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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Eric SWALWELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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.

HOW CLOTURE KILLED THE 115TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks after the 2016 election, I warned on this floor that the greatest obstacle to the success of the Republican Congress and the Trump Presidency was the Senate’s cloture rule.

Cloture is the Senate rule that requires 60 votes before a bill can be considered. It was originally designed to protect the minority’s right to debate, but it has now degenerated into a very effective way for the minority to prevent any debate. Today, it gives minority Democrats in the Senate the power to sum up almost every measure brought to the Senate.

In 2016, the American people elected a Republican President and Republican majorities in both houses of Congress with a simple plea: Make America Great Again. As a practical matter, this meant reviving the economy, balancing the budget, securing our borders, and rescuing our healthcare system. Having given us all the necessary tools, it had every right to expect action.

If the Republican Congress had proven worthy of this trust, history would have looked back on the last 2 years as the turning point when America reclaimed its greatness and entered a new era of prosperity, solvency, and security. The new 116th Congress would be taking office with a clear mandate to build on that success.

Well, the American people got action from the President. They also got action from this House. We sent the Senate over 1,300 bills, fulfilling every promise made to the American people. The Senate acted on fewer than 300.

Now, did the Senate, which absurdly boasts to be the greatest deliberative body in the world, carefully and meticulously deliberate over these measures and ultimately reject them? No. The greatest deliberative body in the world never took them up at all—all for lack of cloture.

That is not the fault of Senate Democrats, who radically abused this rule as part of the resistance. It is the fault of Senate Republicans who let them.

The only major accomplishments were due to rare instances when cloture could be bypassed. The appointments of Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court occurred only after Senate Republicans changed this rule, but only for Supreme Court nominations.

The landmark tax reform bill could be taken up and passed in the Senate only by misusing a budget process called reconciliation, which avoids the cloture rule.

Reconciliation is a once-a-year bill designed to control spending. It isn’t subject to the 60-vote requirement, but it can only change laws to conform to spending levels set by the budget.

Even then, this proved a mixed political blessing for Republicans. The limits on deducting State and local taxes were all placed in the bill, solely to conform to reconciliation requirements. Republicans got clobbered in the high-tax States where these provisions proved so unpopular.

The tax cuts triggered such dramatic economic growth that Federal revenues increased, yet the deficit continued to widen. Why? Well, spending exploded, in part because House leaders hijacked reconciliation, the most potent tool to control spending, in order to get around the Senate’s cloture rule.

Cloture turned healthcare from a winning to a losing issue for Republicans. House Republicans had proposed comprehensive healthcare reforms that rescued Americans from the bureaucratic labyrinth of ObamaCare, restored their freedom of choice, protected those with preexisting conditions, and provided a supportive tax system to guarantee an affordable health plan for every family.

Yet cloture made a comprehensive bill DOA in the Senate, forcing the House to concoct a hodgepodge measure that could fit within the narrow rules for budget reconciliation. This mangled product that resulted couldn’t even muster a Senate majority. Since the replacement bill was never enacted, Democrats could portray it any way they wanted. The same story can be told of border security and funding for the long-promised border wall.
Though majorities in both houses favored funding, cloture gave Senate Democrats the power to run out the clock toward a government shutdown and produce the impasse that we now face today.

Ironically, the political demographics of Senate elections allowed Senate Republicans to increase their majority, while voter frustration declimated their House colleagues.

The House now passes into history as Democrats take control of the House and end any chance to fulfill the hopes of 2016. All that is left is Whitzier’s sad lament: “Of all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, ‘It might have been.’

END THE SHUTDOWN

Mr. Speaker, we don’t have a crisis on the border. We have a crisis in the Oval Office. To President Trump, the wall, his symbol of division, matters more than substantial improvements to border security and true comprehensive immigration reform.

If President Trump wants to address the real crisis in our country, let’s end this shutdown and pay the people who work for the people. Let’s reduce our silent backlog, protect Dreamers, and fix our dysfunctional immigration system. We need real action and a bipartisan solution.

EXPRESSIONS OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the small business development centers located throughout my district and throughout the country. These development centers are Statewide, nationally accredited programs that provide one-on-one consulting, training, and information resources to empower new and existing small businesses.

They are a public private partnership between the Small Business Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce and Economic Development, and universities and colleges across the Commonwealth.

Clarion University and Penn State both have fantastic small business development centers whose mission is to provide entrepreneurs with the knowledge needed to make smart decisions and to see their businesses grow and prosper.

Over the past few months, I have received many letters in support of small business development centers from constituents who have utilized these services to start or maintain a small business of their own. From Ms. Smithport who wrote that, after growing up working in her family’s restaurant, it had always been a dream to operate her own restaurant. Through the help of the Clarion University Small Business Development Center, her dream became a reality.

Joseph from Punxsutawney worked with the center to help manage his business’s financial records and receive a line of credit. He wrote that the information and advice they provided helped him make critical business decisions with confidence.

And Emily from Franklin recently opened up a charming bed and breakfast after working with the development center staff to write up a business plan and organize the financial aspects of her business. She hopes to continue working with the development center and said she truly feels as though they want her to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the stories I have received, and I thank all of my constituents that took the time to share their stories with me. The success stories of small business owners that work with development centers are endless. They have greatly helped economic progress in my district.

The Clarion University center helped start up 55 new businesses in 2017 and supported more than 500 constituents. Nationaly, small businesses make up 99 percent of U.S. employers. In 2018, there were more than 30 million small businesses that employed 58 million people.

The development center program, operated through the Small Business Administration, was allocated $150 million for fiscal year 2018. Through the continued funding of small business development centers, paired with the passage of probusiness legislation like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, entrepreneurship can continue to thrive in Pennsylvania and across the country.

Mr. Speaker, that is something every American can applaud and that we should be proud of.
END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, a TSA agent along with his wife had to sell plasma to make ends meet.

A Federal law enforcement employee just received a separation notice after trying to explain the shutdown to his apartment manager. In a few days, he and his family will be kicked out of their apartment if they do not receive a paycheck in time to pay their rent.

A Coast Guard Federal prison is already working under stressful conditions and not being paid. She and her coworkers wonder how they can make their Federal student loan payments when they aren’t getting paychecks.

Members of the Coast Guard are working hard every day in dangerous conditions to keep our coastal communities safe, not knowing how they will pay their rent or other bills without their next paycheck.

Air traffic controllers work in a very complex field that requires concentration and dedication to keep the skies safe, and they are expected to do that without getting paid.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because these Oregonians and hundreds of thousands of people across the country like them are suffering as a result of President Trump’s government shutdown.

For 20 days, the President has held the American people hostage over his campaign slogan to build a wall along part of the southern border, a wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. In those 20 days, he has spent first-hand how harmful this shutdown has been for Oregonians.

I have spoken with individuals from Astoria, Sheridan, Portland, and beyond who are worried: How are they going to pay their rent? How are they going to afford childcare or continue to pay their student loans if their paycheck does not come through on Friday?

Missing even one paycheck can have catastrophic consequences. It is far too high a cost for these dedicated Federal employees to pay for a policy fight that they did not start and have no power to end. This is unconscionable.

Hardworking Oregonians should not lose their homes or be forced to sell plasma because the Federal Government is shut down, especially when they are continuing to report to work and protect our country without pay.

Since taking the majority last week, the House has taken swift action to reopen the government. We have passed bipartisan bills to fund government operations and pay workers who have been furloughed.

The American people have been held hostage long enough. It is past time for the President to abandon his ill-conceived border wall and reopen the Federal Government before more people are hurt.

U.S. POLICY IN SYRIA

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was delighted to read that President Trump has reflected on his initial instinct to pull our 2,000 soldiers out of combat. After his conclusion that ISIS is defeated, and, instead, he is ordering a withdrawal at a proper pace consistent with American objectives.

To meet our goals of a safe American homeland and progress towards regional stability, America must first develop a strategy to eliminate ISIS from northeast Syria along the lower Euphrates valley at the border of Syria and Iraq.

This plan must include a productive role for our partner and ally, the Kurds. It is not in America’s interest to abandon our long friends, the Kurds, to Turkish treachery and annihilation.

Recent open-source data suggests there are 30,000 ISIS-related fighters in the lower Euphrates valley. With our allies, we must press this villainous band to its inglorious end.

Our leaving with no plan will squander our immense success in cutting off funding and winning back hard-fought territorial gains from the occupation of ISIS.

Second, America must block Iran. A key here is a small base and deconfliction zone at al-Tanf, a small base along the key highway between Damascus and Baghdad. Not only is this a strategic imperative, Mr. Speaker, but 50,000 refugees are tenuously housed in this deconfliction zone at Rukban. Withdraw, and death awaits them.

Neighboring Jordan can take no more. We must ensure that an allied force remains at al-Tanf, blocking the Iranian-planned autobahn being considered from Tehran to Damascus. Withdrawing is not an option. You will withdraw, Mr. President, and you will leave Israel fully encircled by its greatest enemy, the Ayatollah in Tehran.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, America must achieve peace and stability in Syria. Our small elite presence, our supply lines, and our air superiority offer pressure on the murderous regime in Damascus to reach a settlement to return Syria to peace and return millions of refugees to their towns and ancestral homes.

Leave, Mr. President, and you will squander the great moral victory of your strategic strikes against Assad from his illegal use of chemical weapons and barrel bombs.

Your early decisive actions made our friends, villagers huddling in fear and from the Euphrates to Idlib, shout with joy. “America is back,” they shouted.

Leave, Mr. President, with no plan and no strategy, and they will hang their heads as they did during President Truman’s abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, this unfortunate chapter unfolding in the tragedy known as Syria foreshadows anunflattering flashback to a time long ago when Great Britain abandoned a role of stability in the Holy Land and India.

In 1948, Churchill rose in the House to oppose Prime Minister Atlee’s own unplanned precipitous withdrawal from the Holy Land, saying a time limit—a kind of guillotine—will certainly prevent the full, fair, and reasonable discussion of the great, complicated issues that are involved.

Indeed, as Churchill foresaw, mayhem, terror, and destruction were the result of Britain’s precipitous withdrawal.

It is said that history doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme. Mr. President, let’s not repeat this historical mistake nor let our actions even result in a rhyme.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we know the President doesn’t like to read, but I think perhaps his acting chief of staff did.

There was something called the Maginot Line the French built between World War I and World War II, an impenetrable defense against the German invasion. Unfortunately, the Germans went around it.

Here we are in the 21st century. The President wants $5.7 billion to build a wall along part of the Mexican border. Now, his own acting chief of staff, when he was a Member of Congress and perhaps speaking more freely, said: You go under, you go around, you go through. What they need is more manpower and more technology.

That is Mick Mulvaney, well, saying something different now, I guess, because he wants to keep his job. But the point is, he had an honest opinion then, and that is the way it will work.

Here are a few things: You can go over walls and fences—oh, by the way, we just had a demonstration today that the steel slats the President now wants can be cut with a handsaw.

Tunnels, drugs come through that way and people are smuggled in that way.

Oh, they are using the squad copters. You can buy those pretty cheap—oh, and some more primitive device over here.

But, actually, the flood of drugs coming into the United States comes in right here, legal border crossings. A couple of problems with that right now.

First off, the people who are manning the border crossings aren’t getting paid.

Secondly, they don’t have enough technology or the capability of inspecting more than 10 percent of the vehicles that come through. So for the car-tels: “Hey, what the heck. We just lost a semil.” What do they care? Pocket change. “Couple of hundred thousand
bucks, million bucks—whatever. We don’t care.” They just try all the time.

And we don’t have the defenses we need. We could invest there, but, no, the President wants the wall.

Now, there is another way that drugs are coming into this country. Last year, the Coast Guard intercepted $5.6 billion—sound familiar? $5.6 billion, almost as much as the President wants for the wall—worth of illegal drugs being shipped via the ocean into the United States.

The Commandant of the Coast Guard testified 2 years ago, they are only intercepting 20 percent of the known shipments because their medium endurance cutters are half a century old. They don’t have enough helicopters. They don’t have enough air support. They don’t have enough fast-pursuit boats. But, no, we are going to invest in a stupid static way. They can go around it in the oceans. They can go around it in the desert. They can go under it. They can go over it.

And the people who are really doing the job, like the Coast Guard, guess what. They are not getting paid either. The first line of defense, Customs and Border Protection—not being paid. The Coast Guard—not being paid.

There is a very long list of Federal employees who are critical to national security who are not being paid today and don’t have the tools they need. But the President wants to invest in a stupid static wall because they promised one.

And, oh, by the way, Mexico is going to pay for it, which, of course, they aren’t.

You know, yesterday the tip sheet from the Coast Guard support group, the Trump administration, had helpful tips for coasties: you could hold a garage sale; you could perhaps dog walk; you could register as a mystery shopper.

They actually posted this for people who are the first line of defense in the United States of America, instead of saying: “Put them back to work and pay them, pay them for defending America.”

Now, the President says he can relate to this. He understands. Yes, when he was in business, he stiffered a whole lot of people, and he is stiffering 800,000 Federal employees right now.

RECOGNIZING DR. BUD PETERSON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. G.P. “Bud” Peterson, who will retire as president of Georgia Tech in the summer of 2019. After 10 years serving Georgia Tech, President Peterson is certainly leaving it in a better place than he found it. Under his leadership, Georgia Tech became the first university in a decade to be invited to join the Association of American Universities;

Research funding increased and nearly doubled;

The size of enrollment grew, including the number of women enrolled at the university.

And these are only a few of President Peterson’s most notable impacts on campus.

Thank you, President Peterson, for your service to Georgia Tech as a premier research university that cultivates innovative leaders in Georgia, across the U.S., and throughout the world. I wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

And to Georgia Tech, I wish you the best of luck in your search for a new president.

NATIONAL PHARMACIST DAY 2019

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Pharmacist Day 2019 on January 12.

According to Census data, there are over 200,000 pharmacists across the U.S., with another 25,000 pharmacy aids. Each day, these pharmacists are providing vaccines for a number of illnesses and carefully counseling patients on prescriptions to help heal sickness and reduce pain.

Through this work, pharmacists are considered one of the top three most trusted professions in America. Today, and throughout the rest of the year, I encourage everyone in your pharmacy, ask questions about your prescriptions, and get to know the people who provide your medicine and work to keep you healthy.

As the only pharmacist currently serving in Congress, I am proud to recognize the work these individuals are doing every day to serve their local communities across the country.

ABBAS FAMILY MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand before you to speak a new language to stop drunk driving once and for all.

The young girl was right and the elders of the community were correct that technology does exist to stop drunk driving once and for all, and Congress has never had the will to take it on.

I have to go home tomorrow to a community that is still grieving. I can’t look them in the eye unless we are really willing to try to do something.

This week I am introducing legislation in memory of the Abbas family that would mandate all new vehicles be equipped with interlock breathalyzer devices. This will stop intoxicated drivers from ever starting a vehicle and keep them off the roads.

If we can keep one person from dying on the roads and make people think twice before getting behind the wheel when they shouldn’t, even when they are buzzed and think they will be okay, then won’t we have been successful?

I know that some will say: “This is too much of a burden. It won’t work. Why should we have to do that?”

Well, I am going to look them in the eye and tell them why no community should ever have to feel what our community is still feeling this week.

I will work with all my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, and the tech industry to save lives. It is our moral imperative.

Nothing will bring back the Abbas family, but their lives were too important to forget. Our community will deeply miss them, but we need to make sure that their death was not in vain. We need to dedicate their memory and those of others we know to try to prevent another life being lost this way senselessly.
RECOGNIZING BILL SAMPLE

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday our Nation recognized National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and I am proud to stand here today with my colleagues to express our gratitude to the brave women and men who sacrifice for our safety each and every day.

I would like to recognize the memory and legacy of one law enforcement officer who left an indelible mark on families in Bucks County and beyond. Bill Sample, a Chalfont resident who passed away in 2014, was a Philadelphia police officer who founded the Sunshine Foundation in 1976.

Based in Southhampton, the Sunshine Foundation, which seeks to help chronically ill, physically challenged, and abused children from underserved families, and today to recognize an individual in Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding individual in the years to come.

To say that Caleb's stand was a success, Mr. Speaker, would be an understatement. Through selling hot cocoa and with the help of additional donations that came in days later, Caleb was able to raise $1,715 for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter, a program that advocates for the homeless in upper Bucks County.

Vincent Kabaso of Ambler has become the first Professional Golf Association member from his home nation of Zambia, a country of 17 million people. Vinny currently works as a golf professional at Talamore Country Club in Ambler. Vinny's love of golf came at a very young age. After graduating from high school in 2004, he studied in England and Scotland before becoming a coach on the Zambia national golf team. He later came to the United States where he became a professional in Connecticut before moving to Pennsylvania.

In addition to his golf talent, Vinny has also founded a nonprofit organization and he is also an author. He established the sunshine Foundation, which assists students at the University of Zambia and provides used equipment for young golfers.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud Caleb for his remarkable work and the help of additional donations that came in days later, Caleb was able to raise $1,715 for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter.

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say this is the first time that I have addressed my constituents and my colleagues from the floor of this House.

Under normal circumstances, I would be talking about creating new jobs and new opportunities for my constituents in New Hampshire. I would be talking about plans to rebuild our roads and bridges, support our communities and the local businesses that can improve people's lives and move America forward. But today's circumstances in this brand-new Congress are anything but normal.

Instead of talking about how we can reform government, I am here to plead with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to simply reopen government.

Mr. Speaker, today marks day 20 of the shutdown. After nearly 3 weeks without a paycheck, Federal employees across the country are struggling with how they will pay their rent, their mortgage, and their utility bills. They are anxious about putting food on the table and providing for their kids.

With no end in sight, thousands of workers in my State of New Hampshire are facing tough questions. What if the shutdown lasts months or even years, as this President has threatened? What will that mean for their savings, for their jobs, and for their families? Will they be forced to leave Federal service simply to stay afloat?

The treatment of our dedicated Federal workers is completely unacceptable. As someone who operated a family business with 230 workers, I can tell you that shutting your doors and cutting off pay for your employees is no way to run a business. It is certainly no way to run the greatest country on Earth.

Mr. Speaker, this is the people's House, so today I am lifting up the stories of everyday Granite Staters, who are suffering because of this senseless shutdown.

I am here on behalf of a furloughed IRS worker from Sandown. Her bank is refusing to give her the interest-free loan they promised Federal workers, because the furloughed letter the IRS gave her was too vague. And, of course, there is no one around at the IRS to write her a new one.

I am here on behalf of an air traffic controller from Derry who just transferred airports and has been told she may not get back pay because she was furloughed prior to starting her new assignment.

I am here on behalf of an FAA worker from Hampton who is being forced to take unpaid leave to look after his wife who is going through a health emergency. He is worrying about how he can possibly care for his spouse without knowing when his next paycheck is going to arrive.

These workers from my district deserve better from our Nation's leaders, and so do each and every one of the American people.

This fall, voters sent an unmistakable message: the way Washington works simply isn't working for them. They want less drama and dysfunction, more compromise and more common sense. They want leaders who will put the national interest before their own partisan political interest.

Instead of business as usual in Washington, it is time for Washington to start operating more like a responsible business that looks out for its workers. That means ending the shutdown now and making sure all outstanding Federal employees and contractors are fully compensated.

We have got to do better. For the sake of the more than 2,400 Federal workers in New Hampshire who are currently furloughed or working without pay and the more than 800,000 across this country, let's close this dark chapter by immediately reopening the doors of our government.

DESSERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT EXPANSION

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of Measure BB and the expansion of the Desert Healthcare District.

You see, when I was a young boy growing up in a farm-worker trailer park in Coachella, I saw the dignity of
good, humble people who loved God, worked hard, and struggled to make a better life for themselves and their children.

I also saw their need for health care, and I vowed at the age of four to be a doctor and serve them.

As a freshman pre-med student at UCLA, I stayed awake at night on the top bunk of my tiny dorm room thinking about the difference I would one day make.

After graduating from Harvard's medical school, I returned home as an emergency medicine physician as promised.

I rolled up my sleeves, organized, and went to trailer parks, rural community parks, and the poorest communities to help.

I saw familiar faces with familiar stories of suffering still living in poverty and resource-poor communities.

That is why I founded the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative in 2010, along with my wife, Monica, and our good friend, Channeoy Veatch, to address our local healthcare access crisis.

We produced a report and a strategic improvement plan. Our most important solution was the expansion of a healthcare district.

Today, I am very happy to celebrate the passage of Measure BB and the expansion of the Desert Healthcare District to cover all medically underserved communities in the valley. It is significant, because the district has an annual multimillion dollar budget that funds healthcare and public health programs that improve the public's health.

That means more providers caring for more patients and providing much-needed services like pediatric specialty care, mental health, veterans' health, senior services, and provider pipeline programs.

It is proof that good things happen when good people come together to do good work.

I would like to thank California Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia for answering the call and stepping up to be a champion for the expansion of the district.

He got the bill to put expansion on the ballot passed into law, and together, we helped build local support by putting out fires and persuading others of the big idea.

I also want to thank Riverside County Supervisor Manuel Perez. When the expansion of the healthcare district was under threat, Supervisor Perez and I worked closely to convince other county supervisors how much our communities would gain in both improved health outcomes and increased economic activity.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in favor of the expansion.

There were many other champions who pulled their weight and got the job done.

Thank you to the leadership of the Desert Healthcare District itself, including the President of the Board of Directors, Dr. Les Zendle, previous CEOs Kathy Greco and Herb Schultz, and Interim CEO Chris Christensen.

Thank you to board members Dr. Jennifer Wortham, Kay Hazen, and Carole Rogers, who voted in favor of expansion, and the many, many other staff members who have helped ensure this advocacy ran smoothly.

Several key healthcare organizations were instrumental in this success. As the largest provider for the east valley, Tenet Healthcare has been enormously supportive by prioritizing the health of their patients above all else.

Thank you to Borrego Community Health Foundation for your generosity and leadership to help create this victory.

Thank you to Planned Parenthood for your tireless work, and thank you to Building Healthy Communities, Clinicas de Salud Del Pueblo, and Eisenhower Medical Center.

Thank you to James Williamson, who led the campaign.

Thank you to Barbara Fields, Juan Armenta, Mary English, Walter Clark, Oscar Armijal, Richard Meyer, and Jack Marco, whose generosity never wavered throughout this journey.

Thank you to the voters who approved the expansion measure by an incredibly large margin.

Thank you for helping to make the dream I had as a boy from a farmworker trailer park a reality.

Together, we are improving lives and making a difference.

NINETY YEARS A PREACHER

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

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and one of the most revered ministers of the gospel that the Chicago metropolitan area has ever known.

Reverend James Bass was born on May 7, 1920, to the late Frank and Hattie Bell Bass in a rural Mississippi town.

James began school at the age of 6 in a little church house near Sunflower River Road, where he attended with his two brothers and one sister. His first teacher, Mr. Lee, taught all of the classes that were in session when the farming seasons were not in force.

As a little boy, James loved playing marbles, pitching horseshoes, and playing church, with him preaching. He also would preach the funeral for any of the animals that died and became known as the boy preacher.

When Reverend Bass graduated from high school, he joined the U.S. Army during World War II. He carried no weapon and continued his ministerial work.

After being discharged, he returned home and enrolled at Tougaloo College in 1948, majoring in history. He attended the Mississippi seminary in Jackson in 1951. He became pastor of the Mt. Israel Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, where he sponsored a radio broadcast for senior citizens and those who were sick and shut in.

In December of 1955, James was invited to Detroit to preach a revival at Canaan Baptist Church. On the way back, he stopped in Chicago to visit his brother and sister and was honored to preach at the Greater Open Door Baptist Church.

In August of 1956, Reverend Bass organized a small mission. The mission grew, and the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church was founded in September of 1956.

He returned to Chicago and commuted between Chicago and Mississippi for 6 years, and, after fasting and praying, he decided that his type of ministry really needed to be in a large urban city.

In 1967, Reverend Bass and Helyn Maxine Julius were united in holy matrimony and were blessed with two children, Vincent in 1968 and Vikkeda in 1970.

Under Reverend Bass' leadership, Mt. Olive grew into a substantial Baptist church, with significant influence in the community.

When Dr. Martin Luther King came to Chicago and lived on the West Side, Reverend James Bass was there with him and stood shoulder-to-shoulder when others sneaked away or refused to stand.

Reverend Bass was known as an activist, independent-minded preacher who used his pulpit effectively to foster something called liberation theology. He will be remembered as one who knew that the doors of the church must be open both ways: inside so that people could come and be spiritually nurtured, but also outside so that they could use the information for the benefit of themselves and their communities.

For more than 90 years, Reverend James Bass preached what he called the gospel. He was an effective messenger, and what a messenger he was. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING JANET WOLF

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the prodigious 24-year public service career of supervisor Janet Wolf, and a good friend, in Santa Barbara County of my district.

A southern California native, Janet Wolf earned her bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, my alma mater as well. She then went on to the University of California, Los Angeles, to earn her master’s degree and teaching credential.

In 1983, Janet began working in the field of vocational rehabilitation. In 1987, she opened her own business, with offices both in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, California. She continued her work and leadership in that field for over 20 years.

Janet Wolf began her service as an elected official in 1993, when she was first elected to the Goleta School Board, where she served three terms, equaling 12 years. She went on to be elected to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, where she also served her 3 terms.

During her tenure, her accomplishments were numerous, including initiating the Eastern Goleta Valley Planning Advisory Committee, steering completion of the Eastern Goleta Valley Community Plan, expanding library funding, and advocating for the construction of a state-of-the-art emergency operations center.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my former colleague, supervisor Janet Wolf, in her public service. Her leadership and commitment to her constituents has been both exceptional and unprecedented. I con gratulate and wish Janet and her family the best in her well-deserved retirement and all future endeavors.

REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday night, there was a prime-time television speech from the Oval Office, which appealed to fear, prejudice, and anger. The argument was for a border wall by stereotyping and demonizing people coming to America to seek asylum safety, and refuge from the violence caused by the war on drugs this administration is escalating in Central and South America.

With provocative anecdotes about violence and fear-mongering rhetoric, he used the word “illegal” 12 times throughout the entire speech, which was undertaken amidst what is shaping up to be the longest government shutdown in the Nation’s history. Never once did he mention the Federal workers who won’t receive a paycheck this week—not once.

His purpose was to create a state of anxiety about our national security in an effort to convince Republican Members of Congress and the American people to stay with him on his narcissistic quest for billions of dollars to build his big, beautiful wall that he promised Mexico would pay for, but now he is demanding that the American people pay for it. That doesn’t add up, ladies and gentlemen.

