 6 and mother/grandmother to a large extended family. She truly believes that it takes a village to raise a child and has exemplified that belief throughout her life.

On July 20, 2018, Mrs. Scurry's family and friends will celebrate her centennial birth year and honor her great life. In her entire century

of life, she has seen both world wars, the Suffragette Movement, the invention of the television, the enforcement and abolition of prohibition, the Great Depression, the first man on the moon, the Civil-Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, the rise of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the creation and development of the internet. These barely even skim the surface of the events Mrs. Scurry has experienced throughout her 100 years. Mrs. Scurry's life in the 20th century and now into the 21st has ensured that she has witnessed more landmark events in American history than one can imagine.

Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Whether she was serving her five children, her hospital patients, or her church community, Mrs. Scurry consistently and passionately dedicated her life to serving others and spreading joy.

Sophocles said "One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been."

Mr. Speaker, now that we are in the evening of the life of Frazier Vonne Thomas Scurry, it is clear that she has lived a full and consequential life, as a friend, colleague, advocate, community leader, and most notably, the beloved matriarch of the Scurry family.

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF  
AUSTERLITZ

**HON. JOHN J. FASO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. FASO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the founding of Austerlitz, New York. Formerly known as the proprietorship of Spencers Town in the late eighteenth century, the Town of Austerlitz was incorporated in 1818.

For two hundred years, Austerlitz has taken part in the great American experiment, weaving together a diverse community and cultivating a strong civil society. This bucolic town situated in Columbia County has not only celebrated many great triumphs of our nation and witnessed the nascent years of America's existence, but has also persevered through times of hardship. The strength and independence that continues to define this town are a result of strong roots laid and the principles instilled at its founding two centuries ago.

The area which now comprises Austerlitz was initially settled by a deed from the Mohican Indians to seventy-five families from New England to create Spencers Town, a name based on the fact that many of the first settlers were families of Spencers. When a bill was considered in the New York Legislature to formally establish a new town, future President Martin Van Buren, then a State Senator, is said to have insisted that the town be named Austerlitz due to his admiration of Napoleon and annoyance that another town was named Waterloo.

While the area has experienced many changes over the past two hundred years, Austerlitz was built on a foundation of determination and resiliency. These core beliefs continue to guide and distinguish the community today.

This bicentennial anniversary marks a great milestone in Austerlitz's history, and serves as an important time for reflection. On behalf of the 19th Congressional District and the U.S. House of Representatives, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and congratulations to the town of Austerlitz. As the residents celebrate its 200th birthday, I would like to commend them on the success of their small, thriving community and wish Austerlitz continued prosperity in its next 200 years.

CONGRATULATING LIBERTY  
COMMON SCHOOL

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of the Liberty Common School in Fort Collins, Colorado, under the leadership of former U.S. Representative Bob Schaffer as their principal and headmaster.

Liberty Common is an exemplary charter school, consistently earning among the very highest standardized test scores in the state of Colorado. Just this year, Liberty Common was ranked by U.S. News & World Report among the top public high schools in both the state and the nation.

Mr. Schaffer represented Colorado's 4th Congressional District from 1997 to 2003, consistently demonstrating exemplary leadership and integrity on Capitol Hill while serving his constituents. During his time in Congress, Mr. Schaffer worked passionately on education policy, fighting for school-choice. Starting in 2010, Mr. Schaffer served as the principal of the Liberty Common High School, and earlier this year became the headmaster of the school's complete K-12 offerings.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I applaud Mr. Schaffer and his colleagues at the Liberty Common School for such an outstanding record of excellence. We look forward to their continued success as they educate and prepare the next generation of Coloradans for a prosperous and successful future. It is this investment in our children that makes the work of educators like those at Liberty Common so valuable to our state. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to celebrate the achievements of the Liberty Common School.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LARRY  
YOUNG

**HON. BILLY LONG**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the professionalism, business brilliance and leadership driven success of Larry Young, president and CEO of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, who also happens to be a native of Springfield, Missouri.

Mr. Young is the leader of an extensive and passionate employee base, with 20,000 employees in total. These workers are responsible for the making, marketing, selling and distributing over 50 beverage brands. Mr.

Young joined the company in 2006 as president and chief operating officer. Later on, in October of 2007, he became the company's president and CEO.