What is not understood is that we are not a country that coerces or bends in dread to a hostage taker. To quote President Truman: “America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand.”

The job at hand for this President right now, and for this Congress, is to reopen the government. Then we can all go to work to address skyrocketing drug prices and ensure affordable healthcare.

For the people, we must go to work creating high-wage jobs and fixing our Nation’s decaying infrastructure. For our children and our grandchildren, we must build a greener economy and prioritize protecting our planet. These are the type of jobs that will not waste billions on an ineffective border wall while spreading xenophobic lies.

Numerous disingenuous statistics were used to back up his claims of a crisis. Here are some statistics, based on facts, to clarify the falsehoods perpetuated on the American people in that Oval Office speech:

One, the truth is that immigration from the southern border has significantly decreased in the last 10 years, disproving what was said. This gentleman wants us to think that this Nation is being overrun. In 2006, there were more than 1 million unauthorized immigrants apprehended at the southern border, but, in 2018, there were less than 400,000.

Two, immigration does not strain our economy and public resources. In fact, immigrants added an estimated $2 trillion to the United States GDP in 2016. Additionally, unauthorized immigrants contributed significantly to Medicare and Social Security. From 2000 to 2011, they contributed $35.1 billion more to Medicare than they withdrew.

Finally, of the 361,995 unauthorized immigrants apprehended by September of fiscal year 2018, less than 1 percent had a violent criminal record. Studies have also proven that immigrants do not increase local crime rates, and they are less likely to cause crime or be incarcerated as our citizens.

President Trump’s border wall concept was not created by law enforcement specialists, and his justification for wall building money on a wall is not based on sound argument. This idea began where most of the President’s ideas are born, and that is on the campaign trail. It is an idea unworthy of consideration from Congress. Our constituents and our country deserve better.

Trump has built his political career by demonizing and stereotyping many different groups of people. His speech Tuesday night was no different.

We, as Americans, cannot fall prey to his fear-mongering, and we cannot allow President Trump to hold Federal workers hostage. Let’s go to work and reopen this government now.

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

COAST GUARD SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. SCHRADE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with some very, very sad news. On Tuesday night, the Mary B II, a crab boat out of Newport, Oregon, capsized while crossing the Yaquina Bay bar.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard responded heroically to assist the boat, battling seas that were 12 to 14 feet in height. Unfortunately, the crew of three died.

It was actually to be Josh Porter’s last trip on that boat. He had a different job.

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Mr. Speaker, I want to convey my deepest condolences to the crews, the family, the friends, and, frankly, the community for their immense loss. The tragedy illustrates the courageous and perilous work that our Coast Guard members perform daily and how vital their services are for these communities.

I am proud to lend my support to legislative efforts that make sure these men and women actually receive their pay for this dangerous work that they perform on our behalf.

As we enter almost 3 weeks under a partial shutdown of the government, I know, for many of our valuable public servants, their resources are stretched thin. They will not start receiving paychecks because of the failures of the Federal Government. They continue to admirably serve throughout this shutdown, and we must ensure they don’t suffer because of our failures.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the President and Congress to take the bills the Senate and House have passed and reopen the United States Government.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to convey my deepest condolences to the Pilot crew and the families of the Mary B II.

Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, a resilient, beautiful community along the U.S.-Mexico border, I am a proud Tejana and know firsthand the realities of the border.

That is why I have been profoundly disturbed by the rhetoric and policies...
Building walls and sowing hate divide us as a nation. Instead, we must focus on reforming our immigration system to ensure a safe and humane process.

For example, we must create a pathway to citizenship for DACA and TPS recipients; make investments in additional land and infrastructure at our ports of entry where most illegal drugs flow; hire more immigration judges and grant them Article I independence in order to address the backlog of cases and ensure due process; oversee and empower ICE agents that will boost safety and increase oversight, transparency, and accountability; and end the criminalization of migration, especially that of asylum-seeking families.

Above all, families belong together and should not be detained, especially when there are cost-effective, humane alternatives.

Finally, for any of my colleagues who think that the border is unsafe, I invite you to my district to see it for yourself.

END SHUTDOWN AND PAY COAST GUARD MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reintroduce my first bill, which was introduced at the end of the 115th Congress, the Continuing Appropriations for the Coast Guard Act. I am doing this on behalf of Janeen and her family, constituents from Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Janeen is the mother of two children, ages 10 and 12. Her husband of 15 years is a Coast Guard member. Until recently, they were focused on what most families across our country focus on: family time, work, balancing their checkbook to pay their mortgage and bills, enjoying the holidays together, and hoping to celebrate a new year. All of that changed this past December when a partisan fight in Washington, over which they had no control, suddenly threw their family’s entire existence into question.

Because the Coast Guard falls within the Department of Homeland Security, one of the agencies that has not been funded, Janeen’s family and 42,000 others, including 320 Pennsylvanians, have been left to fend for themselves.

They received a one-time payment from the Coast Guard’s emergency fund, equivalent to half a paycheck. But the Coast Guard doesn’t have any additional funds on hand, so they have been advised to hold garage sales and take in-house talking for extra income.

My bill would fund the Coast Guard until an agreement is reached to fully fund the government, ensuring that Coast Guard members receive their paychecks during the entire shutdown. I am proud to have the support of some of my Republican colleagues, including Mr. Fitzpatrick from Pennsylvania, and I hope that a bipartisan coalition of Members in both Chambers can urgently pass this bill.

It is important to take a step back and remind ourselves of what is at stake for Janeen’s family and thousands like them. As long as the government is shut down, and until this bill is signed into law, Janeen’s husband won’t get a paycheck on the 15th of this month.

Already, their family has been forced to dip into their savings and emergency funds just to buy groceries and keep the lights on. Family drive from home to the base each way, so Janeen’s husband is not only not getting paid, he is actually losing money to go to work every day.

As the daughter of a man who spent his entire career in the Air Force, I must say, this is a shameful way to treat men and women who have devoted their lives to serving our country and the families who serve and sacrifice among them.

For their sake and for the sake of the security of our country, we cannot let toxic hyperpartisanship keep an entire branch of the United States military from receiving pay.

We should be talking about funding more effective technology and infrastructure to protect our country, not about a border wall that will do nothing to stop the incursion of illegal drugs into our country. The Coast Guard is our most effective method of stopping drug runners.

In Janeen’s words: “If my husband doesn’t show up for work, he is AWOL.” That is the reality for our men and women in uniform. The very least they should be able to expect from their elected representatives is that we have their backs and that they get the support they need no matter what the politics are.

This is not about party or ideology. It is not about scoring points in Washington or on cable news shows. Ultimately, Janeen and her family, and everyone like them, just want to see their government live up to its most basic responsibilities, because as Janeen tells her kids: “When you say you are going to do something, you make a promise.”

Servicemembers like Janeen’s husband have made a promise to defend our Nation with their lives. They have never let us down. Every single day, through every challenge and hardship, they have kept their promise and done everything expected of them and more. But during this shutdown, their government has failed to keep its promise to them.

Janeen’s family and other Coast Guard families need us right now. Through our actions by getting this bill through the House of Representatives, the Senate, and to the President, we can show them that we take care of our own and that we honor selfless service in this country more than partisanship.
Mr. Speaker, your wall will not work

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 2½ minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a wall is not remotely capable of dealing with the magnitude of our continental challenge to civilize commerce, greed, addiction, and lawless cartels and gangs who are too insidious. They will surmount any wall. They already have.

The President’s demand for $5 billion for a wall, whether concrete or steel, simply won’t work. Why? Because most illegal narcotics are already shipped here hidden in cross-border commercial cargoes fueled by the flawed and under-funded NAFTA and CAFTA continental trade deals. Millions of trucks, autos, ships, railcars, and planes carry massive and increasing shipments of cargo traversing over our borders as continental trade increases exponentially.

Recall that NAFTA and CAFTA sucked out millions of living-wage jobs from our country, depositing them in Mexico and Central America to exploit penny-wage labor south of our border. Finished goods were then U-turned back north.

NAFTA and CAFTA negotiators promised higher wages for all. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even laborers south of our border earn less now than before NAFTA passed. There is more poverty here and there as the transnationals shipped our jobs out to earn higher profits by gutting our workforce and while exploiting workers in Mexico and Central America. On both sides of the border, workers lose and investors win.

This is a map of the Laredo checkpoint. There are 16 lanes of traffic just at that one point on our border. The problem is the drugs are often hidden in those commercial cargoes. We need more agents to check cargo, but we also need technology to find the hidden narcotics that are there.

In addition to that, we see China shipping fentanyl and carfentanil into our country, including through the U.S. mails. There is not a scientific way of detecting those killer drugs.

So, if you really want to look at solving the problem, it is important for the President to know that legal ports of entry are the primary route through which illicit drugs arrive here in our country. There are 48 such crossing points, plus 330 points of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border, the most frequently crossed border in the world. Approximately 350 million documented crossings occur there annually.

We need to regularize that entry into the United States. We need more manpower and technology. There is no way we can solve this problem with a wall.

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 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

After Recess

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE) at noon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Sheriff Kelly “KC” Clark as he retires from three decades of service to Navajo County and the State of Arizona. From his first post as a patrol deputy in Winslow in 1989 to sheriff of Navajo County, KC has always dedicated his career to ensuring victims receive justice.

Throughout his life, KC has served Arizona as the president of the Arizona Narcotic Officers Association and three terms as president of the Arizona County Attorney/Sheriff’s Association. Additionally, KC is a graduate of the FBI Academy 220th Session and the Drug Unit Commanders Academy. He was named Sheriff of the Year by the WETIP Foundation. On top of all of this, Sheriff Clark served on the Northern Regional Advisory Committee for Homeland Security and is a commissioner on the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to call KC a friend. His service to our great State is an inspiration to all public servants. I wish him and his wife, Brenda, the very best as he retires from the police force, and I know his commitment to serve in his community will not end.

Mr. President, your wall will not work.
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

UNWANTED OFFSHORE DRILLING

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to call attention to an issue that gravely impacts the lives of South Carolinians and folks up and down the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts: offshore drilling.

Most actions in Congress are viewed through a partisan lens. The opposition to offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting, however, crosses party lines. In a time when Democrats and Republicans cannot agree on much, that this singularity has generated bipartisan support is even that much more significant.

H.R. 291, the Coastal Economies Protection Act, legislation that I introduced earlier this week, places a 10-year moratorium on oil and gas drilling and seismic airgun blasting off the Atlantic and the Gulf Coasts.

Our vibrant natural resources define South Carolina, generating revenue and jobs and creating our unique way of life. Risking our thriving tourism, recreation, and fishing industries to oil exploration could have devastating economic repercussions across the State, and, frankly, these industries are too important to the health of South Carolina to risk.

PRIVATIZED ARMY LODGING

(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. Madam Speaker, I was grateful last month to visit one of the privatized hotels of the Army at Fort Jackson, managed by the InterContinental Hotels Group.

IHG has worked to revitalize Army lodging to provide improved facilities for Army travelers and their families by supporting 40 major installations globally. Significant progress has been made under the leadership of President Donald Trump.

Many of the 370,000 guests and family members of basic training graduates who come to Fort Jackson are served every year by these hotels.

More than 1 million guests have stayed at the Hampton Inn Express at Fort Jackson since 2013. This has saved $84 million and employs 100 personnel directed by Chuck Sourbeer.

I support reforms for servicemembers and their families to have the same world-class hospitality experience that Fort Jackson provides.

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

DAY 20 OF TRUMP SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, today, we enter day 20 of the Trump shutdown.

President Trump has spent years as a reality television host, but, unfortunately, reality is still not his strong suit.

This week, President Trump abused the backdrop of the Oval Office to feed the American people divisive and distorted rhetoric, while still ignoring the reality that a wall is wasteful and it is impractical and inconsistent with our values.

President Trump has tried to convince the American people that there is a crisis at our border. The crisis, Madam Speaker, here is one of Donald Trump's own making: a government shutdown that has gone on long.

This is affecting real lives. This is a humanitarian crisis. Federal workers and their families, 80 percent of whom live outside of the metropolitan area of D.C., will go without a paycheck this Friday because of this shutdown.

Madam Speaker, 7,000 workers in North Carolina are directly affected by the shutdown. Hundreds of thousands of public servants across the country are worried to death.

Senate Republicans have a choice. Do your constitutional duty, my fellow Senators. Do your job as a Senator. Pass the House bill that we have sent over to you.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DICK KLINE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dick Kline of Rimersburg, Pennsylvania.

Dick passed away at the age of 94. He leaves behind daughters, Cathy and Mary, and many grand- and great-grandchildren.

He was a World War II Navy veteran who served on the hospital ship the USS Tranquility. During the war, he and his crewmates were dispatched to receive survivors of the sinking USS Indianapolis, which led to the largest loss of life at sea from a single ship in the history of the Navy.

After the war, Dick married his loving wife of 67 years, Rosalyn Jean Kline, and together they owned and operated Kline Funeral Home.

Dick stayed active in the community over the years. He was a member of the VFW and the American Legion. He belonged to the Rimersburg United Methodist Church, and he gave 55 years of service as the secretary of Rimersburg borough. In 1999, they named him Citizen of the Year.

Madam Speaker, Dick Kline left a lasting impression in his service to his country, his community, and all those who knew him. He will be missed.

IMPACT OF THE SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the impact of the shutdown on Pennsylvania's Sixth District.

My office has heard from small businesses that can't pull permits, veterans receiving food assistance who worry, and Federal workers about paying their bills.

Agriculture is a vital part of the economy of my district, and the shutdown is having an impact there already as well. The last Congress passed a bipartisan farm bill, but the shutdown has prevented its implementation. The USDA farm loan program, a program providing millions of dollars to the Pennsylvania farmworkers, is no longer in effect.

My district is the mushroom capital of the world, and, yesterday, I heard from the mushroom growers that the lack of EPA inspections of drainage ditches and other water runoff is impacting the development of mushroom houses and the expansion of their businesses.

We cannot afford 1 day more, 1 week more, or 1 month more of this shutdown. We cannot ignore the impact it is having on so many Americans, including farmers, ranchers, and growers in Pennsylvania's Sixth.

The House has passed legislation to open our government, and I urge the Senate to do the people's work and to pass the bill as well.

HONORING ASCENSION PARISH SHERIFF JEFF WILEY

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Ascension Parish Sheriff Jeff Wiley.

Jeff Wiley joined the Marine Corps in 1970. He became a sheriff's deputy in 1974. He served in patrol, then detective, and then went on to the school board, where he served as director of student services from 1980 to 1996.

He came back to the sheriff's office and ultimately was elected sheriff in 1996, reelected for five terms. His career, perhaps, is marked best by some of the recognition: the recognition of Outstanding Man of Gonzales, the Outstanding Educator, the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame, and the president of Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.
He also spent much time creating programs for kids: the Junior Deputy Program, substance abuse programs, D.A.R.E. program, and a narcotics unit.

But perhaps his most important accomplishment is evolving this rural sheriff’s office to a modern law enforcement agency in one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of Louisiana. With five decades of service, he has maintained the immaturity of a teenager: I am proud to call him a friend. I want to honor his service to our State and our Nation, and I commend his daughters, Sara and Erin, and recognize the 40 years of marriage to his wife, Linda.

RISING IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL WORKERS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Federal workers across the country.

Right now, in Dallas, Texas, the American Federation of Government Employees local chapter, or AFGE, is organizing a rally to hold the President accountable for this shutdown.

Today, the President is finally making his first official visit to the Texas-Mexico border. He will be visiting McAllen, a town that I have visited on numerous occasions and have many friends, and I adore and love the town.

In 2018, McAllen saw their lowest crime rate in 30 years. And let’s be clear: Democrats care about border security. We care about stopping crime. But we won’t roll over because the President is getting frustrated that the majority of Americans don’t want his wall, plain and simple.

The President and Senate Republicans are choosing political self-interest over our families. The members of the Dallas chapter of AFGE are real people who are facing two real burdens as a direct result of this shutdown. They are struggling to pay for rent and groceries. The gut punch is that the President is far more concerned with his base in 2020 than securing the well-being of over 800,000 families.

HONORING THE UNITED STATES NAVY’S NEWEST LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP

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

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the USS Wichita. A graduate of Wichita Heights High School, a graduate of the University of Wichita, and a graduate of Derby High School, where I served as a former student body president.

I am grateful for Chief Petty Officers Davis and Tanner, as well as the entire crew of the USS Wichita. I am also thankful for the efforts of so many people in our community who have been supportive of the USS Wichita Commissioning Committee. Thanks in part to these efforts, I know the USS Wichita will serve our community and country with pride.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the men and women of the USS Wichita fair winds and following seas.

IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise as a proud cosponsor of H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, a bill to implement universal background checks as a critical first step towards ending the public health crisis of gun violence.

Today, I speak up in honor of the Moms Demand Action, National Rifle Association leaders from Michigan’s Ninth District who have inspired me. I speak up because it is unacceptable that far more people per capita are killed annually in our country than in other wealthy nations. And it is unacceptable that in 2016, more than 1,200 Michiganders died from firearms-related injuries.

I speak up because the American people are counting on us to save lives, and this bill is a commonsense way to do that. I am honored to cosponsor this bill as one of my first actions in Congress. We owe it to families everywhere to get this done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOE AMBROSE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Colonel Erica Ingram, who recently became the first African-American female colonel in Arkansas National Guard history.

Colonel Ingram is a native of Wilmar, Arkansas, and a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She began her military career as a second lieutenant on Active Duty with the United States Army in 1965.

Throughout her two decades in the Army, Colonel Ingram has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the
National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Arkansas Emergency Service Ribbon, and the Arkansas Service Ribbon.

She has served as the president of the National Guard Association of Arkansas, and she is a graduate of Leadership Greater Little Rock.

My congratulations and best wishes to Colonel Ingram and her family, and I thank her high service to our citizens and her bright future as a defender of our great Nation.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT LAWSUIT

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

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, this is a frustrating time in Washington, in which most of us have been focused on the ongoing government shutdown. I want to take a moment to talk about something positive the House is doing to protect everyday Americans across this country.

My colleagues and I have passed a motion to intervene in the Texas vs. United States lawsuit. If allowed to stand, this lower court ruling would pull the rug out from under millions of Americans who rely on the Affordable Care Act for health coverage, many of whom were denied coverage in the past for a preexisting condition.

333 million Americans are living with chronic illness, serious medical conditions, or even minor medical histories that used to disqualify them from all but the most expensive insurance coverage. We cannot return to a time when a cancer survivor or a child with diabetes is rejected for coverage because of a preexisting condition.

Affordable healthcare should be a right for every American, and we should be making it easier, not harder, for everyone to get the insurance they deserve. That is why I am proud that the House has taken the action to intervene in the lawsuit, demonstrating our steadfast commitment to fighting back against those who seek to dismantle the fundamental protections no person should be denied.

I will continue to work tirelessly with my colleagues to uphold and protect access to American healthcare.

OUR COMMUNITIES NEED OUR HELP

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, we have talked a lot about border security this week, but I rise today to talk about a lot more than what goes on at the border.

Tens of thousands of people die from opioids every year, including hundreds in the Fifth District alone.

Yesterday, on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, I was reminded of the many heroes I have met in law enforcement who try to prevent some of these tragedies; heroes who help people at the end of their ropes, people who see no way out; heroes like Sheriff Bob Mosier of Fauquier County and Mike Taylor of Pennsylvania County.

This issue is important for my district and close to my heart. My immediate family has been affected by opioids and its awful and persistent hold. Localities across my district have been ravaged by drug dealers from Fauquier County in the north, to Pittsylvania County in the south.

They need our help. Our law enforcement needs our help. Our communities need our help. I call on Congress to act.

OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, we are entering the longest government shutdown in the Nation's history and, ironically, most of the Federal employees who are affected by the shutdown are the very Federal agents who we depend on to protect our borders.

To a national audience 2 days ago, the President repeatedly warned that terrorists are pouring into the United States from Mexico. This is the President's central argument for a $25 to $40 billion border wall. He is now threatening to declare a national emergency to go around Congress to get that wall.

The President's own counterterrorism officials and experts said there has never been a case of a known terrorist sneaking into the country through open areas of the southern border. The Department of Homeland Security's threat assessment rates the situation at the southern border as a minimal threat. Who are we to believe?

Mr. President, open the government and prove that you can manage the situation at the border as Presidents Obama, Bush, and Clinton did before you.

PARADISE, CALIFORNIA FIRE RELIEF

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight the good work that has been done by FEMA in my district in California where we had the devastating Camp fire affect and devastate Paradise, California. The cleanup and the recovery from this disaster is going pretty well, with a coordinated effort with FEMA, Army Corps of Engineers, and State entities like the Cal OES.

The response from the Federal Government after the President's visit has not been disointoining but, indeed, going pretty well.

So far, more than $48 million has been approved by FEMA to help recover from wildfires in California, including Butte County and Paradise. FEMA has been on the ground helping people get the assistance they need directly. Nearly 7,000 individual assistance applications have already been approved.

It is still extremely challenging for people who have suffered losses and who are, indeed, displaced from their homes, having to live with friends, relatives, motels, whatever that might be. I get that. It is very difficult. But we are all working in a coordinated way together to move along the recovery efforts as quickly as possible with State entities and Federal entities and local government. The outpouring of people who support each other has been amazing.

The administration has made a commitment from day 1 to help our people recover, and they have been backing it up to this point, and I expect this will fully continue.

FEDERAL WORKERS ARE SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. COX. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Federal workers in my district who are suffering because of the government shutdown.

I rise today for my constituent, Raj Kaur, a single mother of two, a breast cancer survivor, and a correctional officer at the Mendota Federal Prison. Raj is currently on leave as she recovers from surgery. She went on medical leave believing she would be financially secure as she recovers.

Now, not only is Raj worrying about her health and recovery, but as a single mother, she is faced with the burden of trying to figure out how to provide for her family on grit alone. Unfortunately, Raj doesn't have a rich father to bail her out.

We say we are a Nation that values work and workers, but today we are forcing thousands of working men and women to work without pay because our colleagues in the Senate and the White House won't do their jobs.

Today, in solidarity with Raj and the hundreds of thousands of unpaid Federal workers nationally, I am asking the Chief Administrative Officer to withhold my pay until our government reopens.

This situation has gone on for far too long. It is time to get back to work.

RELEASE KHALIL MAATOUK

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

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Khalil Maatouk, who is the executive director of the Syrian Center for Legal Studies and
Research, and the head of the Syrian Center for the Defense of Detainees. On October 2 of 2012, 6 years ago, Mr. Maatouk was being driven to work by a friend, and that was the last time anyone was able to reach him. It is very possible that he was illegally detained at a security checkpoint by the Syrian Government. Even though a released detainee at the State Security detention facility in Damascus said he saw Khalil there, the Syrian general prosecutor has still denied his whereabouts. Six years is long enough, Madam Speaker. It is time for the Syrian Government to release Khalil. He has dedicated his life to the defense of human rights, and it is past time that he gets to return to his family.

THE TRUMP SHUTDOWN
(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the 20th day of the Trump shutdown, and I can only shake my head and ask why.

Why are 400,000 public servants being denied the opportunity to do their jobs?

Why are 420,000 more working without pay, many of them who put themselves in harm’s way?

Why are 1.6 million Ohioans at risk of losing their SNAP benefits?

Why are first-time home buyers being kept from their new homes?

There is only one answer to those questions: Because Trump insists on wasting $5 billion of the people’s tax dollars on a vanity wall, a wall that will do little to address illegal immigration.

Democrats are for the people. Democrats want to protect our borders and reopen our government and put government workers back to work.

I urge the Senate to take up the bills that the House has passed and put our government back to work. Let’s end this ridiculous shutdown.

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

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express and demonstrate the importance of STEM education in the lives of America’s youth.

STEM education is vital to the economy, with STEM-related jobs growing faster than ever and the need for well-educated and well-trained young STEM professionals greater than ever.

STEM education also facilitates critical thinking skills, innovation, creativity, and cooperative learning.

Just one example of the impact that STEM education has at an early age is Janani Kumaran, an eighth grader from Gainesville who placed second out of over 2,000 entries in the Broadcom Foundation MASTERS of STEM middle school competition.

Janani created a project using snails to reduce the negative effects of the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla found in many bodies of freshwater in Florida.

Congratulations to Janani. I look forward to everything you and the other great youth of America will be able to achieve because of STEM education, to keep our country great.

HONORING NIKOS MOUYARIAS
(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the President’s senseless shutdown.

Over 5,000 Federal employees are affected in Michigan alone. These dedicated Michiganders are confronted with: How do I put food on my table? What bills will I pay? Which car or home payment can I afford? Which prescription do I fill?

These are real questions my constituents are now asking themselves.

Throwing a temper tantrum and threatening to keep the government shut down only reflects the President’s lack of compassion for the citizens of this great country.

In Michigan, programs that provide home heating assistance or nutritional support for 1.5 million Michiganders are being held hostage by this President.

Federal support for small businesses is on the line.

One in ten workers in Michigan relies on SNAP to put food on their table. Also, our highly esteemed veterans are waiting for us to do our job.

Every Democrat is devoted and committed to border safety. I will not vote for and I will not fund an ineffective wall. I want real border security.

I do support us doing our job. I just hope the President comes to his senses and stops hurting our country and our constituents.

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

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019
(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 100 days ago today, the Saudi regime ordered the assassination of a journalist named Jamal Khashoggi.

This atrocity brought to the world’s attention to Saudi Arabia, a radical Wahhabi theocracy where the oppression of women and the persecution of Christians, Hindus, atheists, and other religious minorities, as well as the LGBT community, is a norm.

Since 2015, the United States has supported Saudi Arabia’s genocidal war in Yemen that has killed tens of thousands of civilians, causing millions of Yemeni people to suffer, starve, and get sick, creating the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

They spend billions of dollars spreading the extreme Wahhabi-Salafist ideology that fuels terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda around the world.

Contrary to what President Trump believes, Saudi Arabia is not our friend.

Here we are, 100 days later, and this Congress still refuses to take action to stop U.S. support for Saudi Arabia, to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Congress must act now to end its support for Saudi Arabia’s genocidal war in Yemen, exercise our constitutional authority over military aid, and stop putting the profits of the military-industrial complex before the lives of the American people and people in the world.

SAUDI ARABIA’S GENOCIDAL WAR IN YEMEN
(Ms. GABBARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, 100 days ago today, the Saudi regime ordered the assassination of a journalist named Jamal Khashoggi.