Mr. Young's business prowess is demonstrated by his active role in helping create a new business model for a fully integrated beverage company. He encouraged the integration of brand ownership and marketing with bottling and distribution operations; centralizing the company and allowing it to build its own independent leading brands with a reliable, consistent and secure route to market. Throughout his almost 40-year career in the bottling industry, Mr. Young has produced and sold virtually every beverage in the Americas, Europe, and Russia.

Mr. Young also holds a plethora of honors and acknowledgements. In 2015, he received the Beverage Forum Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2010, he was named Executive of the Year by Beverage Industry magazine, and was inducted into the Beverage World Soft Drink Hall of Fame in 2008. From 2008 to 2010, he also served as chairman of the board of the American Beverage Association.

Mr. Young represents the hard-working and persistent culture of southwest Missouri. I want to congratulate Mr. Young on his upcoming retirement and I wish him the absolute best in the next chapter of his life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 216, I inadvertently voted 'aye.' I strongly oppose the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act and I intended my vote be recorded as 'nay.'

STANDING WITH GUATEMALA

**HON. KEN BUCK**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my sympathies and prayers to America's neighbor, Guatemala, as the country bravely faces a tragic natural disaster.

On Sunday, Volcano de Fuego erupted without warning, sending hot rocks, ash, and gas throughout the surrounding villages. Shortly after the volcanic eruption, a 5.2-magnitude earthquake struck off the coast of Guatemala. Unfortunately, dozens of Guatemalan citizens, our neighbors and our friends, lost their lives.

The devastation experienced by Guatemala today contrasts sharply with the beautiful country I visited in August of 2017. I had the pleasure on that journey of meeting President Morales, along with many Guatemalan cabinet officials. We discussed the strong relationship between America and Guatemala, as well as our common fight to end drug trafficking and pursue peace and stability in North America. I am confident President Morales will courageously guide his nation through this time of tragedy.

I am truly saddened to see Guatemala enduring these trying times, but the country is resilient. I ask God to bless the lives impacted by these tragic events, to bless Guatemala, and to bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNUAL  
ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF  
TEXAS POWWOW

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas on the occasion of its 50th Annual Powwow. The Alabama-Coushatta are a federally recognized tribe of the Alabama and Koasati people in Polk County, Texas between Livingston and Woodville.

The Alabama-Coushatta nation have called the Big Thicket of East Texas home since the mid-1700's and even pre-date the State of Texas by more than 70 years. The Tribe established a meaningful relationship and friendship with General Sam Houston in the 1800's.

The annual Powwow is a signature celebration for the Alabama-Coushatta. Neighboring tribes throughout the United States and Canada join together to participate in traditional and contemporary Native American dances. This celebration has become a tradition for friends and neighbors to join with the Alabama-Coushatta to celebrate their culture and Native American history.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to recognize the history, culture, and tradition of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas as they celebrate their 50th Annual Powwow. May God continue to bless the people of the Alabama-Coushatta nation.

IN HONOR OF KYLE MATOUS

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my outgoing Chief of Staff, Kyle Matous. Kyle grew up in Temple, Texas, and graduated in 2007 from the University of Virginia, where he studied American Politics and completed his undergraduate degree in three years. Following UVA, he attended law school at Pepperdine University. During law school, Kyle clerked for the Ugandan Commercial Court in Kampala, Uganda.

After law school, Kyle started working on the Hill as a Staff Assistant for the House Rules Committee for Chairman David Dreier in 2012. Then when I became Chairman of the House Rules Committee in 2013, Kyle served as my Policy Assistant for nine months with the committee before moving to work for my personal office as a Legislative Assistant. Shortly thereafter, he rejoined the House Rules Committee as my Policy Director in 2014 and then he became my Chief of Staff on January 1, 2016.

Kyle has been an exceptional staff member of both my personal office and the House Rules Committee. He has shown his dedication to promoting excellence and making the

workplace a fun place to be. I Thank him for all the support and goodwill he has shown each and every one of us over the years.

We wish Kyle boundless success as he leaves the Hill to join the government relations team for the ONE Campaign. Congratulations, and best of luck.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, 2018, I was not present to vote on H.R. 8, the "Water Resources Development Act of 2018" or H.R. 3249, the "Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018."

Had I been present for roll call No. 238, I would have voted "Yea."

Had I been present for roll call No. 239, I would have voted "Yea."

#### HONORING POLICE CHIEF JERRY GARNER

### HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the decades of public service performed by Jerry Garner, who retired from his post as the police chief of Greeley, Colorado, on June 1, 2018, after nearly 50 years of work in law enforcement.