This atrocity brought to the world’s attention to Saudi Arabia, a radical Wahhabi theocracy where the oppression of women and the persecution of Christians, Hindus, atheists, and other religious minorities, as well as the LGBT community, is a norm.

Since 2015, the United States has supported Saudi Arabia’s genocidal war in Yemen that has killed tens of thousands of civilians, causing millions of Yemeni people to suffer, starve, and get sick, creating the worst humanitarian crisis in the world.

They spend billions of dollars spreading the extreme Wahhabi-Salafist ideology that fuels terrorist groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda around the world.

Contrary to what President Trump believes, Saudi Arabia is not our friend.

Here we are, 100 days later, and this Congress still refuses to take action to stop U.S. support for Saudi Arabia, to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Congress must act now to end its support for Saudi Arabia’s genocidal war in Yemen, exercise our constitutional authority over military aid, and stop putting the profits of the military-industrial complex before the lives of the American people and people in the world.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019
(Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 28, I call up the bill (H.R. 265) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the bill is considered read.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are necessary expenses for any month in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, namely:

**TTITLE I**

**AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS**

**PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING**

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, $46,532,000, of which not to exceed $5,051,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed $800,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed $1,496,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant to the Secretary for the Office of Management and Budget: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Budget mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed $4,711,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; not to exceed $125,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary as determined by the Secretary:

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, $19,786,000, of which not less than $4,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155.

**OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

**OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, $9,525,000.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, $63,950,000, of which not less than $35,000,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, $6,026,000.

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, $901,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

**OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for the Office of Executive Operations, $4,136,000.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief of Staff, $1,496,000.

**AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES**

**INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS**

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–333, including authorizations pursuant to the 1984 delegations of authority from the Administrator of General Services to the Department of Agriculture under 40 U.S.C. 121, for programs and activities of the Department which are included in this Act, and for alterations and other actions needed for the Department and its agencies to consolidate unneeded space into configurations suitable for release to the Administration Office of the Department, and for necessary expenses of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

**OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, $7,750,000.

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, $1,300,966,000, of which $10,600,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to carry out the science program at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas, of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be available to carry out the Japanese Beetle biology research program; and of which not less than $7,000,000 shall be available for purchase, leasing, and construction of land and buildings for the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, including the payment of informants, to be expended, to remain available until expended.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

**INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS**

For necessary expenses of the Department of Agriculture, to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), $51,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be transferred to the Department of Transportation for its use in meeting all requirements pursuant to the above Acts on Federal and non-Federal lands.

**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), $387,208,000, including such amounts as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.); and including not to exceed $125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1507 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–98).

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, $14,166,000.

**OFFICE OF ETHICS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, $1,146,000.

**OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, $800,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

**ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE**

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, $86,757,000.

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE**

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, $625,000,000, of which not to exceed $45,300,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: Provided, That amounts made available for this purpose shall be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204(d) and (f).

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, $1,300,966,000, of which $10,600,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to carry out the science program at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas, of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be available to carry out the Japanese Beetle biology research program; and of which not less than $7,000,000 shall be available for purchase, leasing, and construction of land and buildings for the Department of Agriculture and the Forest Service, and for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, including the payment of informants, to be expended, to remain available until expended.
shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity or termination of the lease agreement: Provided, That the appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: Provided further, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for cooperative forestry and other purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for facility improvements at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That the Secretary in carrying out that section described in section 769, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, $901,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs may be used for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated by this Act for salaries and expenses for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs shall be available for salaries and expenses at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas: Provided further, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: Provided further, That this appropriation shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed five, of which two shall be for replacement only: Provided further, Provided further, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated by this Act for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including for payment of indemnities; of which $5,725,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this Act for salaries and expenses at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas: Provided further, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: Provided further, That this appropriation shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed five, of which two shall be for replacement only: Provided further, Provided further, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That not more than 5 percent of the amount appropriated by this Act for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, $2,400,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be used to provide assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, or to cover the total costs of providing assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, $11,880,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this Act for salaries and expenses shall be used to provide assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, or to cover the total costs of providing assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, $15,845,000, of which $4,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of sections 12210 and 12220 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1981: Provided, That no funds shall be available for salaries and expenses at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas: Provided further, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: Provided further, That this appropriation shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed five, of which two shall be for replacement only: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, $896,535,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Cooperative Extension and Research’ (7 U.S.C. 1921), for payments to the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, $901,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs may be used for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, $901,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs may be used for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, $901,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs may be used for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled ‘Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’ in the explanatory statement described in section 769 of this Act: Provided, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program. Area grants awarded under the Crop Protection Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).
1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)) to provide to State departments of agriculture, State cooperative extension services, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations grants and direct loans to conduct programs and provide technical assistance to promote innovation, process improvement, and marketing relating to dairy products: Provided, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation of the Secretary of Agriculture pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701).

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES
Not to exceed $60,982,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: Provided, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

Funds for Strengthening Markets, Income, and Supply (Section 32) (Including Transfers of Funds)
Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)) shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than $20,489,000 for formulation and administration of marketing orders pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Title II
FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, $901,000: Provided, That funds made available for an amendment to the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office:

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER
For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, $1,028,000, to remain available until expended:

FARM SERVICE AGENCY SALARIES AND EXPENSES (Including Transfers of Funds)
For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, $1,202,146,000: Provided, That not more than 50 percent of the $14,651,000 made available under this heading for information technology related to farm program delivery, management, and the delivery of Agricultural Systems and other farm program delivery systems, may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and receives written or electronic notification of receipt from such Committees of, a plan for expenditure that (1) identifies for each project/investment over $25,000 (a) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (b) the estimated lifecycle cost associated with the development as well as maintenance and operations, and (c) key milestones to be met; (2) demonstrates that each project/investment is, (a) consistent with the Farm Service Agency Information Technology Roadmap, (b) being managed in accordance with applicable lifecycle management policies and guidance, and (c) subject to the applicable Department’s capital planning and investment control requirements; and (3) has been reviewed by the Government Accountability Office and the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year on Appropriations for the purposes of the Farm Service Agency county offices:

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM
For necessary expenses to carry out well- head or groundwater protection activities and for direct operating loans authorized by the Act of August 24, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 3838h-b-2), $6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT
Program Account (Including Transfers of Funds)
For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.); $3,904,000:

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM
For necessary expenses to carry out well- head or groundwater protection activities, $6,500,000.
For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: farm and rural operating loans, $59,670,000; direct operating loans, $21,168,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans, emergency loans, $1,567,000 and $2,134,000 for Indian high- ly fractionalized land loans to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed land loans, $314,998,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses” and such amounts as may be necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed land loans to remain available until expended.

For necessary expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed land loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: Provided, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

**RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, $929,063,000: Provided, That not to exceed $1,000 shall be available for official representation and expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1596(i).

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**CONSERVATION OPERATIONS**

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a-1), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1936 (7 U.S.C. 428a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary operation and maintenance of aircraft, $879,107,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That appropriations hereunder shall be available until expended for the construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed $250,000: Provided further, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $5,600,000, shall remain available until expended for the authorities under 16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009 for authorized ongoing watershed projects with a primary purpose of providing water to rural communities.

**WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS**

For necessary expenses to carry out preventive measures, including but not limited to surveys and investigations, engineering and construction, operations, works of improvement, and changes in use of land, in accordance with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants; operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1936 (7 U.S.C. 428a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary operation and maintenance of aircraft, $879,107,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That appropriations hereunder shall be available until expended for the construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed $250,000: Provided further, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $5,600,000, shall remain available until expended for the authorities under 16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009 for authorized ongoing watershed projects with a primary purpose of providing water to rural communities.

**RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

**SALARIES AND EXPENSES**

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; $25,935,000: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that are annexed to the Rural Development Programs: Provided further, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(1) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472c), and not otherwise restricted under such section will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes.

**RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: $1,100.000,000 shall be for direct loans and $21,000,000,000 shall be for unsubsidized guaranteed loans; $205,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; $40,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; $473,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; $10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; $5,000,000 for section 538 self-help housing loan guarantees; $9,484,000 for section 521 direct loans; and $5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans.

For the direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 520 direct loans, $75,900,000; section 521 direct loans, $3,419,000; section 523 self-help housing loan development funds, $431,000; section 524 site development funds, $431,000; and section 525 rental housing guarantee loans, $9,484,000: Provided, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: Provided further, That applicants in communities that have a cooperative agreement with the Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep properties in RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on their own resources to include proceeds from low income housing tax credit syndication, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow...
for the preservation and revitalization of multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the property or provide safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including deferring or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments; reducing or re-mortgaging loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: Provided further, That the Secretary shall as part of the preservation demonstration program obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring: Provided further, That if the Secretary determines that additional funds for vouchers described in this paragraph are needed, funds for the preservation and revitalization demonstration program may be used for such vouchers: Provided further, That if Congress enacts legislation to permanently authorize a multi-family rental housing loan restructuring program similar to the demonstration program described herein, the Secretary may use funds made available for the demonstration program under this heading to carry out such expansion to such extent as may be necessary: Provided further, That not more than $1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of the loan guarantees and grants, for the rural development programs authorized by section 310B and described in such section, $8,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2008a et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: Provided further, That $4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to the Delta Regional Authority to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and $4,000,000 shall be for grants to Federal Credit Unions (12 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) for the purpose of providing technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development: Provided further, That such funds shall be made available under this heading.

For the cost of the loan guarantees and grants, for the rural development programs authorized by section 310B and described in such section, $306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: Provided further, That such funds shall be made available under this heading.
INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 196b), $18,889,000.

For the cost of direct loans, $4,157,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 196b), of which $557,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which $3,700,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100–466) provided, That such costs, including the cost of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, shall not exceed $10,000,000.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, $45,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, $4,157,000, as authorized by section 6402 of Public Law 93–607, for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized under section 231 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $45,000,000, of which $3,750,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which $3,000,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed $10,000,000.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized by section 502(c)(4) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), $30,050,000, of which $3,750,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects that shall not exceed $10,000,000.

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313 of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, $45,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, $4,157,000, as authorized by section 6402 of Public Law 93–607, for Agriculture Innovation Centers authorized under section 231 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $45,000,000, of which $3,750,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which $3,000,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects that shall not exceed $10,000,000.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 306 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1814), $75,000,000: Provided, That the cost of loan guarantees, including the cost of modifying such guarantees, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants for the rural water, waste water, disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $52,746,000,000, of which $52,618,938,000 shall remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $995,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(A) of such Act. Provided, That not to exceed $15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(2)(D) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(1)(C) of such Act and such grants may not exceed $1,000,000 notwithstanding section 306A(1)(C) of such Act. Provided further, That up to $40,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by section 306C(a)(4) of such Act: Provided further, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the amount appropriated under section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105–85 for training and technical assistance programs: Provided further, That not to exceed $40,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need of which $8,000,000 shall be made available to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than $300,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: Provided further, That not to exceed $19,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants to qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: Provided further, That not to exceed $4,000,000 shall be for solid waste management grants: Provided further, That $10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grants Account to provide grants authorized under section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 919a): Provided further, That any prior year balances for high-energy cost grants authorized by section 19 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 919a) shall be transferred to, and merged with, the Rural Utilities Service High Energy Cost Grants Account: Provided further, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as added by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, shall be applied to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 305, 306, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935, 936, and 940c) shall be made as follows: loans made pursuant to sections 305, 306, and 317, notwithstanding section 317(c), of that Act, rural electric, $5,500,000,000; guarantees under section 313A of such Act, rural telecommunications, $690,000,000: Provided, That up to $2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design and engineering or improvement of fossil fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon sub-surface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans, as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, $1,725,000.

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 6402 of Public Law 93–607, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, $1,725,000.

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., $35,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That $3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by 796C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: Provided further, That any prior year balances shall be available under this heading for grants under 796C of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act only may be provided to entities that are partners of the eligible rural health care delivery consortium as established by this section.

For the cost of broadband loans, as authorized by section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act, $5,830,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the cost of direct loans shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

Any funds provided by this Act for rural health and safety education programs authorized under section 502(i) of the Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662(i)) may be used under those programs to address the opioid addiction epidemic and to combat opioid abuse in rural communities.

TITLe IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, $800,000: Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service shall be available until expended.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21,
and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; $21,184,012,000 to remain available through September 30, 2020, of which such sums as are made available under section 1213(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same purposes provided herein: Provided, That the total amount available, $17,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772c(c)(1)): Provided further, That of the total amount available, $30,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than $1,000, needed to serve school breakfast and lunch programs and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: Provided further, That of the total amount available, $20,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 749(g) of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–80): Provided further, That notwithstanding section 212 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2016” and inserting “2010 through 2020”: Provided further, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758b(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for fiscal years 2017 and 2018” and inserting “for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019”: Provided further, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758b(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for fiscal years 2017 and 2018” and inserting “for fiscal year 2019”: Provided further, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758b(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “for fiscal years 2017 and 2018” and inserting “for fiscal year 2019”.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR infants and children
For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766), $6,150,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020, of which $25,000,000 shall be placed in reserve, to remain available until expended, to be allocated as the Secretary deemed necessary, notwithstanding section 17(k) of such Act, to support participation should cost or participation exceed budget estimates: Provided, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula unless it is in accordance with Section 315 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766d), not less than $67,950,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other services authorized by section 10 of such Act, and $19,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, of which $5,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to promote breastfeeding and improved nutritional health through technologies and services, including telemedicine: Provided, further, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except as required to avoid an infant formula shortage or in accordance with Section 315 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766d), not less than $67,950,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other services authorized by section 10 of such Act, and $19,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, of which $5,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to promote breastfeeding and improved nutritional health through technologies and services, including telemedicine: Provided, further. That of the funds made available under this heading, up to $101,000,000 shall be used to carry out any domestic assistance programs authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, $3,000,000,000 may be used to provide nutrition assistance services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, $39,000,000 shall be available until expended to carry out the provisions of section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Act of 1933 (7 U.S.C. 901b) or 1948 (7 U.S.C. 1421a), as amended by this Act, for the purpose of procuring and providing to the Commodity Credit Corporation loans to purchase commodities authorized to be carried out for purposes of providing food assistance to families in need of assistance and to States and local governments for export programs authorized by the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83–380), the Food for Peace Act of 1985, the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, the Social Security Act, and section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Act of 1933 (7 U.S.C. 901b), to remain available until expended: Provided further, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula, unless it is in accordance with Section 315 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766d), not less than $67,950,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other services authorized by section 10 of such Act, and $19,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, of which $5,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to promote breastfeeding and improved nutritional health through technologies and services, including telemedicine: Provided, further. That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula, unless it is in accordance with Section 315 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1766d), not less than $67,950,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other services authorized by section 10 of such Act, and $19,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure, of which $5,000,000 shall be for competitive grants to promote breastfeeding and improved nutritional health through technologies and services, including telemedicine: Provided, further.
in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, of which $6,382,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ‘‘Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses’’ and shall be credited to this account and shall remain available until expended.

TITLe VII

RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–333 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administration which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; in addition to amounts appropriated to the FDA Innovation Account, for carrying out the activities described in section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255); for miscellaneous agency expenses, for enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely from the Secretary’s certificate, not to exceed $25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107–188; $5,419,299,000: Provided, That of the amount provided under this heading which is not transferred to be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $187,336,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379d–2, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $40,922,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379d–2, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $106,600,000 shall be derived from human drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379d–12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $501,396,000 shall be derived from human drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379d–42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $240,887,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and $10,206,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine and Tobacco Products, the Office of Global and Regulatory Policy, the Office of Operations, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and central services for these offices: Provided further, That not to exceed $25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: Provided further, That any transfer of funds pursuant to section 700(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379d(n)) shall only be from amounts available under this heading for other activities: Provided further, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for enforcement activities, that are not derived from user fees, $1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for ‘‘Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General’’ for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to the funds available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: Provided further, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another specified activity by the Secretary or the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, biologic product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2019 limitations, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: Provided further, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, and biologic product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2019, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2019, and shall be credited to this account and shall remain available for obligation and use in addition to the funds available for the current fiscal year under this Act shall be available for the purchase, in addition to those specifically provided for, of not to exceed 71 passenger motor vehicles of which 68 shall be for replacement only, and for the hire of such vehicles: Provided, That notwithstanding this section, the only purchase of passenger vehicles shall be for those determined by the Secretary to be necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety.

INDependent AGENCY

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

Limitation on Administrative Expenses

Not to exceed the amounts collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation, shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: Provided, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: Provided further, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

TITLe VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS (INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. Within the unit limit of cost fixed by law, appropriations and authorizations made available to the Department for the current fiscal year shall be available for the purchase, in addition to those specifically provided for, of not to exceed 71 passenger motor vehicles of which 68 shall be for replacement only, and for the hire of such vehicles: Provided, That notwithstanding this section, the only purchase of passenger vehicles shall be for those determined by the Secretary to be necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life, property, and public safety.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the capitalization fund for the acquisition of plant and capital equipment necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services of primary importance to the agricultural and rural sector.
That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency admin- istering such funds. That no funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the procedures described in section 717 of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary submits written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 717 of this Act; Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department’s Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, or functions of the office of the Chief Financial Officer or any other government agencies to be identified by the Secretary of the Treasury to the National Finance Center to a safe haven declared state of emergency that significantly any obligation that, as determined by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Department’s Working Capital Fund or otherwise made available by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

The use of such funds shall not be considered to be a transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714j); and

the use of such funds shall not be considered to be a transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714j); and

SEC. 706. Of the funds made available by this Act to the National Finance Center to perform systems of the National Finance Center or to the improvement, delivery, and implementation, or significant upgrades, of information technology systems or significant upgrades, of information technology systems attributable to the amounts in ex- cess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation, of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other sys- tems of the National Finance Center that pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: Provided fur- ther, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress in accordance with the procedures described in section 717 of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary submits written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be transferred to the Department’s Working Capital Fund or otherwise made available by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 526(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1526d) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provi- sion of law, any former USDA borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 shall be eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313(b)(2)(B) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.
this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32.

Sec. 716. None of the funds appropriated by this Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who are not authorized appropriations language as part of the President’s budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees previous not been included into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in existing programs, projects, or activities presently performed by Federal employees; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reorganization or reprogramming of a program or activity as approved by Congress; unless the reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress; unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89–106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;

(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities;

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; unless the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Secretary of Health and Human Services (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of

$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, to modify major capital investments in funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual in excess of $500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;

(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, bureau, branch, or similar entity with five or more personnel; or

(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request, unless the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Health and Human Services receives from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

Sec. 718. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1929g(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

Sec. 719. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available any response to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

Sec. 720. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

Sec. 721. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned to any position or office by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days during any fiscal year unless that employee’s employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of such detail.

Sec. 722. There is hereby appropriated $2,000,000 for a pilot program to provide competitive grants to State departments of agriculture, State cooperative extension services, and nonprofit organizations to carry out programs to address farmer stress and suicide.
Provided. That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 341(a)) and no food that is introduced or delivered into interstate commerce that bears or contains a partially hydrogenated oil shall be deemed adulterated under sections 402(a)(1) or 402(a)(2)C(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 342(a)) or any other Act of Congress, as applicable, unless and until a final rule promulgated by the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public health, and

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee with respect to the request.

(d) The Secretary shall continue to allow or require the information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department of Agriculture, to be accompanied by a request for comments, for informal public input on the request for at least 30 days prior to the making of a decision based on the request.

(e) The Secretary shall continue to allow or require the information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department of Agriculture, to be accompanied by a request for comments, for informal public input on the request for at least 30 days prior to the making of a decision based on the request.

(f) The Secretary shall take into consideration the comments of the public and shall make a determination regarding the public's comments.

(g) The Secretary shall continue to allow or require the information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department of Agriculture, to be accompanied by a request for comments, for informal public input on the request for at least 30 days prior to the making of a decision based on the request.

(h) The Secretary's determination under paragraph (g) shall be included in the final determination of the Secretary's determination.
acquisition of RHS multi-family housing properties in areas where the Secretary determines a risk of loss of affordable housing, by non-profit housing organizations and public housing authorities, as authorized by law, that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary.

S. 756. 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 section 513 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)), under which—

(a) county data of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (referred to in this section as the "NASS data") is used for the calculations;

(b) the Alternate calculation method referred to in subsection (a) is a method of calculating the actual yield for the 2018 crop year for county-level agriculture risk coverage payments under section 1117(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)), under which—

(i) county data of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (referred to in this section as the "NASS data") is used for the calculations;

(ii) if there is insufficient NASS data for a county as determined under standards of the Secretary in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act, or the available NASS data produces a substantially disparate result, the calculation of the county yield is determined using comparable contiguous county NASS data as determined by the Farm Service Agency office in the applicable State; and

(iii) if there is insufficient NASS data for a comparable contiguous county as determined under standards of the Secretary in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act, the calculation of the county yield determines the actual yield using reliable yield data from other sources, such as Risk Management Agency data, National Agricultural Statistics Service data, National Agricultural Statistics Service State yield data, or other data as determined by the Farm Service Agency office in the applicable State;

(c) (1) A supplemental payment made under the pilot program established under this section may be made to an agricultural producer on a pro rata basis pursuant to the Alternate calculation method described in subsection (b) if that agricultural producer otherwise would receive a county-level agriculture risk coverage payment for the 2018 crop year in an amount that is less than the payment that the agricultural producer would receive under the Alternate calculation method.

(2) The amount of a supplemental payment to an agricultural producer under this section may not exceed the difference between—

(A) the payment that the agricultural producer would otherwise have received using the alternate calculation method described in subsection (b); and

(B) the payment that the agricultural producer would receive using the alternate calculation method.

(d) (1) There is appropriated to the Secretary, out of funds of the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, to carry out the pilot program described in this section.

(2) Of the funds appropriated, the Secretary shall use not more than $5,000,000 to carry out the pilot program described in this section.

(e) (1) To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall select States to participate in section 513 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 9017) other than for purposes of the pilot program under this section.

(2) A calculation of actual yield made using the Alternate calculation method described in subsection (b) shall not be used as a basis for any agriculture risk coverage payment determinations under section 1117 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)) other than for purposes of the pilot program under this section.

S. 749. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of the 9 Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

S. 759. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to revolve an exception made—

(1) pursuant to the final rule of the Department of Agriculture entitled "Exceptions to Geographic Areas for Official Agencies Under the USGSA'' (68 Fed. Reg. 19137 (April 18, 2003)); and

(2) on a date before April 14, 2017.

S. 760. The Secretary of Agriculture shall provide to any area or areas that may be impacted by a volcanic eruption covered by a major disaster declared by the President in calendar year 2018 in accordance with section 502(d) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170) technical assistance—

(1) to assess damage to agricultural production and rural infrastructure; and

(2) to develop recovery plans for impacted farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

RESEARCH ON OCEAN AGRICULTURE

S. 761. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture, in coordination with the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall establish a working group (referred to in this section as the "working group")—

(1) to study how mangroves, kelp forests, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows could help deacidify the oceans;

(2) to study emerging ocean farming practices that use kelp and seagrass to deacidify the oceans while providing feedstock for agriculture and other commercial and industrial purposes;

(3) to coordinate and conduct research to develop and enhance pilot-scale research for farming of kelp and seagrass in order to—

(A) to deacidify ocean environments;

(B) to produce a feedstock for agriculture; and

and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption," and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of the production, distribution, sale, or receipt of grape and grape products that are grown for processing and used solely for wine and receive commercial processing that adequately reduces the presence of microorganisms of public health significance.

S. 754. There is hereby appropriated $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for an additional amount for telecommunication improvements and disaster services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(3) et seq., to address the opioid epidemic in rural America.

S. 755. There is hereby appropriated $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for a pilot program for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for programs and services to establish and enhance farming and ranching opportunities for military veterans.

S. 757. For an additional amount for the cost of direct loans and grants made under the "Rural Water and Waste Disposal Programs" (7 U.S.C. 950aaa, 950aaa-1, 950aaa-2), to remain available until expended.

S. 758. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

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(3) to coordinate and conduct research to develop and enhance pilot-scale research for farming of kelp and seagrass in order to—

(A) to deacidify ocean environments;

(B) to produce a feedstock for agriculture; and

and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption," and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of the production, distribution, sale, or receipt of grape and grape products that are grown for processing and used solely for wine and receive commercial processing that adequately reduces the presence of microorganisms of public health significance.
(C) to develop other scalable commercial applications for kelp, seagrass, or products derived from kelp or seagrass.

(b) The working group shall include—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(2) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(3) the heads of any relevant offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and

(4) the Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

(c) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the working group shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) the findings of the research described in subsection (a);

(2) the results of the pilot-scale research described in subsection (a)(3); and

(3) any policy recommendations based on those findings and results.

SEC. 762. Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report including—

(1) a description of—

(A) the number of properties assisted under title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) that are reaching the end of their loan term;

(B) the location of each property described in subparagraph (A);

(C) the number of units in each property described in subparagraph (A); and

(D) the date on which each the loan for each property described in subparagraph (A) is expected to reach maturity;

(2) the strategy of the Rural Housing Service to preserve the long-term affordability of the properties described in paragraph (1)(A) when the loans mature;

and

(3) a description of the resources and tools that the Rural Housing Service needs from Congress to preserve the long-term affordability of the properties described in paragraph (1)(A).

SEC. 764. Out of amounts appropriated to the Rural Development Administration under title VI, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, shall, not later than July 1, 2019, and following the review required under Executive Order 12866 (5 U.S.C. 601 note; relating to regulatory planning and review), issue advice revising the advice provided in the notice of availability entitled “Advice About Eating Fish, From the Environmental Protection Agency and Food and Drug Administration: Fish Advised Fish Advice: Availability” (82 Fed. Reg. 6571 (January 19, 2017)), in a manner that is consistent with nutrition science recognized by the Food and Drug Administration on the net effects of seafood consumption.

SEC. 765. In administering the pilot program established under division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) ensure that applicants that are determined to be ineligible for the pilot program have a means of appealing or otherwise challenging that determination in a timely fashion; and

(2) in determining whether an entity may overbuild or duplicate broadband expansion efforts made by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service, not consider loans that were rescinded or defaulted on, or loans the terms and conditions of which were modified if, at the time the entity under consideration has not previously defaulted on, or failed to meet the terms and conditions of, a Rural Utilities Service loan or had a Rural Utilities Service loan rescinded.

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SEC. 767. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available by this Act to carry out sections 1444 and 1445, respectively, of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3221, 3222) shall each be increased by $3,000,000.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available under the heading—"INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS"—under the heading—"AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES"—under the heading—"AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS" in title I shall be decreased by $6,000,000.

SEC. 768. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to enforce the requirement in the final rule entitled “Food Labeling: Revision of the Labeling of Syrups and Syrup Products” in parts 101 and 117 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations (2017), that any single ingredient sugar, honey, or syrup (including maple syrup) that is packaged and offered for sale as a single ingredient food bear the declaration "Includes X’s Added Sugars’’.

SEC. 769. The term “tulip” as used in the Act and in division C of H.R. 21, as enacted by section 1076 of this Act, shall be interpreted to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GA Experimental Station) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to review and extend until now. The record should include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. BISHOP. Madam Speaker, today marks the 20th day of the partial government shutdown. Each day pushes many of our government’s vital services to the breaking point, further jeopardizing the 800,000 Federal employees who are furloughed and the countless other Americans feeling the shutdown’s impact.

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act is a critically important piece of legislation for our Nation. From the food we eat to the medications we depend on, this bill touches the lives of every American.

H388 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE January 10, 2019
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

I, along with my colleagues, am dismayed at the prospect of adopting the Senate-passed Agriculture appropriations bill to represent the House’s position on funding and policy matters for our farmers, ranchers, producers, consumers, and nearly all the citizens impacted by the great work that has been done by USDA, FDA, and the CPTC.

The priorities of literally hundreds of Members were part of the original FY19 Republican-led legislation. However, I do not believe we have begun the process of developing a House bill with House priorities. We drafted H.R. 5961 after holding five oversight hearings, after receiving and reviewing nearly 6,000 bills and report requests that were submitted by over 350 Members of Congress, after we incorporated bipartisan House Member requests covering House priorities from every corner of the Nation and from all demographics, after we held a subcommittee markup with full participation by the Agriculture Subcommittee members, and after we held a full committee markup that lasted several hours and was an open process by which all the members of the committee, Democrats and Republicans, could offer amendments.

The House Members invested hundreds of hours to produce a spending bill that is best for the needs and the priorities of the constituents back home, whether they came from rural, whether they came from suburban, or whether they come from urban communities. Starting this past summer, we started the process of negotiating the House and Senate bills and reports to arrive at a four-corner agreement between the House and the Senate. The House and the Senate majority and minority parties made tremendous progress in coming along with a negotiated agreement. After all of that time and effort that was invested in the process, why would we blow it all away today?

I want to point out that over the course of the past 10 months and during my 6 years that I have served as chairman of the Appropriations Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, it has been an honor to work beside my friend and my colleague and now the incoming chairman, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, as we develop the bills to meet the needs of our fellow citizens. But now we have an Agriculture appropriations bill in front of us today which totals $23.1 billion and $101 million below the Senate-passed Agriculture appropriations bill. And I will point out that the $101 million represents a change to the Senate bill made by the House majority to reduce funding for the Special Supplemental Feeding Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

I therefore rise this Chamber with a few of the examples where this current bill fails to fund House Member priorities:

This legislation also makes significant investments in rural development by providing $3.8 billion. It takes a balanced approach with investments in water and wastewater facilities, broadband, housing, and rural businesses.

Again, right now, as a result of the shutdown, loans and grants that help small towns and rural communities all across the country are not being made. This legislation rejects the President’s proposed elimination of the program, and instead funds it at $1.716 billion, which is $216 million above the House bill. The McGovern-Dole program, which was also proposed for elimination by the President, is funded at $210 million, slightly above the House level. I might note that the House funded both of these, contrary to the President’s wishes.

Finally, this legislation funds the Food and Drug Administration at $2.97 billion, which is $159 million above the fiscal year 2018 enacted level, a 6 percent increase.

I would also like to point out that this bill does better than the House in addressing the opioid crisis that is hitting every single district in the country.

It also provides more funding for food safety than the House bill.

After nearly 3 weeks of uncertainty, it looks like the nearly 40 million people who are receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits will be able to keep their benefits at least through February. However, the funds for SNAP beneficiaries, for a single mother or a small shopkeeper, will run dry in March.

This bill, which provides $73.2 billion in mandatory funding for SNAP, will end any doubt about this, and it will give these recipients the peace of mind that they deserve.

Through a diverse urban-rural coalition, this legislation includes our farmer safety net, our food and nutrition programs.

Families, farmers, ranchers, and producers go to work every morning; so should their government.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill that is before us. I not only oppose the bill that is before us, but I also have to oppose the process by which the remaining fiscal year 2019 bills are being dealt with by the new majority.

Anything but a full open rule on appropriations bills was absolutely condemned by the Democrats for the past 6 years. If the new majority, as one of their first actions, has proposed a closed rule for all four appropriations bills this week...
Regarding public health, the House Republican bill included $3.1 billion for the Food and Drug Administration, while the new Democratic proposal that is before us includes only $2.9 billion for the Food and Drug Administration. These higher levels in the Republican bill are critical to helping industry advance their medical product innovations to the marketplace sooner, safer, and with greater efficiency. The ultimate beneficiary is the American consumer or the patient.

Also alarming, the House Republican bill, the Democratic bill fails to include two provisions that place limits on chicken imported from China. The Republican bill includes an outright ban on Chinese chicken in school meals, while the Democratic bill fails to include this protection for our children.

Regarding rural broadband, in FY 2018, we established a pilot program to expand broadband infrastructure to rural communities. One of the greatest needs that I have heard when talking to my constituents in rural Alabama—and I know this is the same from other Members whom I have talked to across the Nation—this bill provides $125 million less than what we provided in the House bill.

When it comes to agriculture research, our Republican bill included nearly $30 million more for National Institute of Food and Agriculture for research. This is a small investment, but it is critical. Communities and universities across the country that face challenges escaping poverty. This language is not included in the Democratic bill, and so the new majority chose to dismiss this protection for the rural poor.

These are just a few examples of why the new House majority’s adoption of a Senate-passed bill is not going in the right direction.

The other side wants to claim that these bills are bipartisan, but they are clearly not bicameral, and they have no input from the 435 House Members.

Some of the great House appropriators of our time on both sides of the aisle would probably be rolling over in their graves right now if they knew of such a move to take up Senate spending bills without any House input.

So I urge my fellow Members to stand up for the House priorities for public health and for rural development and reject a strategy of passing the Senate bills, which at the end of the day is not going to bring us any closer to resolving the partial government shutdown.

To paraphrase the President’s remarks two nights ago: In order for us to resolve this funding dispute, we need to invest in border security not because we hate the people on the outside of our borders, but because we love the people within our borders. The only thing that is immoral is for politicians to stand by and do nothing.

So I would encourage my colleagues to vote “no” on this bill, and I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), who is the first female chair of the United States House Committee on Appropriations.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, the Trump shutdown is now in its 20th day. More than 800,000 Federal employees are going without pay, many while they are still working and the American people are being denied vital services.

Due to President Trump’s shutdown over his demands for a wasteful border wall, the Food and Drug Administration cannot conduct routine inspections for food safety and has slowed evaluation of new drugs and medical products.

USDA is no longer able to provide farmers and rural communities with loans and grants to assistance housing, utilities, or economic development. And approximately 40 million Americans who depend on SNAP for food assistance, including more than 3 million New Yorkers, have faced unnecessary fear and uncertainty about whether they are weeks away from going hungry.

House Democrats have passed bills to open the government, but the President and Senate Republicans continue to obstruct instead of working with us to get the people’s business done.

In my judgment, the solution to this crisis is simple: Let’s pass the bills where we can agree, where there is bipartisan support, and let’s extend funding for Homeland Security for 30 days—1 month—to allow time for negotiation on border security and immigration policy. This seems to me, in my judgment, to be fair, to be thoughtful, and to be the way for us to get together and open this government. I do hope that my colleagues across the Capitol come to their senses and stop this ridiculous Trump shutdown.

We can begin this bipartisan path by passing the bill before us. This bill passed the Senate in September. It has a vote of 92-6. This bill would open the Department of Agriculture and related agencies. It would fund the Food and Drug Administration and adequately fund these services through the end of the fiscal year.

Sadly, to date, my Republican colleagues have followed the President’s blind lead all while jeopardizing these vital services upon which American families and businesses rely.

Let’s pass the bill today and put USDA and FDA back to work for the American people.

Mr. ADERHOLT of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO), who serves on the authorizing committee, the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, the President has shown his willingness to negotiate and has negotiated. The President has proposed various dollar amounts he is willing to accept for border security, has said he is ready to negotiate with Democrats. And to the other side’s request for materials other than concrete to be considered for a structure on our southern border.

The crisis at the southern border should not be a partisan issue. It is an American and immigrant crisis. The solution should be one that is best for America and not a party; for if it is best for America, we all benefit from that. Yet the Democrats continue to dig in their heels and not budge. Republicans have shown time and again that they are willing to talk.

The House should oppose this bill that will not bring our country any closer to a border security solution or resolve the partial government shutdown.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and chair of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, and is the former chair of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of Appropriations.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, the President is holding the country hostage, putting hundreds of thousands of families at great risk.

The President has manufactured a crisis at the border that has no basis in fact and has used the wall to incite fear. Vital agriculture programs, which millions of families and farmers depend on, are at risk.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture, farm service loans are stalled, family farmers need the capital to buy seed and equipment for the approaching planting season. Rural development programs are at risk.

Food stamps, food banks, and food programs are down to their last dollars. School lunch programs and other nutrition programs are at risk. Forty-seven million Americans could go hungry.

Let’s take a look at the Food and Drug Administration, because our food supply is at risk. When you go to the grocery store, you can’t be sure that the product you purchase is safe because almost all food safety inspectors have been furloughed. The FDA remains understaffed for food surveillance and food recall operations.

The Commissioner of the FDA, Scott Gottlieb, said routine food safety inspections are not taking place. The FDA has stopped posting warning letters. Routine inspections of food facilities are not taking place, and FDA’s work finalizing guidance and implementing rules related to the Food Safety Modernization Act is in limbo.

Foodborne illness kills 3.000 Americans every year, and because of the
President’s manufactured crisis, the safety of every American is in question. We have a duty to our constituents and their safety. We cannot stand by while this President holds the country hostage. Their physical and their financial well-being is at stake.

Let’s pass this bipartisan bill so that hungry families can eat, consumers can be safe, and farmers can do their job.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PALAZZO), who serves on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. He has been a vital part of that subcommittee.

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, there are a host of things wrong with bringing this bill to the floor. By bringing forth the Senate version of this bill, it completely ignores all of the work this subcommittee has done over the past year. It ignores priorities, and all of the testimony that we received that served as the basis of the House version of the Agriculture bill.

I will name a few examples of what this looks like. First, for the Food and Drug Administration, Madam Speaker, the House bill included $3.1 billion for the FDA. The Senate bill before us today includes $2.9 billion.

The additional $149 million in the original House bill supported a number of medical product initiatives above the level in the Senate bill, including initiatives like the promotion of domestic manufacturing, the new domestic drug industry, and the new medical data enterprise initiative.

Madam Speaker, the higher levels in the Republican bill are critical to helping industry advance medical products to the marketplace sooner, safer, and with greater efficiency. The ultimate beneficiary is the American consumer or patient.

Lastly, an issue that is very important to my home State of Mississippi and the Nation at large: rural broadband. The House Republican bill made a major investment in a broadband pilot program for rural America. We included $550 million to expand broadband infrastructure for some of our country’s most underserved communities.

The bill in this bill before us today falls short of meeting this critical priority. Madam Speaker, ultimately bringing the Senate version of this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy, as it ignores the will of this House and this bill to the floor is just plain lazy.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a member of the Committee on Appropriations, co-chair of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, and a long-time advocate for the elimination of persistent poverty in America and across the world.

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, let me thank Chairman Bishop for bringing forth this bill and for his tremendous leadership.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Agriculture Appropriations bill. I agree, to make sure that the public health impacts of opioid abuse is mitigated, but this funding is just one part of a broad strategy to address opioids.

The committee strongly supports the FDA’s role in intergovernmental efforts to confront the crisis, but since we must move forward and open the government, we urge adoption of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. GRANGER), the new ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 265.

Unfortunately, moving this bill across the House floor will not resolve the partial government shutdown. As the President has said, he will not sign this bill into law.

It is the job and responsibility of the Congress to appropriate funds, who must come together to find a solution that will reopen the government and fund border security. We need a compromise that represents the will of both Chambers and the American people.

By considering the Senate-passed versions of the appropriations bills, we are eliminating House Members’ involvement in the process. When it comes to investment in agriculture, rural development, and public health programs that are important to Americans across the country, H.R. 265 funds Senate priorities by shortchanging House priorities.

For example, this bill provides less funding for food and drug safety and public health. For the average American, this means decreased access to medical products because there are less resources to bring those products to market in a safe and efficient manner.

This bill also leaves behind funding to address persistent poverty in rural areas. This is a vital resource as rural communities across the country seek to break the cycle of poverty. We can and we must do better.

Madam Speaker, Republicans stand ready and willing to negotiate with our friends on the other side of the aisle on legislation that includes priorities of both Houses, and both Chambers. This is how this legislative body and our system of government are designed to work.

I want to thank my colleague from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) for his efforts today and over the last several months to ensure that the House’s voice is heard in this debate.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It has been said many times that we shouldn’t pass this bill which has previously been adopted by the Senate because the President will not sign it.

Well, I believe that we have three branches of government, and it is our obligation as the legislative branch to pass the laws. If we do our job, then we are forcing the President responsible for his failure to do his. We must keep this government open for the American people.
Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. Pingree), a member of the Committee on Appropriations and a member of the Subcommittee for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies.

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. Bishop of Georgia, our future chair, for yielding me the time. I rise in support of H.R. 365, the fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill.

There is no reason we cannot pass these individual appropriations bills that have nothing to do with border security and have strong bipartisan support.

The fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill includes robust funding for the USDA and the FDA, two Federal agencies that touch the lives of every American.

President Trump’s obsession with the wall should not jeopardize Americans’ access to food, housing, and farm programs at USDA and FDA.

The shutdown is having real impacts back in my home State of Maine: for the farmer who would lose their family farm before refinancing of their FSA loans so that they can plant. We are squeezing the people on the run.

These are just a few examples of how disruptive this shutdown has been in my district. Just last month we finalized the 2018 farm bill, finally giving farmers and families certainty about these important USDA programs. That certainty was ripped away from them because the USDA can’t start implementing the new farm bill until the shutdown ends.

Additionally, recent reports that the FDA is no longer conducting routine food safety inspections are alarming and totally unacceptable. The fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill will provide the funding necessary for the USDA and FDA to once again fulfill their regulatory duties and provide resources to Americans who are counting on them.

Let’s reopen our local USDA offices. Let’s restart routine inspections to ensure safety of our food system, and let’s reinstate programs going to make sure hungry families have food on their tables.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the fiscal year 2019 Agriculture appropriations bill and end the shutdown.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. Mitchell), who serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and also the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, you may wonder why I am down here. It is because agriculture is huge in Michigan’s 10th Congressional District.

Earlier this week, I spoke with most of the agriculture leaders in my district about these bills.

I would be supporting these bills under other conditions. It supports farm safety net programs as have been approved by the House for rural development, including rural infrastructure and broadband access, which is sorely needed in the 10th Congressional District of Michigan.

It provides food and drug safety inspections for the FDA and USDA, and nutrition assistance programs that my colleague discussed.

However, I cannot support these bills because it is brought up in bad faith. Let’s be honest. It is not a serious attempt to fund agriculture or any other programs in my district or throughout this country. This vote is dead on arrival.

It is a messaging point by the Democrat majority. It is an attempt to delay and distract from the real problem. The real problem is securing our borders, a comprehensive package to secure our borders that the President, the administration, has provided to the Democrat majority.

We have spent hours on the floor here talking about various bills to fund the majority. Yet, somehow, rather than negotiate, the Democrat majority will go to the White House and say nothing for the wall; nothing for border security to put a barrier up. We will simply talk about, nope, we are not going to do that. We want to put the squeeze on the American people.

They are squeezing the people in multiple ways. People won’t get their paychecks tomorrow. I am sorry. Really, guys? Come on. We have farmers that are struggling, waiting to get loans so that they can plant. We are not securing our border.

We had a humanitarian crisis. Thirty percent of the women that are1

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, we may disagree about what some of those priorities are, but why are we spending 2 weeks rather than spend 2 hours negotiating an outcome and getting done with this? Let’s grow up. Let’s be adults and solve the problems instead of bickering.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield to the Chair.

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

Madam Speaker, at this point I would just like to say that it is unconscionable that we will hold the American people hostage in denying them the services and the protections of their government, the much-needed paychecks for the workers employed by the Food and Drug Administration.

What we are really asking is to keep the government open. There may be disagreement about the wall and some aspects of border security, but that shouldn’t hold hostage these important spending bills that keep the government going.

I wanted to talk about the FDA. The FDA is one of our most critical public health agencies overseeing food, medical products, cosmetics, and tobacco, products that account for 20 cents of every dollar spent by U.S. consumers.

As a result of the Trump government shutdown, the FDA has had to cease a number of important activities that keep our Nation’s food and drugs safe for all Americans.

For example, the FDA has stopped conducting nearly two-thirds of the domestic food inspections that the agency typically conducts, putting our Nation’s food supply and food safety system at risk. This comes on the heels of a multi-State national recall of romaine lettuce in November and December. This shutdown should be alarming to all of us.

The FDA has halted routine inspections at food, drug, device, and compounding facilities. It stopped accepting any new medical product applications unless the application is within a small subset that did not require a user fee. This includes applications for new generic drugs that may bring further competition to the pharmaceutical market.

The FDA has ceased any activities related to over-the-counter products. It put on hold any enforcement activities related to medical products or facilities that had been found to be in violation of the law.

What we are seeing are no inspections, no enforcement activities. And, today, more than 6,000 FDA employees are furloughed, and another 1,000 are working without pay.

This Trump shutdown has had a dramatic effect on our economy, our Federal employees, and the functioning of our government. Agency heads are
Madam Speaker, I urge the Senate majority leader and the President to support this bill so we can restore funding to the FDA so that consumers continue to have safe food and medical supplies.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), who serves on the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the ranking member on the House Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Mr. ADERHOLT, for yielding, as well as for his strong leadership on behalf of our agricultural community.

Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the bill before us today. Throughout last year, the House Appropriations Committee worked on a bipartisan basis to find common ground for fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills, including the vitally important Agriculture appropriations legislation.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today does not reflect those bipartisan efforts. As I have been sharing with my constituents, the bill before us has never had a hearing in this body, has never had a markup in this body, and now has no opportunity for amendments to be offered.

By taking up this bill, unfortunately, House Democrats are effectively writing off the people’s House and shirking their responsibilities by deferring to the U.S. Senate. My constituents’ priorities—and I would submit those of constituents of my colleagues across the aisle—deserve to be heard.

I offered two important amendments to the Agriculture appropriations bill in the Appropriations Committee this week. Both amendments previously passed unanimously in the Appropriations Committee and, rightfully, should be in this legislation.

The first was a bipartisan amendment I offered with my colleague, SANFORD BISHOP, who was the then-ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The amendment would have banned USDA’s standing practice of withholding the lawfully required sales data of food retailers.

Due to a decision last year in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, USDA will be required to release the SNAP redemption records of all retailers across the United States. The result will be irreparable harm to competition in the food retail marketplace. My amendment sought to prevent the closure of grocery stores in both rural and urban areas by upholding this longstanding USDA practice.

The second bipartisan amendment passed unanimously in the Appropriations Committee directed USDA to work with H-2A agency partners to modernize, develop, and implement an online application system for the H-2A program. Since I offered with my colleague, SANFORD BISHOP, the H-2A program has been consistently one of the most important and cost-effective investments in the Federal budget.

I constantly hear from farmers in central Washington about how ineffectual the H-2A program operates due to the continued use of paper-only applications. Many farmers have had to deal with lost applications and other logistical inefficiencies, making the H-2A program inconsistent and all too often an unreliable program for farmers.

By taking up this bill, unfortunately, the House Appropriations Committee ignored the administration’s regulatory task force reform efforts to modernize that program with technological advancements that would make the program more user-friendly. It demonstrated an important step to providing relief for farmers facing a broken bureaucratic maze when trying to access a reliable workforce.

Madam Speaker, these are just two of the many reasons that I am not supporting the bill before us. But there are other issues that must be pointed out, like the fact that the House bill made a major investment in the new broadband pilot program for rural America amounting to an additional $550 million in infrastructure for the unserved and underserved. This bill undercuts that by $125 million.

In regard to the important matter of food and drug safety, our House bill included critical funding for the FDA, which is critical to helping industry advance their medical products to the marketplace sooner, safer, and with greater efficiency.

The House bill included language to secure set-aside funds for persistent poverty counties in rural areas. This provision was vital to rural communities across the country that face challenges escaping poverty. Unfortunately, that is not included in this bill.

Lastly, the House bill included nearly $30 million more for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture for research that is vital to our Nation’s food security priorities. Again, that is not included in this bill.

Madam Speaker, as a proud member of the Appropriations Committee, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this legislation. The bipartisan work conducted by House appropriators must be honored. We should not abdicate our responsibility to the voices of our constituents to the Senate.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to just say that the gentleman from Washington makes some salient points. I agree with the gentleman that the Freedom of Information Act and the SNAP retail sales language is something that we would love to have and should be in this legislation.

Also, I look forward to working with the gentleman to take care of that as we move forward in the 116th Congress, as well as our work on the H-2A program, which is in bad need of repair. And persistent poverty, the 10–20–30 program, we are happy that the gentleman is supportive and that the committee has been supportive. We look forward to making sure that that is implemented fully as we move forward. The right now is when we have to open the government. We cannot afford to let this government remain closed to continue to hurt the American people.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), who is my classmate and the chair of the Committee on Education and Labor.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman BISHOP for his distinguished leadership, and I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to mention several of the issues relevant to the jurisdiction of the Education and Labor Committee.

Madam Speaker, this legislation funds critical nutrition assistance programs that serve children and families. Nutrition programs are among the most important and cost-effective investments in the Federal budget.

Study after study demonstrates that freedom from hunger is the foundation that children and families need to lift themselves out of poverty. Beyond the tragedy of any child going to school on an empty stomach, we cannot expect hungry children to reach their full potential at school or to grow up into healthy adults unless they have proper nutrition.

This reckless shutdown has left our constituents with uncertainty and anxiety about their access to programs they rely on, such as WIC, SNAP, or school meals. Now, while these programs are still available and USDA is temporarily paying benefits, it is imperative that we secure funding for these vital programs to ensure that children and families are not left behind.

This should not be a controversial bill. But the shutdown has created a crisis, so we are not going to go back and forth over the details. We are going to pass a bill.

The Republican Senate passed this exact language with overwhelming support last year, and we have to pass something. Some have said we shouldn’t pass this bill, but they have not said we should pass anything. We have to pass a bill to reopen the government.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), who is a member of the authorizing House Committee on Agriculture. He represents an area in California that is called the salad bowl of our country.

Mr. COSTA of California. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, this legislation, along with the other bills that we have been voting on, is about doing our job.
Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), who is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means and who is also the chief deputy whip.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership in bringing this legislation, which I support, to the floor, legislation that would fund the Department of Agriculture for the rest of the year.

This bill would end part of the shutdown that this President has orchestrated and fund the Department of Agriculture, which helps people from going hungry and supports our farmers.

With the shutdown of the Department of Agriculture, we are not implementing the farm bill that we passed here, which means we are not helping increase access to fruits and vegetables through programs like the Double Up Food Bucks program in Michigan. We are not helping farmers sign up for crop insurance, our best risk mitigation tool. The agriculture industry is already being hurt by President Trump’s poor trade practices. This is just another attack on them.

Additionally, if the shutdown lingers into March, it is uncertain how millions of Americans, including one-quarter of my constituents, will receive SNAP benefits. These are young people; these are elderly; and these are part of the working poor. The future funding for the Women, Infants and Children’s Nutrition Program is also at risk.

Without passing the bill before us today, valley dairymen and almond farmers in my district, and many other producers across the Nation, will not be able to sign up for retaliatory tariff relief payments, and the impacts of these tariffs will be felt throughout the country.

In addition, farmers cannot sign up for the new revamped conservation programs that I helped pass in the farm bill. These programs are vital for California agriculture, where farmers work through drought years and continue their responsible stewardship of the land.

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, farmers cannot sign up for new crop insurance as well to help them manage risks as we approach the planting season, and farming is a risky business.

What is more, food safety is put at risk while food inspectors are forced to work without pay.

Madam Speaker, it is time to pass this bill so that the USDA and the FDA can go back to work for Americans. We should do our job. It is irresponsible to shut down government and leverage American citizens in this fashion.
the thousands of farmers feeling intense pressure from President Trump's ridiculous trade war. Agriculture is the number two economic driver of Florida's economy.

This shutdown could also potentially affect our public health. The FDA cannot and will not regulate submissions during the shutdown. This means that food and drug manufacturers can't provide documentation to the agency to verify compliance with safety regulations.

The FDA has also been forced to cut back inspections of food processing facilities, putting public health at risk. Essential inspectors are working without pay. The FDA sets targets for inspections, and the shutdown will prevent the agency from meeting those targets.

Finally, we must pass this bill to avoid potentially disastrous effects on Americans suffering from food insecurity. SNAP, also known as food stamps, is a safety net program that helps these Americans put food on the table, but SNAP is estimated to have only enough funding to last until February. After that, Federal law requires USDA to ration any available funding among SNAP recipients.

If President Trump continues to refuse to reopen the government, almost 3.7 million people in Florida may lose the assistance that helps feed their families. That would be a shameful situation for the wealthiest nation on Earth.

The longer the shutdown goes on, the bigger the impact will be on our Nation's food safety and health. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill because people’s livelihoods and well-being are on the line.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Diaz-Balart), who is another member of the Appropriations Committee. He, of course, chaired the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee in the 115th Congress.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, here is the sad truth which, by the way, everybody knows, unfortunately: This bill, if passed, will not reopen the Federal Government.

By the way, how do I know that? Because this bill already passed last week. It is sitting in the Senate. It has not reached the executive branch government agencies. This is another false attempt to fool the American people.