In 1968, Chief Garner began his police career as an officer in Victoria, Texas, and he later trained officers in Junction City, Kansas. In 1973, he applied for the opportunity to join the Lakewood Police Department. When he was hired, Chief Garner and his wife, Kathy, moved to Colorado. After retiring from the Lakewood Police Department in 2003, he became the police chief of Fort Lupton, Colorado, and then he moved to Greeley where he became the police chief in 2006. He held this post until his retirement in June 2018.

I had the honor to work with Chief Garner when I served as the Weld County district attorney. His commitment to excellence, integrity, and safety were unmatched. In fact, during the time Chief Garner and I served together, crime in Weld County decreased by 50 percent. Moreover, the chief has authored 11

books supporting America's policing efforts and addressing the issues our officers face. Chief Garner's dedication to his work and sacrifice for his community will live on as his legacy.

#### TRIBUTE TO ATTORNEY LEWIS MEYERS, J.D., THE PEOPLES LAWYER

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Attorney Lewis Meyers, an outstanding legal scholar, a regular but uncommon man who practiced law, was a professor, a litigator, an organizer, manager, social activist, political leader and a friend to many. Lewis's leadership roles began when he was a teenager in Houston, Texas where he helped to integrate the Houston Public School System. He led boycotts, protests and other forms of agitation and demonstrations. He was elected president of the NAACP youth council.

After high school, he attended Howard University Law School and the University of Mississippi Law School where he received his juris doctorate degree. Lou was steeped in movement organizations and politics.

He worked for the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services, Chicago State University, Kenny King College, Roosevelt University, Kent College of Law, DePaul University Law School. He was a tenured professor at Kennedy King College. Lewis's work experiences were so varied, Chief Administrator at Bethel AME Church, and a Deputy National Executive Director for the NAACP in Baltimore. Lewis was a member of the following organizations: American Bar Association, Cook County Bar Association, National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, National Lawyers Guild, National Conference of Black Lawyers, certified to practice in the United States Supreme Court of Appeals for the third, fifth, seventh, and ninth circuits, United States Federal District Court for the Northern District of California, United States Federal District Court for the north and central districts of Illinois. Lewis was the personal attorney for Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., Minister Louis Farrakhan, Congressman Danny K. Davis and 27th ward Alderman Wallace Davis.

Lewis was a joiner of organizations in which he believed, Rainbow Push, Chicago Black United Communities, NAACP Southside branch, Teamwork Eaglewood, Fathers who care, New Mt. Pilgrim Mountain Men, Amer-I-

Can, Five Hundred Black Men, Founder NAACP Chapter, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Executive Board New Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church.

I could not attend the funeral because I was scheduled to take two busloads of children and their families to visit their fathers at Sheridan Correctional Facility for Father's Day. Lou would have approved. Lewis and his wife lived a couple of blocks from my district office and could often be seen walking through the Westside neighborhood where he lived and worked. He was known for giving free legal advice and often handled legal cases pro-bono. He was devoted to his wife and family, and LOVED Houston.

#### HONORING DAVID EADES

### HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 7, 2018*

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of Ohio's 15th Congressional District to celebrate the life and legacy of one of London, Ohio's most distinguished citizens, a man who devoted his life to the service of others, Mr. David Eades.

Mr. Eades nobly and proudly served his community as an elected official for the majority of his life, first as a city councilman for a decade, then as the city's longest-serving mayor, retiring after 24 years.

To attempt to quantify Mr. Eades' impact is impossible. He shepherded a period of tremendous growth for London, as the population increased by over 2,000 citizens, and he always fought for what he believed was best for his neighbors. Known to spar with the city council, he pushed for major infrastructure reforms that eased daily life for the citizens of London, and helped to secure major grants to improve residential housing in the city. He had big ideas and never shied away from the work that might be required to bring them to fruition.

Like a pebble dropped in a pond, the ripples created by Mr. Eades' life and work are far-reaching. His legacy will live on in the memories of those who knew him and loved him: his children, Greg and his wife Barb, Marc, Amber and her husband Lawrence, and Megan; his eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and the rest of his extended family.

London, Ohio is undeniably a better place because of Mr. David G. Eades and the tremendous life of public service he lived, and I am honored to celebrate his legacy.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3269–S3394*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3020–3039, S. Res. 537–538, and S. Con. Res. 38. **Pages S3293–94**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 3023, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. (S. Rept. No. 115–268)

S. 3024, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. (S. Rept. No. 115–269)

S. 1305, to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection with adequate flexibility in its employment authorities, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–270)

S. 2296, to increase access to agency guidance documents, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 115–271)

Report to accompany S. 2527, to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount of leverage made available to small business investment companies. (S. Rept. No. 115–272)

**Page S3292**

#### Measures Passed:

**Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse:** Senate passed S. 2377, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the “Walter H. Rice Federal Building and United States Courthouse”. **Page S3390**

**George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse:** Senate passed S. 2734, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 1300 Victoria Street in Laredo, Texas, as the “George P. Kazen Federal Building and United States Courthouse”. **Page S3390**

**Commending the Yale University Men’s Lacrosse Team:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 537, commending the Yale University Men’s Lacrosse Team for win-

ning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men’s Lacrosse Championship.

**Page S3391**

**Commending the Wesleyan University Men’s Lacrosse Team:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 538, commending the Wesleyan University Men’s Lacrosse Team for winning the 2018 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Men’s Lacrosse Championship. **Page S3391**

#### Measures Considered:

**National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 5515, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2019 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. **Pages S3281–89**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 92 yeas to 4 nays (Vote No. 119), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S3282**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, June 11, 2018, Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture; and that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, the vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill occur at 5:30 p.m.

**Page S3391**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** Senate received the following executive reports of a committee:

Report to accompany Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Serbia (Treaty Doc. 115–1) (Ex. Rept. 115–4); and

Report to accompany Extradition Treaty with the Republic of Kosovo (Treaty Doc. 115–2) (Ex. Rept. 115–5). **Page S3293**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 50 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 118), Kenneth L. Marcus, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Department of Education.

**Pages S3270–81, S3394**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Michael R. Bright, of the District of Columbia, to be President, Government National Mortgage Association.

Peter A. Feldman, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2019.

2 Army nominations in the rank of general.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

**Pages S3391–93**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Charles E. Cook III, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, which was sent to the Senate on February 5, 2018.

**Page S3394**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S3292**

**Executive Communications:**

**Page S3292**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Pages S3292–93**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S3294–95**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S3295–96**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S3290–91**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S3296–S3390**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Page S3390**

**Privileges of the Floor:**

**Page S3390**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—119)

**Pages S3281–82**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:52 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, June 11, 2018. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3391.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Appropriations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An original bill (S. 3023) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019; and

An original bill (S. 3024) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Ryan Wesley Bounds, of Oregon, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, J. Campbell Barker, and Jeremy D. Kernodle, both to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Susan Brnovich, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Chad F. Kenney, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and Maureen K. Ohlhausen, of Virginia, to be Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

### INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 43 public bills, H.R. 6026–6048; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 122; and H. Res. 927, were introduced.

**Pages H4977–78**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages H4981–82**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Fitzpatrick to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H4851**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:02 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

**Page H4857**

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor Eddie Beville, Parkridge Church, Coral Springs, Florida. **Page H4857**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by a yea-and-nay vote of 213 yeas to 197 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 242. **Pages H4857, H4869–70**

**Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act:** The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and pass S. 1869, to reauthorize and rename the position of Whistleblower Ombudsman to be the Whistleblower Protection Coordinator. **Pages H4870–71**

**Department of Veterans Affairs Senior Executive Accountability Act of 2018:** The House agreed to take from the Speaker's table and concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 2772, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the reassignment of Department of Veterans Affairs senior executive employees. **Page H4871**

**Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act:** The House passed H.R. 3, to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on May 8, 2018, in accordance with title X of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act 1974, by a yea-and-nay vote of 210 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 243. **Pages H4871–84, H4957**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in part C of H. Rept. 115–712 shall be considered as adopted. **Page H4871**

H. Res. 923, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 225 yeas to 187 noes, Roll No. 241, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 185 nays, Roll No. 240. **Pages H4862–69**

**Designating the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic:** The House agreed to discharge from committee and pass S. 2246, to designate the health care center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Tallahassee, Florida, as the Sergeant Ernest I. "Boots" Thomas VA Clinic. **Page H4964**

**Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019:** The House considered H.R. 5895, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, June 8th.