Some of the great Appropriations members of our time would be rolling in their graves right now if they knew that the House is taking up a Senate bill with zero input and zero amendments from any Member of the House—not one Member of the House. So, obviously, we should reject this flawed strategy.

But I want to thank the ranking member, Mr. Aderholt, for speaking about some of the specifics. I want to just talk about a couple of specifics in this bill where it falls, frankly, very, very, very short. Let me talk about a couple of issues that are very important to Florida.

Citrus is a key, critical industry for Florida. This bill does not adequately fund citrus greening research. It falls seriously short on funding something that is crucial to the survival of our farmers and the industry in Florida.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it falls short on combating the oriental fruit fly, another critical issue for our farmers in Florida.

We have to recall that Florida is still recovering from the devastation caused by recent hurricanes. This bill falls short in helping the farmers in the State of Florida.

But as I said at the beginning, Mr. Speaker, if that wasn’t enough, this is all a charade.

By the way, do you know what the sad part is, Mr. Speaker? I am going to be proven right.

Last week, a lot of us said that about those bills that our friends on the other side of the aisle said were going to reopen the government. Do you know who was proven right and who was proven wrong? We are going to be proven right again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFFRIES). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Florida an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. This is a sham. I would ask, respectfully, to defeat this bill, which is a charade, a sham, and will not open the Federal Government. Everybody knows that. Everybody knows that it will not reopen the Federal Government. It doesn’t have any input from the House and falls short for Florida farmers and other farmers around the country.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say, as it has already been said by many of my colleagues here on the Republican side, that this bill serves only to give a false impression that the new majority is trying to resolve our funding differences.

The American people want and need both enhanced border security and funding for government agencies that are operating on limited staff currently, as we speak. This bill is really an affront to the House of Representatives and to the citizens who elected them to serve them because, as has been said over and over this afternoon, the bill has no input from any of the 435 House Members into this legislation.

Therefore, in closing, Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this legislation that is before us this afternoon and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we, unfortunately, are enduring our government’s second longest government shutdown since 1970. I realize that some call it a partial government shutdown, but let me tell you, there is nothing partial about the lost wages that our Federal workers are encountering, there is nothing partial about the lost income that our small business owners are enduring, and there is nothing partial about the lost services that my farmers in the salad bowl of the country will experience through this shutdown.

That is why it has fallen on all of us in the House to ensure that we do not make whole the victims of the shutdown. And it starts today by passing this Agriculture Appropriations act.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I was proud to have passed and have enacted the 2018 farm bill. But if this shutdown doesn’t end soon, there are many provisions of that farm bill that will not be implemented.

Why? The USDA is closed, the Farm Service Agency is shuttered, agricultural research is suspended, organic certification programs are stopped, and families may not get their benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Those are just part of the problems with this partial government shutdown, a shutdown in which all of our farmers will be affected. That is why all of us in this government must do our job and live up to our responsibilities to govern. We call it governing. That is why I ask my colleagues to pass this Agriculture Appropriations act.

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in supporting House passage today of the long overdue FY 2019 Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill which will help bring an end to the reckless shutdown for the first time in this Congress.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in supporting House passage today of the long overdue FY 2019 Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies funding bill which will help bring an end to the reckless shutdown for the first time in this Congress.
apparently just now starting to realize the damage it is inflicting across America.

To make his case, the President held a national press conference earlier this week to sell his made up “crisis” along the Southern border. A “crisis” that experts say is not happening. But the news media can’t seem to get the message that exists in the minds of those who are not seen in nearly two decades. The “crisis,” if any exists, is his policy of denying asylum seekers their legal right to make their claims. President Trump inflicted this chaotic shutdown on the nation, with and by him building his vanity wall.

Well, let me tell you about the real crisis that he is creating in millions of households across the country from the dedicated federal employees who have been sent home without pay or those working without pay who are wondering how they will pay rent or their mortgage and their bills now that the federal government has broken faith with them.

Or the real crisis this Administration is creating for the millions of families and individuals who depend on SNAP and WIC for food on the table. In my home state, that includes hundreds of thousands of women, children, seniors, low-income veterans, and the disabled who are already struggling. These borders aren’t hypothetical. Food insecurity is real in our country. Millions of Americans are struggling to put food on the table. And the Trump Shutdown is only making it harder to do.

One estimate is that if USDA does not have enough funding or has to pay full benefits and provide partial funding spread evenly across all SNAP households, it would result in an average benefit cut per household of at least $30 or close to 40 percent. Similarly, benefits available through the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are at risk. WIC is such an important program that helps provide targeted nutrition and other services to at-risk women. This program has helped improve breastfeeding rates among its target population and saves lives for the taxpayer. Over 7 million mothers, pregnant women, and children rely on WIC. WIC clinics are currently open and operating normally but funding will run out if the shutdown continues. If the shutdown continues, WIC agencies may be forced to start waiting lists for benefits, freeze new applications, furlough staff, or close clinics in the face of declining or no funding.

And even with doors open, the uncertainty created by the shutdown may be discouraging eligible individuals from reaching out to WIC for support, undermining the program’s purpose.

And we will all pay in the end if taxpayers have to bear health care expenses and other costs for individuals that could have been avoided.

The bill before us, that the Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved last year, will ensure that these critical benefits continue because families can continue to put food on the table.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this special order to speak against the devastating cuts being proposed for the Farm Bill and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The $20.5 billion cuts would remove 2 million Americans from the food assistance program, and 210,000 children would lose access to free school meals.

The House Democrats’ bill, is virtually identical to legislation that has already passed the Senate on a 96–2 vote, will reopen these agencies and stop some of the worst impacts of the Trump Shutdown on families, businesses, and communities.

It provides $23.235 billion in discretionary funding, $225 million above the FY2018 enacted level. In addition, it provides the latest estimates for mandatory programs required by law—including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Child Nutrition Programs. It will ensure that the Department of Agriculture and the FDA are both able to operate through September 30.

This bill rejects President Trump’s proposed budget cuts to agriculture, rural development, and conservation programs. It includes funding for rural broadband that President Trump had proposed eliminating.

Finally, the bill rejects President Trump’s proposed elimination of Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition programs, both of which provide lifesaving food assistance overseas.

For one in six Americans hunger is real and far too many people assume that problems with hunger are isolated in small pockets of the country. That is not the case—hunger is persistent and the impacts real for millions of people who struggle to find enough to eat.

According to Feeding America:

In 2016, 46.2 million people were in poverty, 1.1 million people are food insecure in the Houston area, 2.4 million rural households face hunger;

Three-quarters of the counties with the highest rates of food insecurity are in rural areas; 86% of the counties with the highest rates of child food insecurity are rural;

In 2017, there were 39.7 million people in poverty.

There are 3.7 million Texans at risk of losing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits if the Trump Shutdown does not end.

The more important statistic is how many other Americans will have their local grocery store put at risk of closing or having reduced supplies of groceries to serve their customers because of the economic chaos that will ensue if SNAP benefits across the nation are ended due to the shutdown.

Most Americans have no idea how SNAP, Women, Infants and Children’s (WIC) Food and Nutrition Service and other federal food subsidy programs contribute to the affordability of food found in grocery stores.

For grocers, convenience stores and other food retailers, the suspension of funding for the food-stamp program, or SNAP, comes at a time when they cannot afford to lose sales. Over 3.5 million grocery and convenience stores operate on a 1% profit margin, with the proposed cuts to the SNAP program, these stores will experience a large decrease in profit.

There is no feasible way to absorb any kind of decrease in sales.

The abrupt end of SNAP, WIC and other Federal food subsidy program funding that is spent at local grocers would be devastating to all large grocery store chains.

In 2016, more than 52% of SNAP dollars, or $1.79 billion, were spent on needs like clothing or even medicine to make up for the gaps in their food budget. So there’s still an impact to the overall economy, she said.

A report by the USDA in 2010 also said that boosting SNAP benefits during economic downturns starts a “multiplier process” in transactions and consumption. It found that boosting SNAP expenditures by $1 billion was estimated to increase economic activity by $1.79 billion. Unfortunately, benefits cannot be increased as a direct consequence of the shutdown.

SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of low income individuals and families. SNAP is the largest program in the American domestic hunger safety net.

If the Trump Shutdown extends for weeks or months, the damage to the food economy may not be easily repaired.

The Child Nutrition Programs, including School Lunch, School Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Feeding, Summer Food Service and Special Milk will continue operations into February according to the Department of Agriculture.

We cannot afford to create food deserts and greater hunger in our country.

While prices for agricultural products are not expected to be significantly altered in the short term, an extended shutdown coupled with ongoing trade tensions could impact the ability for farmers to operate in the domestic and international marketplace.

The following USDA activities have been shut down during the government funding lapse:

Big retailers routinely notice a bump in sales around the time states disperse SNAP money to recipients each month. Walmart generates roughly $13 billion in annual sales from SNAP transactions, accounting for around 18% of the money spent through the program nationwide.

Some retailers serve regions where more than one-third of shoppers buy groceries with food stamps, without this money most of these stores will not be able to maintain the diverse food choices that are usually available to their consumers.

The retailer with the highest risk of lost sales is Walmart which receives roughly 56% of its food sales.

Dollar General, gets about 5 percent of its sales from SNAP benefits and their traffic slowed tremendously during the last government shutdown, they can’t afford the same outcome this year.

President Trump has previously demonstrated a hostility towards the SNAP program in his proposal that retailers pay a fee for authorization to accept food stamps. The government’s overall Nutrition Program spending declines when the economy improves and fewer people rely on the program and this means that grocery store customers are instead using funds from employment or other sources instead.

A government shutdown will have a depressing effect on grocery store sales and compounding this will be a cut in SNAP and WIC funds.

Government low wage workers will be seeking SNAP and WIC assistance as they work to cope with not being paid. Deen said cutting benefits when people’s financial situations are not improving could mean they use money they otherwise would have spent on needs like clothing or even medicine to make up for the gaps in their food budget. So there’s still an impact to the overall economy, she said.

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Mr. Aderholt moves to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations for further consideration. This motion that is now before us will simply add an additional $125 million to the $440 million in the bill before us today.

This higher level will not fully address the multi-billion-dollar requirement to address rural broadband internet needs but, it is a wise and necessary investment.

The new rural broadband program that was designed by USDA this year takes into account lessons learned from prior-year broadband initiatives. The new pilot program is a good balance between grants to the neediest communities and low-cost loans to those communities and citizens that can afford the loans.

Mr. Speaker, you might not find a great deal of agreement between the priorities of President Trump and former President Obama, but the vital need for rural broadband is one of those things. This motion is a modest proposal that all of us feel obligated to support, regardless of your politics. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of a point of order.

Mr. Speaker, as many know, I have been and will continue to be an advocate and supporter of rural broadband expansion. I view it as an obligation to provide adequate service for everyone, as it is vital to health, safety, the economy, and the welfare of all of our rural communities. The $425 million that is provided in this bill will complement the $600 million that was provided in the FY 2018 bill, which has not yet been spent.

USDA recently completed the program design, and it can now begin implementing and, if this bill is enacted, awarding over $1 billion in broadband expansion funding to the communities that need it the most.

This funding is in addition to the other programs that assist communities in getting broadband services, including the Community Connect Program, the Broadband Loan Program, and the Distance Learning and Telecommunication Program. We have funding in the works to accomplish the needs for rural broadband. We need to pass this bill because we need to open the government.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that this motion to recommit be rejected, and I yield back the balance of my time.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. ADERHOLT. 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.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 28, I call up the bill (H.R. 267) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 267

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, 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, and ask for its immediate consideration:

TITLES 1—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Salaries and Expenses

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, $133,335,000, of which not to exceed $3,001,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed $1,040,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed $20,428,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel; not to exceed $10,265,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; not to exceed $14,019,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs; not to exceed $2,550,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs; not to exceed $2,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat; not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer; not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Firearms, and not to exceed $16,686,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer: Provided, That the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary.
SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall post on the Web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Council on Credit and Finance, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Council on Credit and Finance to record the decisions of the Council. SEC. 103. In addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department’s Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to provide partial or full payments in advance and accept subsequent reimbursements from all Federal agencies from available funds for transit benefit distribution services that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order No. 13150 and section 3049 of Public Law 109–59.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation for the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for retransfer in excess of $1,334,377,000 to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: Provided further, That none of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the modal administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for Congressional notification.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation for the purchase of passenger motor vehicles for retransfer in excess of $215,303,000 shall be available for staff offices: Provided, That not to exceed 5 percent of any budgetary activity, except for aviation safety budget activities, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: Provided further, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation by more than 5 percent: Provided further, That any transfer in excess of 5 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 409 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 and the money appropriated for the reprogramming only, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, shall be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That any transfer in excess of 5 percent of the funds authorized to be available for obligations or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in this section: Provided further, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108–176: Provided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: Provided further, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year hereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format that allows for a complete staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: Provided further, That the amount hereinafter appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to Congress: Provided further, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a non-profit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: Provided further, That none of the funds herein appropriated shall be used to continue any grant agreement as defined in Public Law 109–59.
funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized under the Act of March 1, 2019, Title 49, United States Code, subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, or for purposes of any air traffic control system not authorized under the Act of March 1, 2019, Title 49, United States Code, subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, and may include the participation of an airport that serves a community or consortium that is not larger than a small hub airport, according to FAA hub classifications at the time of the Secretary's approval. In the event that the Secretary issues a request for proposals.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS

For an additional amount for “Grants-In-Aid for Airports” to enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects as authorized by subchapter 1 of chapter 471 and subchapter 1 of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, there shall be available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, and such funds shall not be subject to apportionment formulas, special apportionment categories, or minimum percentages under chapter 471: Provided further, That the Secretary shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to airports; Provided further, That the amount made available under this heading shall not be available to any limited projects for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports program set forth in any Act: Provided further, That the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may retain to 0.5 percent of the funds provided under this heading to fund the award and oversight by the Administrator of grants made under this heading.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SIC. 100. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technologically advanced staff-years under any Act for funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2019.

SIC. 111. None of the funds in this Act shall be used to purchase or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: Provided, That the provision of funds in this Act shall not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on “below-market” rates for these items or to airport assurances that airport sponsors provide land without cost to the Federal Aviation Administration for air traffic control facilities.

SIC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy 49 U.S.C. 41742(a)(1) from fees credited under 49 U.S.C. 45303 and any amount remaining in such account at the close of that fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) for the subsequent fiscal year.

SIC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40133(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection and shall be available for the same purposes of such appropriation.

SIC. 114. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under subsection 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee has actually performed the work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SIC. 115. None of the funds in this Act may be used to purchase or contract for special or dedicated services provided by the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate
through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. None of the funds in this Act may be obligated or expended for retention bonuses of the Federal Aviation Administration without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration of the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act shall be obligated or expended to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number from any display of the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Situation Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available by a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 118. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than eight political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 4721 of title 49, United States Code, from the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautics navigation and flight service. Any such fees are consistent with Executive Order 13642.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds in this Act may be used to close a regional operations center of the Federal Aviation Administration or reduce its services unless the Administrator notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 90 full business days in advance.

SEC. 119B. None of the funds appropriated or made available by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

SEC. 119C. None of the funds provided under this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold from consideration and approval any no-fly zone or tower - based contract tower program, or for reevaluation of Cost - share Program participants, as long as the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration has received an application from the airport, and as long as the Administrator determines such tower is eligible using the factors set forth in the Federal Aviation Administration's Request, Establishment and Discontinuance Criteria for Airport Traffic Control Towers (FAA-AP0-90-7 as of August, 1990).

SEC. 119D. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended to limit the use of an Organization Designation Authorization's (ODA) capabilities and functions documented in its procedures manual on a type certification project unless the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration has received an application from the airport, and as long as the Administrator determines such airport is eligible using the factors set forth in the Federal Aviation Administration's Request, Establishment and Discontinuance Criteria for Airport Traffic Control Towers (FAA-AP0-90-7 as of August, 1990).

SEC. 119E. (a) TERMINAL AERODROME FORECAST.—The Administrator shall permit an air carrier operation under part 121 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to operate to a destination determined to be under visual flight rules without a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast if a current Area Forecast, supplemented by other local weather observations or reports, is available, and an alter- nate route that provides a Terminal Aerodrome Forecast and weather report is specified. The air carrier shall have approved procedures for dispatch and en route weather evaluation and a unique instrument flight rules route en route to the destination.

(b) LIMITATION.—Without a written finding of necessity, based on objective and historical evidence that a threat to safety, the Administrator shall not promulgate any operation specification, policy, or guidance document that is not expressly stated in the regulations.

SEC. 119F. Of the funds provided under the heading "Grants-in-aid for Airports", up to $5,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses, including an independent verification regime, to provide reimbursement to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and provide aviation grand support services located at those airports closed during a temporary flight restriction (TFR) for any occurrence that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service, and for direct and incremental financial losses incurred while such airports are closed solely due to the actions of the Federal Government: Provided, That no funds shall be obligated or distributed to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services until an independent audit is completed: Provided further, That losses incurred as a result of violations of law, or through fault or negligence, of such operators and service providers or of third parties (including airports) are not eligible for reimbursements: Provided further, That obligation and expenditure of funds are conditional upon full release of the United States Government for all claims for financial losses resulting from such actions.

REPORT ON NEXTGEN IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 119G. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of NextGen at each commercial service airports in the United States that have fully implemented NextGen.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The manner in which NextGen is implemented at each commercial service airports in the United States.

(2) The percentage completion of NextGen implementation at each commercial service airport in the United States.

(3) The development of standards for determination of NextGen.

(c) DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD TO DETERMINE PERCENTAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEXTGEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a standard for determining under subsection (b) the percentage completion of NextGen implementation at each commercial service airports in the United States based on factors that may include an accounting of efficiency benefits achieved, the degree of NextGen technology and infrastructure installed, and the extent of controller training on NextGen.

(2) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—The Administrator shall include in the report submitted under subsection (a) the standard developed under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) THE TERM "ADMINISTRATOR" means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) THE TERM "NEXTGEN" means the Next Generation Air Transportation System.
further, That for purposes of this heading, the term "State" means any of the 50 States or the District of Columbia: Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of title 23, United States Code, shall be suballocated in the manner described in section 133(b) of such title, except that no portion of such title shall not apply to funds made available under this heading: Provided further, That the funds made available under this heading for activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of such title (2) the elimination of hazards and installation of protective devices at highway-highway crossings shall be subject to the special rule described in section 133(e)(2) of such title; bears to the sum of the percentages of total deck area of bridges classified as in poor condition in all States: Provided further, That for purposes of this heading for the bridge replacement and rehabilitation program, the Secretary shall (1) calculate population based on the latest available data from the decennial census conducted under section 4(a) of title 23, United States Code, and (2) calculate the percentages of total deck area of bridges classified as in poor condition based on the National Bridge Inventory as of December 30, 2022:

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Transportation shall:

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years that are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under paragraphs 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways bears to the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; and

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraph (1)) bears to the sum of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than sums authorized to be obligated under paragraphs (1) and (2)) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year, bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, for such fiscal year;

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than sums authorized to be obligated under paragraphs (1) and (2)) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and title 23, United States Code, (other than the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year;

(6) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than sums authorized to be obligated under paragraphs (1) and (2)) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and title 23, United States Code, (other than the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year;

(7) distribute the amounts apportioned for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than sums authorized to be obligated under paragraphs (1) and (2)) that are allocated by the Secretary under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and title 23, United States Code, (other than the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year;
having large uncompensated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112–141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) title VI of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under subsection (a) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid highways and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.\footnote{10} (e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds appropriated or transferred to the Bureau for such expenses:

(A) that are unexpended as of October 1 of the current fiscal year, and, in the case of unexpended balances of funds from prior laws, shall be applied to projects or activities the State or territory designated or earmarked amount was originally designated or earmarked to the Secretary identifying the projects to which the funding would be applied. Notwithstanding the original period of availability, any funds funded under this section, such funds and associated obligation limitation shall remain available for obligation for a period of 3 fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the Secretary of Transportation notifies the Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with funds made available under this section shall be the same as associated with the earmark.

(b) In this section, the term “earmarked amount” means—

(1) congressionally directed spending, as defined in section 165 of title 23, United States Code, may use for any project eligible under section 603(b) or section 604(b) of title 23, United States Code, and located within the boundary of the State or territory any earmarked amount, and any associated obligation limitation; Provided, That the Secretary of Transportation for the State or territory for which the earmarked amount was originally designated or directed notifies the Secretary of Transportation of its intent to use its authority under this section and submits a quarterly report to the Secretary identifying the projects to which the funding would be applied. Notwithstanding the original period of availability, any funds funded under this section, such funds and associated obligation limitation shall remain available for obligation for a period of 3 fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the Secretary of Transportation notifies the Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with funds made available under this section shall be the same as associated with the earmark.

(b) the authority under subsection (a) may be exercised only for those projects or activities that have obligated less than 10 percent of the amount made available for obligation as of October 1 of the current fiscal year, and shall be applied to projects within the same general geographic area within 50 miles for which the funding was designated, except that a State or territory may apply such authority only in the event of funds from projects or activities the State or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been made under a final voucher.

(d) The Secretary shall submit consolidated reports of the information provided by the Committees to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.
For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114–94, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, $152,100,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: Provided, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2019, are in excess of $152,100,000, of which $146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under 23 U.S.C. 403 and $5,400,000 shall be for the Inspector General authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That within the $152,100,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, $20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years.

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114–94, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, $255,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2019, are in excess of $255,000,000, of which $244,000,000 shall be available until expended: Provided further, That none of these funds shall be made available to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, or the Maritime Administrator, or the Federal Highway Administration for any project in which Federal funds provided under this heading will be used for activities authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, which will not limit eligible projects from consideration for funding for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114–94, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, $26,608,000 shall be for “Administrative Expenditures” under 23 U.S.C. 403 and $5,400,000 shall be for programs authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, to pay for travel and related expenses for State management related expenses for highway safety staff.

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration for "$146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the amount provided under this heading for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under section 42047 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary shall announce the selection of projects to receive awards for the funds in the previous proviso no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

For the Secretary to make grants to the Northeast Corridor Commission, as authorized by section 11101(a) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114–94), to be administered in accordance with chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the amount provided under this heading for any eligible project for the costs of award and project management oversight of funds provided under this heading no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the funds provided under this heading no later than 30 days after enactment of this Act.

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of 23 U.S.C. 403, section 11101(c) of division A of Public Law 114–94, the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the amounts made available under this heading for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which Federal funds provided under this heading will be used for activities authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, which will not limit eligible projects from consideration for funding for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration for "$146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary may withhold up to one percent of the amount provided under this heading for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under section 42047 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary shall announce the selection of projects to receive awards for the funds in the previous proviso no later than 120 days after enactment of this Act.

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration for "$146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the amounts made available under this heading for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which Federal funds provided under this heading will be used for activities authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, which will not limit eligible projects from consideration for funding for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration for "$146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the amounts made available under this heading for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which Federal funds provided under this heading will be used for activities authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, which will not limit eligible projects from consideration for funding for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration for "$146,700,000 shall be for programs authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of 1 percent of the amounts made available under this heading for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which Federal funds provided under this heading will be used for activities authorized by section 24407 of title 49, United States Code, which will not limit eligible projects from consideration for funding for planning, engineering, environmental, construction, and design elements of any project in which the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.
heading and the heading: "National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation", not more than $500,000 may be made available to provide a discount of not less than 40 percent of passenger fares for eligible veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code),

NATIONAL NETWORK GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the National Network established under section 11101(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114–94), $1,281,600,000, to remain available until expended:

that the Secretary may retain up to an additional $2,000,000 of the funds provided under this heading to fund expenses associated with the Social Security Administration, established under section 24712 of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That at least $35,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be available for the development, installation and operation of railroad safety technology, including the implementation of a positive train control system, on State-supported routes as defined under section 24102(13) of title 49, United States Code, on which positive train control systems are not required by law or regulation: Provided further, That not less than $50,000,000 of the amount provided under this heading shall be for capital expenses related to safety, maintenance, and the non-Federal match for discretionary Federal grant programs to enable continued passenger rail operations on long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole tenant of the host railroad and positive train control systems are not required by law (including regulations): Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be used by Amtrak to give notice under section 5306(c)(1) or (b) of section 24706 of title 49, United States Code, with respect to long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) on which Amtrak is the sole tenant of the host railroad and positive train control systems are not required by law (including regulations), or otherwise initiate discontinuance of service, increase frequency of, suspend, or substantially alter the schedule or route of rail service on any portion of such route operated by Amtrak, including discontinuance of service permitted by section 24102(b)(1)(A) of title 49, United States Code, in lieu of rail service.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 150. None of the funds provided to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of the overtime rates and other individual compensation: Provided, That the President of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the previous proviso for specific employees when the President of Amtrak determines that a cap placed on the retroactive costs to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: Provided further, That the President of Amtrak shall report to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees within 60 days of enactment of this Act, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by the Corporation for 2018 and the fiscal year prior calendared: Further, That the first full summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments the Corporation paid to those employees receiving waivers for each month for 2018 and for the three prior calendar years: Such report shall include: The sense of Congress that— (1) long-distance passenger rail routes provide much-needed transportation access for 4,700,000 riders in 325 communities in 40 States and are particularly important in rural areas; and (2) long-distance passenger rail routes and related infrastructure services should be sustained to ensure connectivity throughout the National Network (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code).

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For necessary administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration’s programs authorized by chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, $13,165,000: Provided, That none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to create a permanent office of transit security under this heading: Provided further. That upon submission to the Congress of the fiscal year 2020 President’s budget, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to Congress the annual report on New Starts, including proposed allocations for fiscal year 2020.

TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS (LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION) (LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS) (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program (as defined in section 5309 of title 49, United States Code) or for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. sections 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5322(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, for grants under the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: Provided, That funds available for the implementation of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. sections 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5322(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112–141, and section 3006(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, $9,000,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: Provided, That funds available for the implementation of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. sections 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5322(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112–141, and section 3006(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, shall not exceed total obligations of $9,929,380,000 in fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That the Federal share of the cost of activities carried out under 49 U.S.C. section 5312 shall not exceed 80 percent, except that if there is substantial public or political interest or benefit, the Secretary may approve a greater Federal share.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

For an additional amount for buses and facilities grants under section 5339 of title 49, United States Code, state of good repair grants under section 5337 of such title, high density state apportionments under section 5338(d)(1) of such title, and the bus testing facility grants under sections 5312 and 5318 of such title, $800,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That $400,000,000 shall be available for projects as authorized under section 5339 of such title, of which $200,104,000 shall be available for the buses and bus facilities formula grants as authorized under section 5339(b), $60,000,000 shall be available for the bus testing facility as authorized under section 5339 of such title: Provided further, That $362,000,000 shall be available for the state of good repair grants as authorized under section 5337 of such title: Provided further, That $30,000,000 shall be available for the high density state apportionments as authorized under section 5338 of such title: Provided further, That $2,000,000 shall be available for the bus testing facility as authorized under section 5318 of such title: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 5318(a) of such title, $6,000,000 shall be available for the operation and maintenance of bus testing facilities by states of good repair. Provided further, That none of the funds made available under section 5312(b) of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That the Secretary shall enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with a contractor to make a grant of higher education selected pursuant to section 5312(b) of such title, to operate and maintain a facility to conduct the testing of buses and facilities as authorized by section 5312 of such title: Provided further, That the term ‘low or no emission vehicle’ as defined in section 5312(e)(6) of such title: Provided further, That the Secretary shall pay 80 percent of the cost of testing a low or no emission new bus model at each testing institution of higher education: Provided further, That the entity having the vehicle tested shall pay 20 percent of the cost of testing: Provided further, That a low or no emission vehicle new bus model tested that receives a passing aggregate test score in accordance with the standards established under section 5312(c) of such title shall be in compliance with the requirements of section 5312(e)(6) of such title: Provided further, That funds available for this heading shall not be derived from the Federal fund: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transportation programs set forth under this heading: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transportation programs set forth under this heading.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out fixed guideway capital investment grants under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and section 5308(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, $1,291,600,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $31,357,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5308(d) of title 49, United States Code, and section 5308(b)(2) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transportation programs set forth under this heading.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out fixed guideway capital investment grants under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and section 5308(b) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, $150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $362,000,000 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5308(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, and section 5308(b)(2) of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transportation programs set forth under this heading.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 501 of division B of Public Law 110–432, $150,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That the Secretary of Transportation shall approve grants for capital improvements and operations for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and
reviewing a request for each specific project: Provided further, That prior to approving such grants, the Secretary shall certify that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has made adequate progress in its safety management system in response to the Federal Transit Administration’s 2015 safety management inspection: Provided further, That the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system before approving such grants: Provided further, That the Secretary, in order to ensure safety throughout the railing project, may waive the requirements of section 601(e)(1) of division B of Public Law 110–432.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (INCLUDING RECISION)

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, $16,000,000 shall be used on capital asset repair, renewal, and replacement activities supporting State Maritime Academies, $340,200,000, of which $30,000,000 shall be reserved for administrative expenses, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Maritime Administration, $23,710,000:

For necessary expenses related to the disbursement of funds, $58,000,000, of which $7,570,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for “Operations and Training”, Maritime Administration.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, $3,000,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for “Operations and Training”, Maritime Administration.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to any existing authority, the Maritime Administration is authorized and directed to furnish, establish, and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration: Provided, That payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof and shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilitarian items, in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

For necessary operations expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $23,710,000: Provided, That the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a five-year comprehensive oil spill response plans within 45 days of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the amounts appropriated under this heading shall be $100,000 per day for each day that such rule has not been issued following the expiration of the period set forth in the previous proviso.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $58,000,000, of which $7,570,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That up to $800,000 in fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Program, and of which $5,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for maintenance, repair, life extension, and capacity improvement of National Defense Reserve Fleet training ships in support of State Maritime Academies, as well as other expenses related to training mariners, as determined by the Secretary, of which $300,000,000, to remain available until expended shall be for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Program, including funds for construction, planning, administration, and design of school ships, of which $2,400,000 shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for the Student Incentive Program, of which $1,600,000 shall remain available until expended for training ship fuel assistance, and of which $6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, for direct payments for State Maritime Academies.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

For necessary expenses to discharge the functions of the pipeline safety program, for grants-in-aid to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 60107, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, $165,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, of which shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund; of which $134,000,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund; and of which $30,000,000 shall be derived from fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 60302 and deposited in the Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility Safety Account for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 60111, of which less than $1,056,000 of the funds provided under this heading shall be for the one-call state grant program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

Notwithstanding the fiscal year limitation specified in 49 U.S.C. 5116, not more than


238,318,000 shall remain available until Sep-
tember 30, 2021, from amounts made avail-
able by 49 U.S.C. 5116(h), 5128(b), and 5128(c); Provided, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 5116(h)(4), not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available from this account shall be available to pay administrative costs: Provided further, That none of the funds made available by 49 U.S.C. 5116(h), 5128(b), or 5128(c) shall be made available for obligation by individuals other than the Secre-
tary of Transportation, or his or her des-

tination:

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Inspect-
ger General to carry out the provisions of the Federal Air Transportation Act, as amended, $92,600,000: Provided, That the Inspect-
ger General shall have all necessary au-

tority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspect-
ger General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the gov-

ernment (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or en-

ty thereof: Provided further,That none of the funds made available by the Inspector General shall be made available to the Federal Air Highways' account and to the Federal Railroad Administration’s “Safety and Oper-

ations” account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 185. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transpor-
tation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation. (b) During the current fiscal year, applica-
bility of paragraph (1) of this subsection is limited to the appropriation for the Office of the Inspector General. (c) Any unclaimed or unexpended amounts made available in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department from the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration with which the Department of Transportation may, acting through the Secretary, make a cooperative agreement or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this Act to the Secretary of Transportation that do not expire at the end of the current fiscal year, and that may be obligated, shall be deposited in the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts:

that prior to the transfer of any such recover-
y from the emergency relief program, the Secre-
tary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. (b) The Secretary may provide notice to other con-

cerning the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. (c) That the Secretary of Transpor-
tation may provide notice to other con-


cerning the transfer of any such recovery to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations. (d) That none of the funds made available from this account shall be available to the Department of Transportation to a third-
person contractor under a financial assistance agreement, or granted to a recipient of a Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 188. None of the funds in this Act shall be made available: Provided, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary duty outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 189. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Rail-
road Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration’s, the Federal Railroad Administration’s, the “Federal Aid Highways’” account and to the Federal Railroad Administration’s “Safety and Oper-

ations” account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are pur-

chased to provide a direct benefit to the applic-
able modal administration or administra-
tion project with which the Department of Transpor-
tation may provide notice to other con-

erning the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 185. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transpor-
tation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department from the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration with which the Department of Transportation may, acting through the Secretary, make a cooperative agreement or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are pur-

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tion project with which the Department of Transpor-
tation may provide notice to other con-

erning the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 189. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Rail-
road Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration’s, the Federal Railroad Administration’s, the “Federal Aid Highways’” account and to the Federal Railroad Administration’s “Safety and Oper-

ations” account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 185. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transpor-
tation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department from the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration with which the Department of Transportation may, acting through the Secretary, make a cooperative agreement or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are pur-

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erning the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 185. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transpor-
tation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees and other funds received by the Department from the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration with which the Department of Transportation may, acting through the Secretary, make a cooperative agreement or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation makes the following determinations: Provided further, That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this Act to the modal administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are pur-

chased to provide a direct benefit to the applic-
able modal administration or administra-
tion project with which the Department of Transpor-
tation may provide notice to other con-

erning the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.
and the Committees on Appropriations and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on efforts by the Department of Transportation to engage in committees, metropolitan planning organizations, and regional transportation commissions on advancing data and information system technologies and other smart cities solutions.

SEC. 193. The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to identify existing authorities and any additional authorities that may be needed to leverage funds from Department of Transportation programs for purposes of inland waterway project costs.

SEC. 194. (a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended to enforce or require the enforcement of section 127(a) of title 23, United States Code, with respect to a segment described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (b) if the segment is designated as a route of the Interstate System.

(b) The segments referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The William H. Natcher Parkway (to be designated as a spur of Interstate Route 65) from Interstate Route 65 in Bowling Green, Kentucky, to United States Route 60 in Owensboro, Kentucky.

(2) The Julian M. Carroll (Purchase) Parkway (to be designated as Interstate Route 69) in the State of Kentucky from the Tennessee State line to the interchange with Interstate Route 24, near Calvert City, Kentucky.

(c) Only a vehicle that could operate legally on a segment described in paragraph (1) or (2) before the date of designation of the segment as a route of the Interstate System may continue to operate on that segment, subject to the condition that, as permitted as provided in subsection (d), the gross vehicle weight of such a vehicle shall not exceed 120,000 pounds.

(d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to a vehicle that is not appropriated or otherwise made available to the Federal Transit Administration under this title.

This title may be entitled the “Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2019”.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjutancy Services, Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, $14,898,000: Provided, That not to exceed $25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices, $556,000,000, of which $76,600,000 shall be available for the Office of Civil Rights, and $2,800,000, of which $25,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, shall be for the financial transformation initiative; $90,000,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel, of which not less than $15,000,000 shall be for the Departmental Enforcement Center; $213,300,000 shall be available for the Office of Administrative Services.

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, $71,300,000.

OFFICE OF FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, $71,300,000.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, $7,800,000.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

INCLUSIVE OF TRANSFER OF FUNDS

For the working capital fund of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this paragraph as the “Fund”), pursuant, in part, to section 7(f) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3501), amounts transferred, including reimbursements pursuant to section 7(f), to the Fund under this heading shall be available for Federal shared services used by offices and agencies of the Department, and for such portion of any office or agency’s printing, records management, administrative support, computer services, and supply services as the Secretary determines shall be derived from centralized sources made available by the Department to all offices and agencies and funded through the Fund: Provided, That of the amounts made available in this title for salaries and expenses under the headings “Executive Offices”, “Administrative Support Offices”, “Program Office Salaries and Expenses”, and “Government National Mortgage Association”, the Secretary shall transfer to the Fund such amounts, to the extent necessary to fund services, specified in the matter preceding the first proviso, for which the appropriation would otherwise have been available in electronic systems and may transfer an additional $5,000,000, in aggregate, from all such appropriations, to be merged with the
Fund and to remain available until expended for any purpose under this heading: Provided further, That amounts in the Fund shall be the only amounts available to each office or agency for the supplementing the authorities and conditions provided under section 7(f).

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

TEHRAN ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437f et seq.), not otherwise provided for, $18,780,987,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2018, and $4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2019: Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

1. $20,520,000,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8 of the Act) and including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2019 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on vanguard management (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection and Choice Neighborhood vouchers: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of units in a calendar year which exceeds the public housing agency’s authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration. Grant periods under this paragraph shall be governed by the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements: Provided further, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the level of funds provided under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate such public housing agency’s allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: Provided further, That except as provided in the following provisions, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated by the Secretary to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual allocation under this paragraph within the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2019: Provided further, That the Secretary may extend the notification period necessary for the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: Provided further, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration pursuant to their MTW agreements and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the previous provisos: Provided further, That the Secretary may reallocate such funds to all public housing agencies’ calendar year 2019 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies’ net restricted assets accounts, including HUD-held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2018 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: Provided further, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, to the extent necessary to stay within the level of funds provided under the authorities and conditions provided for in section 7(f), as amended by the provisions of this Act: Provided further, That any offset referred to in the previous two provisos throughout the calendar year to stay within all commitments for the families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal assistance and replacement assistance, That up to $100,000,000 shall be available only: (1) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances, including, but not limited to, escalators for defining eligible at-risk households within 60 days of the enactment of this Act: Provided further, That any tenant protection voucher that is not used by a public housing agency under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such vouchers is otherwise revoked: Provided further, That the Secretary shall issue guidance to implement the previous provisos, including the offset, prior to the enactment of the Quality Voucher Management System (QVMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year validated voucher management system (VMS) data in calendar year 2019 and to remain available until expended under the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies’ calendar year 2019 MTW funding allocation: Provided further, That with respect to the Fund, the authority of the Secretary shall be funded pursuant to the following provisos throughout the calendar year to stay within the level of funds provided under the “Project-Based Rental Assistance” heading under this title where the owner has received a Notice of Default and the units in the building pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: Provided further, That to the extent that the Secretary determines that such units are not feasible for continued rental assistance payments or transfer of the subsidy contract associated with such units to another project or projects and owner or owners associated with such units under such contract shall be recaptured and used to reimburse amounts used under this paragraph for rental assistance provided after the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–276): Provided further, That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to determine under the previous proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the previous provisos, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryovers, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this Act, provided funding is not limited by special purpose vouchers, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: Provided further, That all public housing agencies and owners of projects participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded pursuant to their MTW agreements, and shall be
subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the previous proviso: Provided further, That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be for only activities related to the development and delivery of tenancy-based assistance, subject to the same requirements under section 8, including related development activities; (4) $154,000,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: Provided, That any such waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the previous proviso shall be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: Provided further, That any amounts provided under this paragraph in this Act or prior Acts, remaining available after funding renewals and administrative expenses under this paragraph, shall be available for incremental tenancy-based assistance contracts under such section 811, including necessary administrative expenses; (5) $5,000,000 shall be for rental assistance and associated administrative fees for Tribal HUD–VASH to serve Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: Provided, That such amount shall be made available for renewal grants to public housing agencies under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses, under such section 811, including necessary administrative expenses: Provided further, That the Secretary shall be authorized to waive, or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the previous proviso shall be subject to the same requirements under section 8, including related development activities; (6) $40,000,000 for incremental rental voucher assistance for use through a supported housing program administered in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs as authorized under section 8(0)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: Provided, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, may not expend such funds unless they are used for support services, public housing agency administrative performance, and other factors as specified by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs: Provided further, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for (in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs), any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, non-discrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the previous proviso shall be subject to the same requirements under section 8, including related development activities: Provided further, That any such waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the previous proviso shall be subject to the same requirements under section 8, including related development activities; (7) $20,000,000 shall be made available for new incremental voucher assistance through the family unification program as authorized by section 8(x) of the Act: Provided, That the amount is made available under this paragraph shall continue to remain available for family unification upon turnover: Provided further, That for any public housing agency administering voucher assistance appropriated in a prior Act under the family unification program, that it no longer has an identified need for such assistance upon turnover, such agency shall notify the Secretary, and the Secretary shall recapture such assistance and reallocate it to other public housing agencies based on need for voucher assistance in connection with such program; and (8) the Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading “Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing” and the heading “Project-Based Rental Assistance”, for fiscal year 2019 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: Provided further, That unobligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior that have been terminated shall be rescinded: Provided further, That unobligated amounts recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth in section 8, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management functions of the Public Housing Act, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (the “Act”)’ $2,775,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth in section 9, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2019, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9 of the Act, or a combination of the time periods under such section: Provided further, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term “obligate” means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future: Provided further, That the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies requesting waivers under the previous proviso if the
request is approved or denied within 14 days of submitting the request: Provided further, That from the funds made available under this heading, the Secretary shall provide housing, for not more than one year, to for-profit developers who plan to develop housing for persons who are not eligible for public housing, for the purpose of evaluating and reducing lead-based paint hazards in public housing by carrying out the activities of risk assessments, rehabilitation, and interim controls (as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (2 U.S.C. 4374)), $143,400,000, to remain available until December 31, 2023.

**Choice Neighborhoods Initiative**

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), unless otherwise specified under their formula or other Federal formulas), $8,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

**Public Housing Operating Fund**

For 2019 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(d) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g), $41,756,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

**Public Housing Capital Fund**

For competitive grants under the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (subject to section 24 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437v), unless otherwise specified under their formula or other Federal formulas), $8,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

**Funding Availability for funds made available under this heading**

That of the amount provided under this heading, $2,000,000 shall be available for grants to eligible recipients authorized under this heading, as determined by the Secretary: Provided, That the Secretary may, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under subsections (a), (b), (c), or (d) of section 3(b) of such Act in order to facilitate the awarding of no less than one year from the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That any amounts made available under this heading no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act: Provided further, That in awarding this additional amount to eligible recipients authorized under this heading, the Secretary shall consider need and administrative capacity, and shall give priority to projects that will spur economic development and create jobs, $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

**FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 26 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8(o) and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, $60,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

**Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992**

That of the funds provided under this heading, $300,000,000 shall be available to support the inspection of public and assisted housing under the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (25 U.S.C. 1437v) and shall be used for the purpose of reducing lead-based paint hazards in public housing by carrying out the activities of risk assessments, rehabilitation, and interim controls (as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (2 U.S.C. 4374)), $4,756,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023.

**Funds for Native Hawaiian Housing**

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), $655,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021.

**Hawaii State Authority**

For the State Authority established under this Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may not invest grant amounts provided for under this heading, in any project that will result in the construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition of any property, which property is in any way controlled, owned, or operated by, or associated with, an Indian tribe, or with a company or entity that is owned or controlled by an Indian tribe, or is controlled by, owned by, or associated with, a tribe, unless the tribe so consents: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading may be used for administrative contract expenses to hire coordinators for their own Family Self-Sufficiency program.

**Hawaiian Home Lands**

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under this Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands grants, which are authorized under this Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands grants may not be made to any person or entity that is an Indian tribe or is controlled by an Indian tribe or a tribe or Indians unless the Secretary is notified of the amount and purpose of the grant and that the grant will be used for the purposes specified in this Act.
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized under section 107 of the Cranston-Greylock Homeownership Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), $375,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 107(c) of such Act shall be available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That the Secretary shall renew all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that was funded under section 104(a)(5) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements and awarding funds for such contracts under such section: Provided further, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to units of State and local government, and to other entities, for economic and community development activities, and for other purposes, $3,365,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021, unless otherwise specified: Provided, That of the total amount provided, $3,300,000,000 is for carrying out the Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended ("the Act" herein) (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.): Provided further, That all or any portion of such funds directly or indirectly receives funds under this heading may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another entity in exchange for any other funds, credits or non-Federal considerations, but must use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 105(e)(1) of the Act, no funds provided under this heading may be provided to a for-profit entity for an economic development project under section 108 of the Act; funds otherwise used for activities that have been evaluated and selected in accordance with guidelines required under section (e)(2): Provided further, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the total amount provided under this heading, $45,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 203 of this Act), shall be used for activities that constitute imminent threats to health and safety.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, during fiscal year 2019, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of $300,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding commitments guaranteed under such section (k) of such section 108: Provided, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section, for any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME Investment Partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Greylock Homeownership Housing Act, as amended, $1,362,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That notwithstanding the amount made available under this heading, the threshold reduction requirements in sections 216(c) and 217(b)(4) of such Act shall not apply to allocations of such amount: Provided further, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

SELF-HELP AND ASSISTED HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

For the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended, $54,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $10,000,000 shall be made available to the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996, as amended: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $35,000,000 shall be made available for the second, third, and fourth capacity building activities authorized under section 4(a) of the Rural Housing Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 8161 note), of which less than $5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity building activities: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be provided to fund any projects, except for projects created through reallocation, unless the Secretary determines that the composition and scope of the projects demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the continuum of care’s system performance: Provided further, That the Department shall prioritize funding under the Continuum of Care program to communities that have demonstrated in the past 4 years that they have reallocated funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects: Provided further, That all awards of assistance under this heading shall be required to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for homeless populations, which may include the following: Provided further, That any unobligated amounts remaining from funds appropriated under this heading in fiscal years 2012 and prior years for project-based rental assistance for rehabilitation projects with 10-year grant terms may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding for which such funds were appropriated: Provided further, That all balances for Shelter Plus Care renewals previously funded from the Shelter Plus Care Renewal account and transferred to this account shall be available, if recaptured, for Continuum of Care renewals in fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $65,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 203 of this Act), shall be used for activities that constitute imminent threats to health and safety.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For the Emergency Solutions Grants program as authorized under subtitle B of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, the Continuum of Care program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of such Act; and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program as authorized under section 113 of such Act, $2,612,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under such Continuum of Care program shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That not less than $270,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such Emergency Solutions Grants program: Provided further, That not less than $2,205,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for such Rural Housing Stability Assistance programs: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading, up to $50,000,000 shall be used to fund state-based, in-kind assistance for capacity building projects and supportive service projects providing coordinated entry, and for eligible activities the Secretary determines to be critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking; Provided further, That such projects shall be for shorter renewal under the Continuum of Care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants; Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: Provided further, That all funds provided for under the Continuum of Care program and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program shall be matched by not less than 25 percent in kind in the form of financial obligations, commitments, or in-kind contributions: Provided further, That for all match requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading for the fiscal year 2019 and prior fiscal years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: Provided further, That the Secretary shall collect system performance data for homeless populations which may include the following: Provided further, That none of the funds provided under this heading shall be available to fund new projects, except for projects created through reallocation, unless the Secretary determines that the composition and scope of the projects demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the continuum of care’s system performance: Provided further, That the Department shall prioritize funding under the Continuum of Care program to communities that have demonstrated in the past 4 years that they have reallocated funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects: Provided further, That all awards of assistance under this heading shall be required to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for homeless populations, which may include the following: Provided further, That any unobligated amounts remaining from funds appropriated under this heading in fiscal years 2012 and prior years for project-based rental assistance for rehabilitation projects with 10-year grant terms may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding for which such funds were appropriated: Provided further, That all balances for Shelter Plus Care renewals previously funded from the Shelter Plus Care Renewal account and transferred to this account shall be available, if recaptured, for Continuum of Care renewals in fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $65,000,000 shall be for grants to Indian tribes notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 203 of this Act), shall be used for activities that constitute imminent threats to health and safety.

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provided under this title: Provided further, That such projects shall be eligible for renewal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other contracts: Provided further, That such projects shall be eligible for renewal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other contracts: Provided further, That youth aged 24 and under seeking assistance under this heading shall not be required to provide third party documentation to establish eligibility: Provided further, That unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under shall be treated in the same manner as other youth and families to the extent that such provisions may be served by youth-serving providers funded under this heading.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

PROVIDED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), or the Act, not otherwise provided for, $1,347,000,000, remaining available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2018 (in addition to the $400,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available October 1, 2018), and $400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2019: Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 mortgage credit subsidy contracts) for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to the provisions of the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and inspection-related activities associated with such contracts for such assistance and rental subsidy contracts, for the purpose of preserving rental subsidy contracts, and for the purposes of any project subject to a section 8 project-based subsidy contract, for housing the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for senior preservation rental subsidy contracts, including renewals, as authorized by section 81(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act as amended, and for supportive services associated with the housing, $378,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: Provided further, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the terms and conditions of such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: Provided further, That upon request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract and, upon termination of such contract, are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account: Provided further, That amounts de- posited in this account pursuant to the provisions of this heading to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for amendments and renewals: Provided further, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be used for amendments and renewals notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, $45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, including up to $4,500,000 for administrative contract services: Provided, That such amounts made available from amounts provided under this heading shall be awarded within 180 days of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That funds from this Act may be used for counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to housing needs, financial management or literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training: Provided further, That for purposes of providing such grants, such amount, together with unobligated balances from recaptured amounts appropriated prior to fiscal year 2006 from terminated contracts under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, provided for imprisonment for up to one year for expiring contracts under such sections of law.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

For capital advance contracts, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended, for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 1-year term, for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, including renewals, as authorized by section 81(e) of the American Housing and Economic Opportunity Act as amended, and for supportive services associated with the housing, $378,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 202 projects: Provided further, That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the terms and conditions of such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: Provided further, That upon request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract and, upon termination of such contract, are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account: Provided further, That amounts de- posited in this account pursuant to the provisions of this heading to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for amendments and renewals: Provided further, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be used for amendments and renewals notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

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For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION
MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family mortgage loans under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed $400,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That during fiscal year 2019 the Secretary shall submit a plan, for approval, that the funds made available under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), the Secretary may use such funds to provide technical assistance to recipients of grants made available under this heading.

GDH

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Fund shall not exceed $90,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which may be insured, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That during fiscal year 2019, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans insured under section 611(d), (207(c), (282, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed $1,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION
GUARANTIES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES
LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed $550,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That $27,000,000 shall be available for costs of operations of the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: Provided further, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments exceed $155,000,000 on or before April 1, 2019, an additional $100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each $1,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments, but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed $3,000,000: Provided further, That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass Fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsets collecting this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies under the Multifamily Housing and Urban Development Act (24 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1702-1 et seq.), including payments to universities for research projects: Provided, That $27,000,000 shall be available for costs of operations of the Multifamily Housing and Urban Development Account under section 1(a)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, for technical assistance, $150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, State or local governments and their agencies, or colleges or universities for the purpose of carrying out the functions of the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the creation of programs and other initiatives that support the assistance and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency by providing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND LEAD REDUCTION

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Control and Lead Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992, $280,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which $45,000,000 shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (24 U.S.C. 1701a et seq.), to remain available until September 30, 2020, to be used to provide housing inspections, maintenance and assistance, and other programs that support the assistance and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency by providing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

That prior to each appropriation covering fiscal year 2018, $30,000,000 shall be available for the implementation of the tax credit for the development of affordable housing for very low-income families with children under age six, as provided for in section 307(a)(1)(E) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1992 (24 U.S.C. 370a-1): Provided, That none of the funds provided under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program.

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compared to the State average, and that are located in jurisdictions in which instances of elevated blood lead levels reported to the State are significantly higher than the State average. Provided further, That the funding awarded for such projects shall be made available for draw down contingent upon the grantee meeting cost-savings, productivity, and quality standards established by the Secretary:

SEC. 201. Provided further, That each recipient of funds for such projects shall contribute an amount not less than 10 percent of any such funds received under this heading, and that the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that secure commitments for additional contributions from public and private sources: Provided further, That not more than one-half of this heading, including grants made under this heading shall be eligible to apply for such projects, provided that they are deemed to be in compliance with program requirements established by the Secretary.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For the development, modernization, and enhancement of, modifications to, and infrastructure for Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems, for the continuing operation and maintenance of both such systems and program-private information systems, and for program-related maintenance activities, $280,000,000, of which $260,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, and of which $20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021:

Provided, That any amounts transferred to this Fund under this Act shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That any amounts transferred to this Fund from amounts appropriated by previously enacted appropriations Acts may be used for any purpose under this heading, provided that such amounts are otherwise available under this heading for development, modernization and enhancement may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, for approval, a plan for expenditure that—(A) identifies for each modernization project: (i) the functional and performance benefits to be realized, (ii) the estimated life-cycle cost, and (iii) key milestones to be met; and (B) demonstrates that such modernization project is: (i) compliant with the Department’s enterprise architecture, (ii) being managed in accordance with applicable life-cycle management policies and guidance, (iii) subject to the Department’s capital planning and investment control requirements, and (iv) supported by an adequately staffed project office.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $128,082,000:

SEC. 207. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all unobligated, unencumbered, and unexpended funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit the information to those Committees upon request.