**Pages H4884–H4938, H4938–56, H4956–57, H4957–64, H4964–77**

Pursuant to H. Res. 918, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–71 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Page H4905**

Pursuant to H. Res. 923, the further amendment printed in Part A of H. Rept. 115–712 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Page H4956**

Agreed to:

Collins (NY) amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases funding for Army Corps Investigations account by \$1.2 million, for a total of \$129.2 million, offset by a reduction of \$1.2 million in the Army Corps Expenses account; **Page H4925**

Keating amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that ensures funds for additionally considering the historic and national significance of dredging projects in allocating Army Corps additional funding; **Page H4926**

Ruiz amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that redirects \$2 million within the Water and Related Resources Account toward projects with a public health benefit; **Pages H4928–29**

Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that prioritizes funding for Bureau of Reclamation research and development projects; **Page H4929**

DeSaulnier amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increase the Anadromous Fish Screen Program by \$5 million for the purposes of making repairs to existing equipment; **Page H4929**

Cohen amendment (No. 9 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases funding for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$2 million for the SuperTruck II program; **Pages H4929–30**

Soto amendment (No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases funding to the Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response program by \$1,000,000 to further facilitate the Department of Energy's effort to secure the nation's energy infrastructure against all hazards, reduce the risks of and impacts from cyber events, and assist with restoration activities; **Page H4933**

Soto amendment (No. 15 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases funding to the Electricity Delivery program by \$1,000,000 to further facilitate the programs aim to develop a modern power grid by advancing resilient power distribution systems, intelligent and high-efficiency grid components, and energy storage systems; **Page H4933**

Esty amendment (No. 17 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases and decrease funding to Solid Oxide Fuel Cells by \$20 million; **Page H4934**

Keating amendment (No. 20 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that allocates funding to support research and grants to further innovation in the safe and secure storage, treatment, transportation, and disposal of spent nuclear fuel from civilian nuclear reactors;

**Pages H4936–37**

Langevin amendment (No. 22 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases funding by \$3 million to be used for divertor test tokamak research and development;

**Page H4937**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 25 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that increases Administration account by \$1 million to address environmental concerns in both urban and rural settings;

**Pages H4940–41**

O'Halleran amendment (No. 28 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that provides funding to expedite the work of the Department of Energy's Defense-Related Uranium Mines Program's work on Native American Reservations in the west;

**Pages H4945–46**

Keating amendment (No. 30 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that provides resources for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure safe and effective decommissioning of nuclear power plants;

**Page H4947**

Newhouse amendment (No. 33 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that prohibits the use of funds to sell the transmission assets of three Power Marketing Administrations and the Tennessee Valley Authority;

**Page H4950**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 35 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that allocates an additional \$3 million for post-disaster watershed assessment studies;

**Pages H4952–53**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 36 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that prohibits use of funds in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act and addresses the need to increase programs that educate minorities in science, technology, engineering and math;

**Pages H4953–54**

DeSantis amendment (No. 38 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that prohibits funds from being used to purchase heavy water from Iran;

**Pages H4954–55**

Nolan amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that boosts the Army Corps' Aquatic Nuisance Species Research Program by \$1 million;

**Pages H4956–57**

Eshoo amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that increases funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$1,000,000, with the increase intended to support the development and deployment of high-efficiency linear generator power plant technology which, for purposes of stationary electric power production, is

equivalent to fuel cell power plant technology; decreases funding for Departmental Administration by \$1,000,000;

**Page H4964**

Hastings amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that increases funding for cybersecurity of the electric power grid, offset by funding for fossil energy research and development;

**Pages H4965–66**

Rogers (AL) amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that provides \$24 million for construction of critical infrastructure in NNSA, with an offset from NNSA Federal Salaries and Expenses;

**Page H4966**

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that allocates an additional \$100 million for Army Corps of Engineers construction projects related to flood control;

**Page H4966**

LaMalfa amendment (No. 9 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that prohibits the use of funds for enforcing the EPA's abandonment criteria for prior converted cropland;

**Pages H4966–68**

Kildee amendment (No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that increases funding by \$250,000 for the U.S. House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior Program, which provides employment opportunities within the U.S. House for veterans with service-connected disabilities; decreases funding for the Architect of the Capitol, Capital Construction and Operations account by an equivalent amount;

**Page H4969**

Esty amendment (No. 13 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that increases funding by \$500,000 for the Office of Employee Assistance under the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives to be pulled from the Architect of the Capitol, Capitol Grounds;

**Page H4969**

Cohen amendment (No. 17 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that prohibits the use of funds to purchase plastic drinking straws;

**Page H4972**

Torres amendment (No. 20 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that directs the Secretary to use the DOD Base Closure Account to make funding available for the purposes of demolishing facilities closed by prior BRAC rounds;

**Page H4973**

Ruiz amendment (No. 22 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that increases funding to VA Medical Services account from VA Medical Services account to conduct educational outreach to veterans to enroll in the burn pits registry, additional research using the registry, and other activities concerning the maintenance of registry;

**Pages H4974–75**

Johnson (OH) amendment (No. 23 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that calls on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to develop a standard

of hospice care tailored to the unique needs of combat veterans, including Vietnam-era veterans;

**Page H4975**

Carbajal amendment (No. 24 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that directs the Secretary to change the phone system to have local Community Based Outpatient Center answer calls rather than having all calls routed to the major VA Medical Centers in an effort to reduce wait times for veterans on the phone and to provide more timely health services;

**Pages H4975–76**

McSally amendment (No. 25 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that mandates that no less than \$225,000,000 may be appropriated for VA mental health and suicide prevention programs;

**Page H4976**

Welch amendment (No. 26 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that provides \$5 million to better assist veterans exposed to burn pits by improving the existing registry and increasing clinical research on burn pit exposure; decreases the Community Care account by the same amount; and

**Pages H4976–77**

Barr amendment (No. 27 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that transfer \$5 million from the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Administration's (VHA) Medical Community Care Account to the Medical Services Account for the explicit use for the VA's Adaptive Sports Grant (ASG) program, equine assisted therapy.

**Page H4977**

Rejected:

Beyer amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to strike Sec. 107, which prohibits funds from being used to require a permit for the discharge of dredged or fill material under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act;

**Pages H4926–28**

Kihuen amendment (No. 23 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to strike \$190 million for the licensing of the nuclear waste depository at Yucca Mountain;

**Pages H4937–38**

Kihuen amendment (No. 32 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to strike language that would prohibit closure of the Yucca Mountain project;

**Pages H4949–50**

Tsongas amendment (No. 13 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to increase funding to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for the purposes of offshore wind job training grants (by a recorded vote of 201 ayes to 217 noes, Roll No. 244);

**Pages H4931–33, H4958**

Beyer amendment (No. 18 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to increase ARPA-E to its FY18 enacted level and reduces Fossil Energy R&D by the same amount (by a recorded vote of 204 ayes to 214 noes, Roll No. 245);

**Pages H4934–36, H4958–59**

Gosar amendment (No. 24 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to eliminate funding for the ARPA-E program as recommended by the administration (by a recorded vote of 123 ayes to 295 noes, Roll No. 246);

**Pages H4938–40, H4959–60**

Lee amendment (No. 26 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to strike \$65 million for the W76–2 warhead and transfers it to Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account (by a recorded vote of 177 ayes to 241 noes, Roll No. 247);

**Pages H4941–44, H4960**

Connolly amendment (No. 27 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to restore the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account to the FY2018 funding level by giving the Weapons Activities account a \$404 million increase instead of the current \$550 million increase (by a recorded vote of 179 ayes to 239 noes, Roll No. 248);

**Pages H4944–45, H4960–61**

Gosar amendment (No. 29 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to use the Holman Rule to reduce the salary of Mark Gabriel, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration, to \$1 (by a recorded vote of 139 ayes to 276 noes with two answering “present”, Roll No. 249);

**Pages H4946–47, H4961–62**

Lowenthal amendment (No. 31 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to strike Sec. 505, which prohibits funds from being used for further implementation of the coastal and marine spatial planning and ecosystem-based management components of the National Ocean Policy (by a recorded vote of 195 ayes to 223 noes, Roll No. 250);

**Pages H4947–49, H4962**

Blackburn amendment (No. 34 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to provide for a one percent across the board cut to the discretionary spending levels in Division A of the bill (by a recorded vote of 155 ayes to 262 noes, Roll No. 251);

**Pages H4950–52, H4962–63**

Norman amendment (No. 39 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that sought to reduce the total amount of appropriations made available by \$1.5 billion to match the fiscal year 2018 enacted level (by a recorded vote of 128 ayes to 289 noes, Roll No. 252); and

**Pages H4955–56, H4963–64**

Perlmutter amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that sought to increase funding for EERE's Facilities and Infrastructure account by \$5 million offset by a \$5 million reduction to DOE's Departmental Administration account.