SEC. 208. The President’s formal budget request for fiscal year 2020, as well as the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s congressional budget justifications to be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall use the identical account and sub-account structure provided under this Act.

SEC. 299. No funds provided under this title may be used for administrative and management expenses of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 210. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of any assistance made pursuant to title II of the National Housing Act, in whole or in part, for the purpose of promoting the sound economic, community, and environmental development of the State, and that the transfer authorized in subsection (a) of this section shall not be subject to the conditions expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso does not apply to the provision of any assistance to any institution for any purpose other than transportation or any guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States.

SEC. 230. That any amounts reappropriated under this Act which are recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Office of Simpson County and the Federal Government for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with this section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to finance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 232. None of the amounts made available under this heading during fiscal year 2019 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including an assertion of a nonfrivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, as a contract or legal jurisdiction.

SEC. 233. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be competitive on a comparative basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 234. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1936 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of a Government National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Home Loan Banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811-1).

SEC. 235. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 236. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with which the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority provided to such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by law, in connection with programs: Provided, That the Secretary may use any such funds to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by law, in connection with programs:

SEC. 237. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all unobligated, unencumbered, and unexpended funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit the information to those Committees upon request.

SEC. 238. That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all unobligated, unencumbered, and unexpended funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit the information to those Committees upon request.

SEC. 239. That any amounts reappropriated under this Act which are recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Office of Simpson County and the Federal Government for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with this section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to finance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 240. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all unobligated, unencumbered, and unexpended funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit the information to those Committees upon request.

SEC. 241. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2019 and 2020, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all unobligated, unencumbered, and unexpended funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit the information to those Committees upon request.

SEC. 242. That any amounts reappropriated under this Act which are recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Office of Simpson County and the Federal Government for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with this section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to finance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 243. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be competitive on a comparative basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).
(5) The tenants of the transferring project who retain eligibility for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project and existing units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transferring project is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meet the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the transferring project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement for no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Banking Act of 1974, as amended) for any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the term "low-income" and "very low-income" shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term "multifamily housing project" means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) the property that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) a housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring, Multifamily Section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act; or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term "project-based assistance" means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Housing Act of 1959; and

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act, that were not first occupied immediately before October 1, 1983;

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965;

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(c)(2) of the National Housing Act; and

(E) assistance payments made under section 236(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959; and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(4) the term "receiving project' or 'projects' means any project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions, and

(5) the term "transferring project" means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects;

and

(6) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) RESEARCH REPORT.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 211. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005;

(7) is not a youth who left foster care at age 14 or older and is at risk of becoming homeless; and

(8) is otherwise individually eligible, but whose parents, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual, as a benefit and advantage and not as a substitute for any other assistance, the Secretary shall give due regard to the family's income, net worth, and expenditures, and to any other factor that the Secretary may consider relevant. The Secretary may elect to be exempt from any asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (d) and (e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (d) and (e)). Provided, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 212. The funds available for Native Americans under the heading "Native American Housing Block Grants" in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native American Block Grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 213. notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2019, in managing any rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing projects in accordance with other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that purchase contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety. In addition to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or reductions, that an agency seeks of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements of section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act.

SEC. 214. The commitment authority funded by fees as provided under the heading "Community Development Loan Guarantees Program Account" may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes, or other obligations issued by any State or local governmental entities or any other entities in the State in accordance with the requirements of section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Provided, That any State or local governmental entity or other entity that receives such guarantee or commitment shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the funds.

SEC. 215. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in connection with the operating fund rule. Provided, That the agency may be exempt from any asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g) (d) and (e)). Provided, That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 217. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer unless the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in asset management procedures. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD appropriation under the accounts "Expenditures for Planning and Evaluation of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer," as well as each account receiving appropriations under the general heading.

SEC. 218. The Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall, for fiscal year 2019, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding availability (NOFA) for any project-based funding or assistance to be administered by the Secretary to that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2019, the Secretary may make applications available online over the Internet at the appropriate Government web site or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 219. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation shall be paid from the individual program office and Office of General Counsel Appropriations. The annual budget submission for the program offices and the Office of General Counsel shall include any such projected litigation costs for attorney fees as a separate line item request. No funds provided in this title may be used to pay any such litigation costs for attorney fees until the Department submits a report including plans for such costs to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 220. The Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 10 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, of funds appropriated for any office under the heading "Administrative Support Office," or for any account under the general heading "Program Office Salaries and Expenses" to any other such office or account provided, that no appropriation for any such office or account shall be increased or decreased by more than 10 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 221. (a) Any entity receiving housing assistance payments shall maintain decent, safe, and sanitary conditions, as determined by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (the "Secretary"); and comply with any standards or rules, regulations or standards adopted by the Secretary, including regulations promulgated to implement rules, regulations, or standards required by this Act. The Secretary must also provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in the Secretary withdrawing the Notice of Default, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default. (2) At the end of the time period for correction of such property deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

(b) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance—(1) received a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UCPS) score of 60 or less; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary that no deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and multifamily projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), and do not apply to such units assisted under section 202 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(c)(1) Within 90 days of the issuance of the BEAC inspection, the Secretary must provide to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development a specific timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary must also provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in the Secretary withdrawing the Notice of Default, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default. (2) At the end of the time period for correction of such property deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

(b) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance—(1) received a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UCPS) score of 60 or less; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary that no deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and multifamily projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), and do not apply to such units assisted under section 202 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(c)(1) Within 90 days of the issuance of the BEAC inspection, the Secretary must provide to the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Housing and Urban Development a specific timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary must also provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in the Secretary withdrawing the Notice of Default, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default. (2) At the end of the time period for correction of such property deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

(b) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance—(1) received a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UCPS) score of 60 or less; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary that no deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and multifamily projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), and do not apply to such units assisted under section 202 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

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(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary that no deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and multifamily projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), and do not apply to such units assisted under section 202 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(c) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a section 8 contract or contract for similar project-based assistance—(1) received a Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UCPS) score of 60 or less; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary that no deficiencies identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and multifamily projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), and do not apply to such units assisted under section 202 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

Sec. 228. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance programs under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer, any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2019.

Sec. 223. None of the funds in this Act provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development that make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project. If the Secretary determines that the project authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is not in compliance with any applicable law, or fails to meet any of the conditions specified in section 8 of this Act, the Secretary must notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

Sec. 222. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require or enforce the Physical Needs Assessment (PNA).

Sec. 224. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to secure, establish, or assure a Federal guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage-backed security that refinance or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a State, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a State.

Sec. 225. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government in a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

Sec. 227. Amounts made available under this Act which are either deobligated, advanced, on a reimbursable basis, or transferred to the Office of Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development and functions thereof, for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, and which are unexpended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or other agreement may be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be reobligated in the same fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year for the research, evaluation, or statistical purposes for which the amounts are made available to that Office subject to reprogramming requirements in section 405 of this Act.

Sec. 228. None of the funds provided in this Act or any other Act may be used for awards, including performance, special act, or spot, funds for the employee of the Federal Housing and Urban Development who has been subject to administrative discipline in fiscal year 2018 or 2019, including suspension from work.

Sec. 229. Funds made available in this title under the heading "Homeless Assistance
Grants" may be used by the Secretary to participate in Performance Partnership Pilots authorized under section 526 of division H of Public Law 113–76, section 524 of division G of Public Law 115–224, section 525 of division C of Public Law 115–278, title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, costs paid by program income of grant recipients may count toward meeting the recipient's matching requirements, provided the costs are eligible CoC costs that supplement the recipient's CoC program.

SEC. 231. (a) From amounts made available under this title under the heading "Homeless Assistance Grants", the Secretary may award grants to recipients of funds for activities under subtitle C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, costs paid by program income of grant recipients may count toward meeting the recipient's matching requirements, provided the costs are eligible CoC costs that supplement the recipient's CoC program.

SEC. 232. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide housing assistance for an individual who is convicted of:

(a) aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code;
(b) murder under section 1111 of title 18, United States Code; or
(c) any other Federal or State offense involving

(A) severe forms of trafficking in persons or sex trafficking, as those terms are defined in paragraphs (9) and (10), respectively, of section 101 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000;
(B) child pornography, as defined in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code.

This title may be cited as the "Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2019".

TITLE III
RELATED AGENCIES
ACCESS BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 526 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, $8,400,000: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be used for official reception and representation expenses.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For expenses necessary for the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended (46 U.S.C. 307), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by 31 U.S.C. 1718(a); and uniform allowances therefore, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5901–5902; $41,000,000: Provided, That not to exceed $2,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $37,100,000: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $1,250,000 from fees established for the Corporation shall be used for the payment of the annual salary of the Inspector General.

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, $37,100,000: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $1,250,000 from fees established for the Corporation shall be used for the payment of the annual salary of the Inspector General.
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Operating Expenses

For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code) of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the provisions of this Act, as amended, title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, $3,600,000: Provided, That the funds made available in Public Law 115-141 under the heading “United States Interagency Council on Homelessness—Operating Expenses” is amended by striking “2020” and inserting “2021”.

TITLe IV General Provisions—This Act

Sec. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

Sec. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation begun before the fiscal year in which the funds became available, except as may be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

Sec. 403. Any reprogramming under this Act for any consulting service through a procurement contract pursuant to 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 pursuant to existing law.

Sec. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) results in prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915-022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

Sec. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2019, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the sale of bonds and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds for personnel for any program or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(3) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(4) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(5) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by more than $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, program, or any other program, project, or activity different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the tables in the explanatory statement described in this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: Provided further, That the report shall include—

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President’s budget request, and any adjustments to the President’s budget request due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation of the prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriation; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

Sec. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2019 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2019 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for each such account for the purposes authorized: Provided, That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: Provided further, That such request shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

Sec. 407. This Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: Provided, That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities, and that for purposes of any funds available for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects, as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including, but not limited to, electrically, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designed for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of contaminated land for environmental health and safety or brownfields as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (4098) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

Sec. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by 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.

Sec. 409. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held, who enter into the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and who within 90 days after his or her release from service from or hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

Sec. 410. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301-8305), popularly known as the “Buy American Act.

Sec. 411. No funds appropriated or otherwise available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that purchases or fabricates a product or service which is not in compliance with section 60904 of the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 8301-8305).

Sec. 412. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by any agency to pay the expenses of accommodations in contravention of sections 301-10.122 and 301-10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

Sec. 413. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a foreign air carrier permit under sections 41903 through 41905 of title 49, United States Code, unless the application for approval or exemption application under section 40193 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Ice- land or U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict or otherwise preclude the Secretary of Transportation from granting a foreign air carrier permit or an exemption to such an air carrier where such authorization is consistent with the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement and United States law.

Sec. 414. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay the attendance of more than 50 employees of a single agency or department of the United States Government, who are stationed in the United States, at any single international conference unless the relevant Secretary reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days in advance that such attendance is important to the national interest: Provided, That for purposes of this section the term “international conference” shall mean a conference occurring in the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

Sec. 415. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used in FY 2019 to make any payment or charge or collect any filing fee or rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

Sec. 416. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide any services by the Surface Transportation Board to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board.
Federal agency 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. 417. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a network, unless the 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. 418. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General’s access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General’s access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General’s right of access.

(b) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 419. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General’s access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General’s access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General’s right of access.

SEC. 420. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to acquire telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company, ZTE Corporation or a high-risk or moderate-risk information system, as defined for security categorization in the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 199, “Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems” unless the agency has—

(1) reviewed the supply chain risk for the information systems against criteria developed by NIST to inform acquisition decisions for high-risk or moderate-risk information systems within the Federal Government;

(2) reviewed the supply chain risk from the potential vulnerability of the information systems within the Federal Government to actions by the People’s Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation;

(3) reviewed the supply chain risk from the potential vulnerability of the information systems within the Federal Government to actions by the People’s Republic of China, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation; and

(b) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 421. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used, directly or indirectly, for any purpose or in any manner that would otherwise be prohibited by 16.401(e)(2) of the FAR.

SEC. 422. (a) Employees furloughed as a result of any lapse in appropriations beginning on or about December 22, 2018 and ending on the date of enactment of this Act shall be compensated at their standard rate of compensation, for the period of such lapse in appropriations, as soon as practicable after such lapse in appropriations ends.

(b) For purposes of this section, “employee” means any Federal employee whose salaries and expenses are provided in this Act.

(c) All obligations incurred in anticipation of the appropriations made and authorized by this Act in the course of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government functions, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 423. (a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantee’s non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program during a lapse in appropriations, then the grantee may use funds made available to the State or the grantee under such Federal program to reimburse such State (or the grantee), together with interest thereon calculated under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding section 203 of the Act, in addition to “continue carrying out a Federal program” means the continued performance by a State or other Federal grantee, during the period of a lapse in appropriations, of a Federal program that the State or such other grantee had been carrying out prior to the period of the lapse in appropriations.

(c) The authority under this section applies with respect to any period in fiscal year 2019 (not limited to periods beginning or ending after the date of the enactment of this Act) during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations with respect to any department or agency of the Federal Government receiving funding in this Act which, but for such lapse in appropriations, would have paid, or made reimbursement relating to, any of the employees referred to in this section with respect to the program involved. Payments and reimbursements under this authority shall be made only to the extent and in such amounts as are provided in advance in Appropriations Acts.

This Act may be cited as the ‘Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019’.
maintaining existing infrastructure, it will allocate $37 billion for new transportation and housing projects in both rural and urban areas.

Like last year, it includes several billion dollars of funding above authorized levels for the PAST Act to accelerate improvements in our aviation system, to expand transit and rail networks, to replace aging highways and bridge infrastructure, and to repair our affordable housing stock.

It is always pleasing to see the progress we have made since enactment of the 2018 bipartisan budget agreement to ensure that vulnerable populations—including low-income families, seniors, veterans, and the disabled—have access to reliable transportation and safe housing.

It would provide robust funding for flexible grant programs, especially HOME and Community Development Block Grants, that allow towns and cities to begin to address their pressing community needs.

Just as important, this legislation would suspend—through January 31st, 2019—HUD’s suspended disaster relief funding for States hit by disasters last year—funding that has already been appropriated—remains unallocated because staff at HUD remain furloughed.

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, we discovered just this weekend that HUD officials wanted to take more than 1,000 landlord contracts for the Project-Based Section 8 housing program before they expired at the end of the year, exposing tens of thousands of tenants to possible eviction.

Mr. Speaker, these problems can only get worse as the shutdown goes on. Hundreds more of these contracts are up for renewal in the coming months.

H.R. 267 would put an end to the madness, ensuring that vital transportation and housing infrastructure is funded for the remainder of the 2019 fiscal year.

This legislation reflects the best of the bipartisan work on this legislation, and it excludes problematic policy riders from both sides of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, commonsense legislation to reopen the government without further delay, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. My objections are numerous. Again, there are a lot of reasons why I am objecting to this bill in this form today.

One of the things that I think is important to note, because I have heard throughout the debate in all these bills how passing these bills will reopen the Federal Government: Mr. Speaker, I heard that last week on the floor of this House, on the same appropriations bills.

I want to mention that again. Last week, on this floor, Members came up and said, if those bills pass the House, the Federal Government would reopen.

Mr. Speaker, those bills passed the House. They didn’t reopen the Federal Government, just like these bills, which are identical to the bills that were passed last week—identical—unfortunately, also will not reopen the government.

Now, I have other objections as well, Mr. Speaker. This bill is, frankly, absurd because it takes a Senate product, ignoring all—all of the House Members’ priorities. It is jamming it through this body without a single opportunity to amend or improve or change this bill in any way.

Not one House Member has had one priority put in this bill because there are no amendments allowed in this process.

Again, this ploy will not work. The Senate has no plans of taking up this legislation. And, again, this is deja vu all over again.

I heard folks last week talk about, if the House passed those bills last week, like we are hearing now, the government would reopen. Mr. Speaker, those statements were not true last week, and they are not true this week, unfortunately.

Now, not only did the bills last week not reopen the government. In fact, everyone on this House floor knows that this bill passing, unfortunately, will not reopen the Federal Government. Mr. Speaker, all the members of the press up there know that passing this bill, unfortunately, will not reopen the government.

Heck, anybody who has been paying any attention knows that this is a sham; that, just like last week, those bills passing didn’t reopen the government, and unfortunately, passing this bill, or these appropriations bills, in this manner will not reopen the government either.

So by introducing these Senate bills without any changes to reflect the priorities of this body and without any opportunity for amendments, we are engaging in a sad, sad charade.

I want to take this moment to discuss the real-world consequences of this stunt. Again, our majority is asking us, all of us here in this Chamber, to reject all of the hard work and all of the priorities of every House Member, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Mr. Speaker, in our House bill, I am proud that we decided to make a historic investment, for example, in ports: port infrastructure, the ports, seaports, including larger seaports that are critical to commerce. In the House bill, we provided $250 million for this program.

Well, the Senate didn’t make this investment. They didn’t think that that was high enough of a priority. They missed that opportunity to build infrastructure that we need to create jobs and increase our ability to export American goods made by Americans.

We also placed a higher priority on roads and on bridges than the Senate did and with an emphasis on funds that go directly and immediately to the States and the territories through the highway formula program. The Senate didn’t have that priority.

The Senate provides far less for this purpose, Mr. Speaker. Let me tell you what that number is, far less: $1.4 billion less for that direct spending in infrastructure, bridges, and roads that goes straight to the States.

The Senate, instead, put a high priority on administrative accounts and programs with, frankly, higher overhead. This bill means less funding for your State Department of Transportation and fewer jobs rebuilding the highways and the bridges around our country.

Mr. Speaker, we also included a provision that provided regulatory relief to, for example, sugar and beet haulers in Idaho and Oregon. This narrow provision—and this is a bipartisan provision—simply made truck length requirements uniform between those two States—common sense.

Again, this provision has support on both sides of the aisle, and it will help truckers and farmers in those States. But, you see, the Democratic proposal before you does not include even that commonsense provision, commonsense bipartisan provision.

Mr. Speaker, we also included a provision in the House bill that allows for small increases in the allowable weight for trucks that run on electric batteries, an innovation to help the environment. This is another commonsense, bipartisan provision that this House does not have, and it was not included in the Senate mark.

This bill eliminates House and Senate report language—I want to repeat,
both House and Senate report language.

Now, what does that mean? That every single item we put in the report for Members, at the request of Members from both parties, is gone, is irrelevant, and that language is gone.

You see, the direction that we provide in our reports every year helps hold the bureaucracy accountable and ensure that our constituents have a voice in their government. Mr. Speaker, that language is gone.

For example, we put directives in our report that require that the FAA take specific action, specific action to address airport noise, airport noise in our communities. Now, this is specifically important—I should say especially important—to our Democratic colleagues in the subcommittee and the committee on this floor, and we accommodated all of their requests on this issue with new stringent requirements on the FAA, Mr. Speaker. This bill makes those null and void.

So let me now turn to housing programs. When we looked at the HUD budget, we made sure, in the House, in the House bill, the House mark—and, by the way, this is done in a bipartisan way—that we scrubbed the administrative and overhead accounts and, instead, put funds towards programs that serve our neediest, our neediest citizens. This bill, unfortunately, falls far short on our charge to do the best that we can with the revenue, the taxpayer money.

And, again, to make sure that the bureaucracy is held accountable, this bill falls short. Let me give you a few examples.

In our bill last year, we included $50 million in new funding for a program that we call mobility vouchers. These vouchers are targeted at families with children, to enable them to move to neighborhoods with greater economic opportunity, and this initiative has received strong bipartisan support from the authorizers and strong support from the advocates for the poor. The Senate bill does not include any funds, zero funds, for this program.

The House bill also included significantly more funding for new vouchers for people with disabilities. This program helps families across the country that struggle to take care of severely disabled relatives, and it also serves, by the way, veterans with such disabilities. We provided $390 million for this program.

For tens of thousands of new voucher holders, this bill before us, frankly, falls short there as well, by $236 million, and adds no new vouchers.

You said, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that every year, when I was chairman, I also worked to ensure that there was adequate funding for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, or HOPWA. This program has a record of saving thousands from AIDS transmission, and protecting communities. I am so proud of that. We provided $393 million in our bill to ensure that there was no reduction, no cut to housing services for this vulnerable population.

The Senate, unfortunately, again, falls severely short, $375 million. This will result in 1,700 people losing their housing, which will put communities at risk.

This, by the way, is a severe hit, particularly for cities like Miami, New York, Atlanta, San Francisco, and many others. This is an area where the Senate was counting on the House to fix, to fill these financial gaps. But, you see, Mr. Speaker, we don’t have the opportunity because of this stunt that we are witnessing here today.

Finally, we included $150 million for Choice Neighborhoods, which is a program that provides much-needed neighborhood rehabilitation—revitalization grants. I should say. This has such strong bipartisan support in the House. The Senate did not prioritize it as much as we did, and they only provided $190 million.

So I look forward to advancing a bill that protects this, all of these issues, and other important priorities for our House Members. I look forward to working to do that.

But before I close, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank somebody who has become a personal friend, Chairman PRICE. I will tell you, it has been an honor, Mr. Speaker, to work beside him for the past 4 years developing bills that truly meet the needs of our people, of our country, of our communities. These past 2 years, I think, have been particularly energizing as we worked on T-HUD bills that made substantial new investments in our Nation’s infrastructure.

Chairman PRICE and I have always been able to work together to find common ground, to find solutions, and that is the spirit of cooperation and good will that will get us, I am sure, to a breakthrough to end this impasse and to reopen the government.

So, again, I do not have anybody in this Chamber that I am more pleased to work with than the chairman of this subcommittee.

Now, today, on this bill, mark my words, Mr. Speaker, mark my words, the passage of these bills in this form will not open the Federal Government. Everyone in here knows that; just like last year, last week, we knew that they would not open the government, and we heard on this floor that they would.

This bill, unfortunately, will not reopen the government. It falls short on our priorities. It does not include any of the House priorities; so, therefore, I respectfully would urge a “no” vote.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, MARIO DIAZ-BALART, our ranking member and former chairman of this subcommittee, for his kind words. This bill, unfortunately, will not reopen the government.

Mr. Speaker. I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), our full committee chairwoman.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the Trump shutdown is now in its 20th day. More than 800,000 Federal employees are going without pay, many while they are still working, and the American people are being denied vital services all because of President Trump’s demands for a wasteful border wall.

The bill before us will not open the Department of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other critical agencies like the National Transportation Safety Board and the Intergency Council on Homelessness.

Frankly, it is outrageous that safety-critical personnel who are ensuring our trains operate and air traffic runs smoothly cannot count on a paycheck.

The solution to this crisis is simple: Pass the bills where we can agree, and extend funding for Homeland Security for a month to allow time for negotiation on border security and immigration policy.

I do hope that my colleagues across the Capitol come to their senses and stop this ridiculous Trump shutdown.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), the ranking member of the full committee.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 267. Unfortunately, moving this bill across the floor will not resolve the partial government shutdown, as the President has said he will not sign this bill into law.

It is the job and responsibility of the Congress to appropriate funds. We must come together to find a solution that will reopen the government and fund border security. We need a compromise that represents the will of both Chambers and the American people.

By considering the Senate-passed version of the appropriations bills, we are eliminating House Members’ involvement in the process. When it
comes to Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies, H.R. 267 places a lower priority on creating jobs and expanding opportunity.

For example, this bill provides $1.4 billion less in highway funding to the States and territories. That is less money to address our Nation's crumbling roads and bridges.

When it comes to the Federal Aviation Administration, this bill provides $250 million less to modernize our air traffic control system.

The bill also reduces programs for the most vulnerable among us. It provides millions less for a voucher program that enables families with children to move to neighborhoods with greater economic opportunity and virtually eliminates funds that House Republicans provided for impoverished citizens living with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans stand ready and willing to negotiate with our friends on the other side of the aisle on legislation that includes priorities of both Houses and both Chambers. That is how the legislative body and our system of government is designed to work.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for his efforts today and over the last several months to ensure that the House’s voice is heard in this debate.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), a member of our subcommittee and the chairman-designate of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, let’s not complicate things. There is nothing in the transportation bill or the housing budget that has anything to do with the border wall.

Instead, these agencies keep us safe when we fly and keep the planes, trains, and buses running on time. They keep Americans housed and warm on frigid January days like today in Chicago. They provide the support necessary to invest in our communities and ensure that our citizens can get to work and school, and can rebuild after natural disasters.

Shuttering the Departments of Transportation and of Housing and Urban Development over an unrelated fight about a wall on the southern border is the height of administrative malpractice and the reason I am proud to support this bill to reopen these vital agencies immediately.

This shutdown is endangering the well-being of the American public. For example, at air traffic control facilities all over the country, including Chicago Center, one of the busiest control centers in the Nation, staff ID badges, which are needed to get into the control tower equipment, expire during the month of January. Ordinarily, this wouldn’t be a problem, but the person in charge of issuing new ID badges for the 58 controllers at Chicago Center is furloughed, leaving the people responsible for ensuring that our air system runs safely and effectively in limbo and possibly preventing them from monitoring the skies as they should.

Worse yet, the Trump administration is unconscionably forcing these air traffic controllers, along with TSA agents and other crucial officials who are instrumental to the safety of the American public, to work long hours both without pay and under the threat of criminal penalties if they refuse to work. They are being used as pawns in a political chess match. It is dangerous; it is not right; and the people expect more of their government.

This President likes to tout himself as a builder and speaks frequently about infrastructure investment. Yet, he is single-handedly standing in the way of any progress on addressing our Nation’s infrastructure needs by shutting down the very agencies charged with addressing them. It seems, once again, he is all bluster and no substance.

I support this bill to reopen HUD and DOT, to get Federal employees back to work, and to support the millions of Americans who rely on the important work these agencies do. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I have always found this debate interesting, but we know what this is all about. This is all about the negotiations on border security.

What I find interesting is to listen to everybody talk about the President not being willing to negotiate, not being willing to compromise. Yet, he has offered many of the things that the Democrats say they want in any border security bill.

A negotiation ends when both parties can say they got something that they want. Yet, the Democratic leaders in the House and the Senate continue to say “no” to anything the President wants. He wants a border wall for a part of border security, and they continue to say “no.” That is no kind of negotiation, and we know that is what has led us here today.