**Pages H4964–65**

Withdrawn:

Abraham amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased Corps

of Engineers Construction by \$17,410,000 and reduces DOE Departmental Administration by the same amount; **Pages H4925–26**

Keating amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have allocated funding for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to support marine and hydrokinetic energy research and technologies; **Page H4930**

Bonamici amendment (No. 11 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding for the EERE Water Power Technologies Office by \$10 million; **Pages H4930–31**

Esty amendment (No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have restored \$15 million in funding to the Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO) within the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE); **Page H4931**

Weber (TX) amendment (No. 16 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have provided for \$35 million from within funds appropriated to the Office of Nuclear Energy to meet the House-passed authorization level for the Versatile Neutron Source, a fast test reactor user facility; **Pages H4933–34**

Smith (TX) amendment (No. 19 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–711) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have provided for \$126.8 million from within funds appropriated to the Office of Science to meet House-passed authorization levels for the LINAC Coherent Light Source II High Energy Upgrade, the Proton Power Upgrade to the Spallation Neutron Source, the construction of the Spallation Neutron Source Second Target Station, and the construction of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams; provides for full funding for the U.S. contribution to the construction of the ITER project; **Page H4936**

Kildee amendment (No. 19 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased funding in the BRAC account to ensure there is sufficient funding to prevent further contamination of PFAS at former-Wurtsmith AFB; and **Pages H4972–73**

Kildee amendment (No. 21 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have created a funding carve-out for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment account. **Pages H4973–74**

Proceedings Postponed:

Gohmert amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to prepare, propose, or promulgate any reg-

ulation or guidance related to the social cost of carbon; **Pages H4968–69**

Meadows amendment (No. 15 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that seeks to reestablish a semiannual Government Accountability Office financial review of obligated expenditures from the Independent Counsel permanent indefinite appropriation, and require the report's findings to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate, the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Judiciary of the House, and the Committees on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and Judiciary of the Senate; and **Pages H4970–71**

Takano amendment (No. 16 printed in part B of H. Rept. 115–712) that seeks to appropriate \$2.5 million to re-institute the Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) to help Congress understand emerging technologies and their policy implications; offset by funds from an administrative account within the Architect of the Capitol. **Pages H4971–72**

H. Res. 918, the rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 3249) and providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8) and (H.R. 5895) was agreed to yesterday, June 6th.

H. Res. 923, the rule providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5895) and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 225 ayes to 187 noes, Roll No. 241, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 227 yeas to 185 nays, Roll No. 240. **Pages H4862–69**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 1692 was held at the desk. S. 2857 was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. S. 2377 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. S. 2734 was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. **Page H4977**

**Senate Messages:** Message received from the Senate and message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today and appear on pages H4862 and H4938.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three yea-and-nay votes and ten recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4868–69, H4869, H4869–70, H4957, H4958, H4958–59, H4959–60, H4960, H4960–61, H4961–62, H4962, H4962–63, and H4963–64. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 11:49 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Defense held a markup on the FY 2019 Defense Appropriations Bill. This markup was closed.

### IMPROVING THE HYDROPOWER LICENSING PROCESS

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Improving the Hydropower Licensing Process”. Testimony was heard from Ryan Fisher, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; John Goodin, Acting Director, Office of Wetlands, Ocean, and Watersheds, Environmental Protection Agency; Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator, Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Greg Sheehan, Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Terry Turpin, Director, Office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3861, the “Federal Insurance Office Reform Act of 2017”; H.R. 4557, the “Reforming Disaster Recovery Act of 2017”; H.R. 5054, the “Small Company Disclosure Simplification Act of 2018”; H.R. 5756, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to adjust certain resubmission thresholds for shareholder proposals; H.R. 5783, the “Cooperate with Law Enforcement Agencies and Watch Act of 2018”; and H.R. 5877, the “Main Street Growth Act”. H.R. 5783, H.R. 5877, H.R. 3861, and H.R. 4557 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 5054 and H.R. 5756 were ordered reported, without amendment.

### A BAD YEAR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN VIETNAM

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “A Bad Year for Human Rights in Vietnam”. Testimony was heard from former Member Joseph Cao and public witnesses.

### ADVANCING U.S. BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND TRADE IN THE AMERICAS

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “Advancing U.S. Business Investment and Trade in the Americas”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### WILDFIRE RISK, FOREST HEALTH, AND ASSOCIATED MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES OF THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing entitled “Wildfire Risk, Forest Health, and Associated Management Priorities of the U.S. Forest Service”. Testimony was heard from Vicki Christiansen, Interim Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

### THE ELECTRIC GRID OF THE FUTURE

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “The Electric Grid of the Future”. Testimony was heard from Bruce J. Walker, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, Department of Energy, and Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, Department of Energy; John Sarrao, Principal Associate Director, Science, Technology, and Engineering Directorate, Los Alamos National Laboratory; and public witnesses.

### VETS FIRST? AN EXAMINATION OF VA'S RESOURCES FOR VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

*Committee on Small Business:* Subcommittee on Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations held a hearing entitled “Vets First? An Examination of VA's Resources for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MARITIME TRANSPORTATION IN THE ARCTIC: THE U.S. ROLE

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Maritime Transportation in the Arctic: The U.S. Role”. Testimony was heard from Admiral Charles W. Ray, Vice Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard; David Kennedy, Senior Arctic Advisor, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and public witnesses.

### HONORING HEROES: MEMORIALIZING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled “Honoring Heroes: Memorializing our Nation's Veterans”. Testimony was heard from Randy C. Reeves, Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS OF BURN PIT EXPOSURE AMONG VETERANS**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled "An Assessment of the Potential Health Effects of Burn Pit Exposure Among Veterans". Testimony was heard from Ralph L. Erickson, M.D., Chief Consultant, Post-Deployment Health, Office of Patient Care Services, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

**EXAMINING SOCIAL SECURITY'S SOLVENCY CHALLENGE: THE STATUS OF SOCIAL SECURITY'S TRUST FUNDS**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled "Examining Social Security's Solvency Challenge: The Status of Social Security's Trust Funds". Testimony was heard from Stephen C. Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration.

***Joint Meetings*****HEALTH CARE SAVINGS ACCOUNTS**

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the potential for health care savings accounts to engage patients and bend the health care cost curve, after receiving testimony from Scott W. Atlas, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Stanford, California; and J. Kevin A. McKechnie, American Bankers Association HSA Council, Tracy

Watts, Mercer, on behalf of the American Benefits Council, and Kavita Patel, Johns Hopkins Medicine and The Brookings Institution, all of Washington, D.C.

---

**NEW PUBLIC LAWS**

*(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D612)*

S. 292, to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments. Signed on June 5, 2018. (Public Law 115–180)

S. 1282, to redesignate certain clinics of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Montana. Signed on June 5, 2018. (Public Law 115–181)

S. 2372, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks. Signed on June 6, 2018. (Public Law 115–182)

---

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,  
JUNE 8, 2018**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

**House**

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice, hearing entitled "Questions Regarding the U.S. Census", 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

3 p.m., Monday, June 11

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 5515, National Defense Authorization Act, post-cloture, and vote on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 5:30 p.m.

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, June 8

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Complete consideration of H.R. 5895—Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Babin, Brian, Tex., E800  
 Bonamici, Suzanne, Ore., E792  
 Boyle, Brendan F., Pa., E797  
 Brady, Kevin, Tex., E795  
 Buck, Ken, Colo., E800, E800, E801  
 Byrne, Bradley, Ala., E791  
 Carson, André, Ind., E795  
 Cleaver, Emanuel, Mo., E798  
 Davis, Danny K., Ill., E800, E801  
 Davis, Rodney, Ill., E791  
 Deutch, Theodore E., Fla., E798  
 Faso, John J., N.Y., E799

Gallego, Ruben, Ariz., E792  
 Gianforte, Greg, Mont., E793  
 Hanabusa, Colleen, Hawaii, E796  
 Jackson Lee, Sheila, Tex., E799  
 Keating, William R., Mass., E797  
 Kelly, Mike, Pa., E793  
 Kuster, Ann M., N.H., E792  
 Long, Billy, Mo., E800  
 MacArthur, Thomas, N.J., E790  
 McCarthy, Kevin, Calif., E792, E797  
 Nolan, Richard M., Minn., E794  
 Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E790, E797  
 O'Rourke, Beto, Tex., E791

Panetta, Jimmy, Calif., E789, E793  
 Perlmutter, Ed, Colo., E801  
 Poe, Ted, Tex., E790, E790, E791, E792, E794, E795, E796, E798  
 Polis, Jared, Colo., E790  
 Sessions, Pete, Tex., E800  
 Smith, Lamar, Tex., E799  
 Stivers, Steve, Ohio, E801  
 Suozzi, Thomas R., N.Y., E798  
 Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E789  
 Walden, Greg, Ore., E789



# Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at [www.govinfo.gov](http://www.govinfo.gov), free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, [contactcenter@gpo.gov](mailto:contactcenter@gpo.gov). ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: [bookstore.gpo.gov](http://bookstore.gpo.gov). Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are