Everybody on one side of us wants government reopened, but we know the games that are being played here. I will tell you, the problem with what is on the floor today is that we are bringing up the Senate bills that completely ignore the priorities of House Republicans and House Democrats in the appropriations process.

Most of these bills have been conferenced. Why bring up just the Senate bill and not the conference report that was done that recognizes both Senate and House priorities? Let me give you one example. The House T-HUD bill carried a bipartisan provision that raises the length limit for specific vehicles used to transport sugar beets, and only on specific routes used to ship sugar beets between Oregon and Idaho for processing. It is a provision that is supported by the Oregon Department of Transportation, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the State of Idaho. It is very limited—only sugar beets on non-interstate highways—and everybody agrees with it.

Mr. Speaker, I have a letter here from two Senators, one from Idaho and one from Oregon, who support this provision, and I will include it in the RECORD.
You all know how this works. When we write a bill, we emphasize House priorities and we downplay Senate priorities. They do the same thing on their side, emphasizing Senate priorities and downplaying House priorities. Then we go into conference, and we try to find a compromise. But we are not doing that with this bill.

I will tell you, if you bring up the conferenced bills, the bills that have been conferenced last year between the House and the Senate, you will have my support. I will vote for them, but not for a bill that just emphasizes the Senate priorities and ignores the work of the House and the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, why are we here today? We are here today because the President promised us a border and he wants to build, along part of the border, a wall, a Maginot Line, if you would have it. The French thought that they could keep the Germans out by building a fortified wall and fortifications along part of their border. The Germans went around it.

Well, if the drugs were coming over the border illegally, they would go around it. But that is not where they are coming. They are coming through the ports of entry where we don’t have enough personnel, who, by the way, aren’t getting paid today, and where we don’t have the technology we need to find the humans and the drugs that are being smuggled through in tractor trailers and other vehicles across the border.

If you want to invest in border security, that is a place to invest in border security.

Now, the President promised us a grand infrastructure plan. Little did we know it was going to be a partial wall along the Mexican border that he felt so strongly about that he would shut down the government.

We have the busiest, most complex aviation system in the world. It is the safest in the world. Today, 14,000 air traffic controllers are working without pay. They all got checks today—I just got a copy of one—for $0. So they are still processing their checks, but the checks are void.

Then we have 3,300 aviation inspectors who are furloughed. They are not essential. We are allowing the airline industry and all the aircraft maintenance facilities and everything else to self-regulate. No one is looking over their shoulders—"Oh, don’t worry about it. No problems." Right.

Then, of course, there are a few other issues that this bill would deal with. We have a $100 billion backlog to bring existing transit, which is inadequate for today’s needs, up to a state of good repair. This is delaying dealing with that problem more and more into the future.

We have 56,000 bridges on the national highway system that need substantial repair or replacement. Well, guess what? That is not going forward today either.

Last year, we wasted 3.1 billion gallons of diesel idling in traffic. A lot of concern about climate change—well, on this side of the aisle, not on that side of the aisle. They don’t believe in it. I don’t know, maybe the gentleman from Florida does; they are kind of going underwater.

But we are giving people the options they need to get out of their cars, to be more efficient with transit.

Wastewater, the Federal Government used to partner with communities to deal with wastewater. We are not doing that anymore.

So are we going to rebuild America? Are we going to deliver on the President’s promise of something other than a stupid, wasteful, ineffective wall?

How about shutting down the government? What is more efficient? Don’t you want the funding we need to rebuild our infrastructure? That would be, perhaps, a better cause for this President.

I urge Members to vote for this, re-open the government, fund transportation, and fund our air traffic controllers who are keeping us safe.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a former sheriff and my dear friend.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill. Rather than focusing energy on reaching a compromise with the Senate and the President to reopen the government and get those Federal workers their paychecks, my colleagues across the aisle are spending time bringing bills to the floor that have absolutely no chance of passing and becoming law.

The bill is a waste of everyone’s time and effort. Countless hours of hard work by Members and staff on both sides of the aisle.

Last Congress, my colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee worked hard for many months in a bipartisan and bicameral way to pass a Transportation and Housing and Urban Development funding bill on time. In fact, Mr. Speaker, we passed that bill in the House in July of last year.

Then, in December, when we were looking at a shutdown, my colleagues and I in the House passed a funding package that would have kept the government open and provided an additional $5 billion for border security and $9 billion for initial disaster assistance to American citizens in those communities devastated by hurricanes and fires.

Instead, here we are, bringing to the floor a bill that ignores the bipartisan work of my House colleagues.

This bill provides less funding for our ports, highways, and air traffic control. It provides less housing for people with disabilities, our veterans, and those living with HIV and AIDS. Also, it doesn’t include the oversight and accountability provisions that were added by the House. On top of all that, the President has already said he will not sign the bill into law.

As we waste the House’s time, and, quite frankly, the people’s time, on this bill, 800,000 Federal workers are suffering. All our Nation’s transportation systems are becoming less efficient. Many functions of our air, rail, maritime, and highway transportation are being held up by furloughs and understaffing. Those essential personnel who are required to show up, they go unpaid for their work. This is unjust and immoral.

Mr. Speaker, I implore the Speaker of the House and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to put aside these partisan tactics and bring to the floor bills we have already worked on through regular order and with bipartisan agreement.

It is very simple. If the Speaker is truly serious about opening the government and getting people back to work, bring a bill to the floor that the Senate can pass and the President will sign into law.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER), the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation because it is past time to move beyond the political game of chicken and reopen these critical government agencies.

This Republican-passed Senate bill is not perfect. While it maintains current funding for the HOPWA program, it does not include the full $393 million that I led many of my colleagues in requesting last Congress. The House fiscal year 2019 bill reflected that funding level, and I deeply appreciate the hard work of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in achieving that goal.

But I support this bill and urge all of my colleagues to vote for one simple reason: We must get these programs funded and operating again. People are suffering. They are working without pay or furloughed with no idea if they will ever get back to work. They are watching critical services and benefits slowly disappear, and it will only get worse as this absurd and unnecessary shutdown drags on.

The House will pass this bill today, and I call on my Republican colleagues here in the Senate to get people back to work, to get our government open again, and to put aside this political game of blackmail by the President in which he says the government will remain shut if we don’t give him a billion dollar increase on a $26 billion wall. That is a judgment for Congress, not to be subject to blackmail by the President holding the American people hostage.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and let’s get our government open again.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from
Mr. PALAZZO. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, there are a host of things wrong with bringing this bill to the floor. By bringing forth the Senate version of this bill, it completely ignores all of the work this committee has done over the past year, ignoring Members’ priorities as well as testimony, both of which serve as the basis of the House version of the T-HUD bill. I will name a few examples.

The Choice Neighborhoods program receives $50 million less in the Senate bill before us today. The Choice Neighborhoods initiative works to address the problems of growing poverty in high-poverty neighborhoods. It provides flexible resources for local leaders to help transform their distressed neighborhoods into mixed-income, successful neighborhoods.

Also strikingly missing from the Senate bill is a very important family mobility demonstration project. Low-income families and voucher holders are often concentrated in high-poverty neighborhoods with limited education, transportation, and employment opportunities. The demonstration project absent from the Senate bill utilizes the voucher platform to target families with children and enable them to move to neighborhoods with greater economic opportunities.

There are also several provisions in the House report that are missing from the Senate version.

As a former deputy director for a public housing authority in Mississippi, I can tell you that these nonsensical provisions would vastly improve the lives of not only our dedicated PHA employees, but also the lives of their tenants at a time when PHAs are stretched thin and do not have the operating or the capital funds necessary to meet HUD’s ever growing list of demands.

As it relates to operating funds, HUD’s current method for calculating formula income and utility expenses for PHAs in no way reflects the reality that these provisions and many others to consider these bills properly and through the conference process. Bringing the Senate version of this bill to the floor ignores the will of this House and all the hard work Members and aides of the aisle have put into the process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on the legislation.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlwoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), a member of our subcommittee.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I have to agree with my colleagues today. This is not the bill that the House approved or that has everything that we have worked on within this subcommittee to get into law to help fund those programs that are so vital to families at home and across this country, but we are here today trying to get the Senate to accept “yes” for an answer, because what is critical is that we reopen government.

President Trump is holding 800,000 Federal employees hostage, and that ripples out to millions of Americans who rely on government not just for a paycheck, but for those critical services, whether they are border security or TSA agents, the FHI, food programs, or vital housing and transportation services.

Specifically, the Federal Housing Administration has stopped processing loans and mortgage approvals, putting families trying to buy a new home or refinance an FHA-insured mortgage into financial limbo.

I heard a story of one woman who is battling cancer. She has not been able to earn an income, and refinancing her home was the key way that she could continue to have this battle and get the treatments that she needs and give her family the money to survive and meet their basic needs. With the closing of FHA, she is unable to get those documents and be able to refinance her house.

This shutdown is also threatening to destabilize more than 4 million households that depend on HUD’s rental assistance programs.

The phones are ringing off the hook in my office in D.C. and back home in Massachusetts. We heard just this week from a retired Federal employee from North Carolina who called because she lives in affordable housing and is required to prove her income to renew her lease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Kildee). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman.
Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN), another new Member of the House, who, as she will tell us, has a special reason, given her district, to understand the impact of this shutdown.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman-designate PRICE for recognizing me so that I can express my support for this legislation and discuss my grave concern about how the government shutdown is affecting my congressional district and the Nation.

Simply put, this shutdown is an issue of national security and safety. Many of the approximately 18,000 Federal Government employees and contractors who live in my district are adversely affected by the government’s closure.

Specifically, the FAA’s Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center is one of the employers in Oklahoma, with more than 5,000 employees and contractors, and up to 2,000 students who attend the air traffic controller and aviation training school.

The Monroney Center is not only important to Oklahoma City, but it is a critical piece of our Nation’s infrastructure, which supports more than 45,000 air traffic control centers worldwide.

Today, more than 1,000 employees have been furloughed and another 600 are working without pay. Additionally, all of the air traffic controller and aviation students have been sent home.

To put this in context, the Monroney Center is the only one of its kind in the entire United States, but today the doors are shuttered and all training has ceased. The longer the shutdown continues, the longer it will take for training to resume.

To make matters worse, the Monroney Center still hasn’t recovered from the 2013 sequester, and currently the FAA is at a 30-year air traffic controller staffing low.

Yesterday, I met with an air traffic controller from Oklahoma who expressed his concerns about the immense stress and strain for controllers that the choked-off pipeline is causing. This is both an economic and domestic national security issue, and I am very concerned that the government shutdown may affect the safety and security of Americans traveling.

My constituents sent me to Washington to work hard on their behalf, and I am proud to have voted for several measures to reopen the government since I was sworn in last week.

It is time to get the government back on track. It is time we use common sense, roll up our sleeves, and do the job that we were sent here to do.

There is a time and a place to debate border security, which is a complex problem that I firmly believe must be addressed.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, however, we should never risk the air safety and security of this country. The health and future of the National Aeronautical Infrastructure should not be a pawn in a political game.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation to fund the Department of Transportation, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL), another of our new Members.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am speaking with you today because it is past time to reopen critical functions of our government.

Aerospace and aviation are the backbone of my district. I just came from speaking with aviation professionals who are employed by the FAA, as well as pilots and other impacted organizations. It has never been more clear to me that this is a crisis of both safety and national security.

Air traffic controllers are given the task of ensuring that millions of passengers a day fly safely. Thousands of support professionals are furloughed or not working. They include specialists who provide tactical, strategic, and administrative support, and this puts Americans across the country in danger.

I have spoken to air traffic controllers in my district who are picking up second jobs in order to pay their bills and feed their kids.

Just yesterday, Christy, a veteran and mother of two, came all the way from D.C. just to let me know that the hardships that this shutdown has put her family through.

We can’t afford these men and women to be operating at anything less than 100 percent. We need to pass this bill today and get our civil servants, our veterans back to work and protect all American citizens.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and I am prepared to close.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first again commend the chairman. This is an individual who I know always works in good faith, and I look forward to working with him on border security.

But, Mr. Speaker, I think it is very clear that we say what we are doing here today. This bill that already passed last week will not reopen government.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what potentially could have reopened government. You see, I went to the Rules Committee on Tuesday with an amendment, Mr. Speaker. The amendment was very simple. It has very strong bipartisan support. I think it could have been a way to reopen the government.

It basically was the Dream Act, to legalize all the Dreamers that has been cosponsored by every Democrat in this body last Congress, along with also legalizing all the folks who are here under the TPS program, and then funding for the National Aeronautical Infrastructure Act. I do not think that should not be partisan and controversial, issues that the Members across the aisle and the leadership—let me talk about the leadership across the aisle—said that they support.

Mr. Speaker, you want to know if there is good faith to reopen this government. That showed it right there. No, this bill will not reopen the Federal Government, unfortunately. Like last week, this same bill that passed didn’t reopen it. Real efforts to reopen the government. As mentioned, voted down four amendments, voted down a party-line vote.

It is time to get real about reopening the government. It is time to get real about passing a real T-HUD bill. Let’s get back to the people’s business. This is not a way to do it. This is a sham.

Again, I am grateful to the chairman because I know he is working in good faith, but this effort is not in good faith, so we must vote it down to get back to doing the real business of the people.

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to end this Trump shutdown. It is self-inflicted, costly, damaging, and dangerous. It is up to Congress to end it.

Speaker after speaker on the Republican side this afternoon have looked somewhat wistfully at the bills that passed the House Appropriations Committee in the prior Congress. They longed for the chance to consider funding bills that reflect compromise between the House and the Senate, the equivalent of conference agreements, that we negotiated last year.

Do we prefer those bills, Mr. Speaker? Of course, we do. But we missed our opportunity to pass those bills in September and we missed it again in December, when Republicans controlled all the levers of government.

Now the new Democratic majority is forced to clean up this mess in the middle of the Trump shutdown. This bill...
would reopen DOT and HUD, and it would provide billions in critical transportation and housing investments for our communities, families, and businesses.

This bill, and others on the floor this week, is the best way to make it as easy as possible for the Senate to say yes. That is what this is all about, Mr. Speaker: the Senate to say yes and end this shutdown. They have already said yes to these bills.

I remind my colleagues and the Senate leadership of another interesting fact, this bill, and other bills, can become law, even if the President were to withhold his signature.

If you vote against this bill, you are enabling the irresponsible behavior of the President and you are telling the American people that you are willing to hold our government hostage for a boondoggle border wall.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and end the Trump shutdown.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY19 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. This bill protects Americans who are being kicked out into the street in the dead of winter, ensures the safety of our skies, and quite literally, keeps our country moving.

This bill pays our hardworking air traffic controllers and reopens our air traffic training facilities. It allows our highway safety agencies to get back to work, including the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which investigates automotive defects and formulates automotive safety standards.

This bill ensures the National Transportation Safety Board can continue its investigations into deadly road, rail, marine, and aviation accidents, as well as its issuance of safety recommendations that drive policy changes that save thousands of lives.

This bill also reopens HUD, ensuring families aren’t evicted due to this unnecessary shutdown. It enables FHA loans to be processed for prospective homebuyers across the nation, and it protects renters who rely on HUD inspections to ensure safe and sanitary housing.

Finally, it allows the FAA to resume its issuance of aviator and engineer certifications, as well as its development and testing of next generation safety technologies.

Without these vital functions, our economy will be dragged to a halt, and American families will be left in the cold. I will be voting yes on this bill, and I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will do the same.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support this appropriations bill, which would fund the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

Air traffic is fast becoming one of the most disturbing points of contention in this shutdown fracas.

The world’s largest pilots’ union recently warned in a letter to the Trump administration that air safety could be threatened by the shutdown.

About 10,000 FAA air traffic controllers have been deemed essential and asked to perform a vital public safety function without pay.

These men and women are dedicated, hard-working professionals. But this situation is unfair and untenable.

Soon, many of these vital air safety workers will begin to face financial hardship. We cannot reasonably expect them to work without pay.

On top of this, the FAA has fewer safety inspectors on the job than are needed to ensure that our air traffic control system is operating maximally.

On the ground, state transportation projects are being halted because the federal government often pays up to 90 percent of road projects.

With the Department of Transportation shuttered, road projects nationwide are stalling as federal payments to states are delayed. Americans who rely on the Department of Housing and Urban Development may face hardship, too. Due to the shutdown, HUD has stopped conducting inspections at assisted housing units.

Residents of these housing units depend on these inspections to ensure proper upkeep of their homes. Failure to inspect means that recalls of automotive defects will not occur.

Drug, and most food-related activities.

The FAA training academy in Oklahoma City is closed, slowing the training of new air traffic controllers, despite shortages of qualified staff nationwide.

Additionally, the issuance of FAA airmen certificates that are required for the crew of international carriers that transit through the U.S. has been suspended—the issuance of airmen certificates which are mandatory for becoming a student, private, or commercial pilot; flight engineer, navigator, or attendant; or other aviation-related professions.

These are among the many reasons I strongly support H.R. 267, which is virtually identical to legislation that has already passed the Senate on a 92–6 vote.

This legislation will reopen the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development and stop some of the worst impacts of the Trump Shutdown on families, businesses, and communities.

The bill provides $71.4 billion in discretionary funding, $23.3 billion above the President’s budget request and $1.1 billion above the FY2018 enacted level.

The total includes more than $17 billion in funding for new infrastructure projects, in addition to $49 billion for infrastructure from dedicated fuel and aviation taxes.

And the bill rejects the President’s deep cuts to Public and Indian Housing and Community Planning and Development.

The bill also rejects President Trump’s proposed elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and the Choice Neighborhood Initiative.

Mr. Speaker, it is well that we take stock of the human toll caused by the Trump Shutdown, which is now entering its third week. 420,000 federal employees are working without pay.

Frontline employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, have been working without pay since December 22, including 14,000 FBI agents, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents, 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

400,000 Federal Employees have been furloughed.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Transportation, the Department of Commerce, and NASA have been furloughed without pay, putting them and their families into uncertainty.

The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) has stopped processing loans and mortgage approvals, putting families trying to buy a new home or refinance an FHA-insured mortgage into financial limbo.

IRS Customer Service Halted, Tax Return Processing Jeopardized.

Walk-in taxpayer assistance centers and all taxpayer customer service, which serves approximately 2.5 million citizens monthly, is unavailable during the shutdown.

Electronic and paper tax returns submitted by taxpayers will not be processed, leading to backlogs that will potentially delay tax refunds.

The Food and Drug Administration cannot accept any regulatory submissions and cannot support many routine regulatory and compliance activities.

This includes some medical product, animal drug, and most food-related activities.

The FDA also cannot conduct routine establishment inspections, which could prevent the finding and correction of violations, especially for food safety.

A shutdown beyond January would cause the Food and Nutrition Service to reduce benefits by about 40 percent to almost 40 million

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Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Yes, in its current form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Diaz-Balart moves to recommit the bill, H.R. 267, to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Page 83, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $71,000,000)".

Page 102, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $71,000,000)".

Mr. Diaz-Balart (during the reading).

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. Diaz-Balart. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit restores a House priority that had overwhelming support when we put together the FY 2019 T-HUD bill during the last Congress.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, our House bill last year placed a high priority on increasing housing opportunities for people living with disabilities. We heard from members of humanitarian groups, nonprofits, and religious organizations, frankly, just from our communities, on the importance of ensuring that the disabled have humane housing options.

Our bill, therefore, last year included $380 million for this program, to provide over 20,000 additional housing vouchers for people with disabilities. These vouchers help some of the neediest among us live, frankly, with dignity.

The program provides a critical life line for families who struggle to care for the severely disabled. And it prevents, frankly, worst-case scenarios where severely disabled individuals would otherwise face homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, this motion is a reasonable, partial restoration of funding for this program. This modest motion partially restores the disability voucher cuts that my colleagues are offering and adds more than $71 billion to partially re-open the government.

There was a report this week that thousands of families could be evicted because HUD officials forgot about Section 8 contracts that expired last month.

Let me reiterate: families could become homeless—in the middle of winter—because these Trump officials couldn’t keep track of this program.

Mr. Speaker, this is just downright unacceptable. And it’s hurting people across the country.

Im my home district, renovations on an affordable housing project have been put on hold because of this shutdown.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2019 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill, which provides more than $71 billion to partially re-open the government.

Families living in housing supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) deserve to know they will have a roof over their heads.

This bill ensures that struggling families are not evicted from their homes because of the Trump Administration’s incompetence and cruelty.

There is an affordable housing crisis in this country.

Mr. Speaker, there is a housing crisis in this country, Mr. Speaker. A delay in projects like this will mean fewer people have a place to rest their heads at night.

These families deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, the Trump shutdown is hurting real families and it’s hurting our economy.

Let’s pass this bill to reopen the government, and make sure families can stay in their homes.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McRae). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 28, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

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.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. Diaz-Balart. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. Diaz-Balart. Yes, in its current form.
Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill, because the longest government shutdown in a close. We are on the verge of having the Department of Transportation to delay tenants aren't evicted. The uncertainty compensated for the work they have done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas are ordered.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX. The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PROTECTING DIPLOMATS FROM SURVEILLANCE THROUGH CONSUMER DEVICES ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 115) to require the Department of State to establish a policy regarding the use of location-tracking consumer devices by employees at diplomatic and consular facilities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 115

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 "Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act."

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT

(a) POLICY ON LOCATION-TRACKING CONSUMER DEVICES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall establish a policy on the use of location-tracking consumer devices, including devices, imported or manufactured in the United States diplomatic and consular facilities by United States Government employees, contractors, locally employed staff, and members of other agencies deployed to or stationed at such facilities.

(b) SECURITY BRIEFING.—Existing and new employees at United States diplomatic and consular facilities, including contractors, locally employed staff, and members of other agencies deployed to or stationed at such facilities, shall, as a part of the security briefings provided to them, be informed of the policy described in subsection (a) and given instructions on the use of location-tracking consumer devices both on and off the premises of such facilities.

(c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of State shall coordinate with the heads of any other agencies whose employees are deployed to or stationed at United States diplomatic and consular facilities in the formulation of the policy described in subsection (a) and the dissemination of such policy pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the formulation of the policy described in subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the details of such policy.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 115, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the request of the gentleman from New York? There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, before I talk about the bill, I want to very briefly acknowledge the fact that this is the first debate we have had with bills in the Foreign Affairs Committee since the new Congress. I want to welcome Mr. McCaul to the very important position—which I had for the past 6 years—of ranking member. And I know that, as chairman, the Foreign Affairs Committee for the past 6 years has had a record of being the most bipartisan committee in the Congress, and that the respect that all Members have shown each other will continue the tradition of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to working with Mr. McCaul in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 115, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act. I thank Mr. Castro for introducing this legislation.

Before I get into the merits of this particular bill, which is designed to protect diplomats from cyber snooping, I would be remiss if I failed to express my deep concern that thousands of Department of State employees and diplomats are furloughed without pay.

I am hearing stories of State Department officials struggling to make ends meet, taking up street jobs and having garage sales to stay afloat. By keeping America’s diplomats away from their jobs, we are harming our national security. We need to end this shutdown, and we need to end it now.

Now, will turn up to the excellent bill before us today. This measure aims to ensure the Department of State has policies in place to help prevent our adversaries from tracking the locations
of our foreign service officers through their electronic devices.

From Fitbits and smartwatches to phones and cars, most of us have at least one tracking device with us at all times. Many of us would literally be lost without these devices, but they pose security risks as well.

This common sense measure would make sure the Secretary of State has a policy in place on using location tracking consumer devices at our diplomatic and consular facilities around the world.

This is a good bill that passed the House unanimously in the last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage again today.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Let me first congratulate Mr. Engel on his ascension to the chairmanship of the Foreign Affairs Committee. I can't think of a better chairman to work with than Mr. Engel, who is always bipartisan in the sense that partisanship stops at the water's edge. And I know, being a national security committee, that we will conduct ourselves with dignity and respect for each other. We may disagree from time to time, but we will always respect each other. I look forward to working with him in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill I sponsored with Mr. Castro of Texas, the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act.

Last year, a report revealed the risk of using wearable technologies such as Fitbits and Apple watches which use GPS tracking. As the report stated, researchers were able to track the movements of deployed troops in overseas locations. This obviously poses an enormous security risk for our soldiers overseas. Enemies could track patrol routes and the location of secret foreign installments.

This exposure puts our diplomats at risk as well. We have men and women engaging in diplomatic efforts all over the world, often in sensitive and high-risk areas. We must not make it easier for our enemies to track their movements.

As such, our bill requires the Department of State to establish a policy on the use of location tracking consumer devices at U.S. facilities around the world. We introduced this bill last year, and it passed in a large bipartisan fashion.

I want to thank Mr. Castro for his leadership, as well as Chairman Engel for his important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support.

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

Mr. Engel. Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me without this important legislation. I urge my colleagues to support.

The State Department is the critical go-between when dealing with our foreign affairs and foreign policy, and this act will expand their duties by protecting the privacy rights of Diplomats and resident employees in this new age of technology.

I urge my colleagues to support the measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I think protecting our diplomats and ensuring sensitive and classified information is a national security issue. This bill does that.

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

Mr. Castro of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Chairman Engel's leadership on the Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to continue working with Chairman Engel to advance U.S. foreign policy and national security this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Foreign Service Officers voluntarily serve in some of the most dangerous parts of the world to advance U.S. national interests and security abroad.

Changing technology forces us to adapt our security practices to ensure our diplomats' safety. This includes threats posed by location-tracking consumer devices that reveal physical locations and movements.

I was glad to introduce the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act last week with Ranking Member McCaul.

This legislation requires the State Department to account for location-tracking consumer devices in broader U.S. embassy and consulate security policies.

As lawmakers, we have a moral obligation to ensure our men and women in the line of duty have the protections they deserve.

This legislation, Protecting our nation's frontline civilians is not a partisan issue, it's an American issue. We must ensure our security policies and practices nimbly adapt to evolving technologies and tactics used by our enemies.

That's why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure.

Ms. Jackson Lee. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 115 the "Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act".

This legislation requires the State Department to establish a policy on location-tracking consumer devices used for diplomatic and consular facilities.

Protecting our nation's frontline civilians is not a partisan issue, it's an American issue. We must ensure our security policies and practices nimbly adapt to evolving technologies and tactics used by our enemies.

That's why I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, in this day and age, most smart phone users have location-tracking apps open on their device at all times; an estimated 90 percent of smart phone users in 2015 use location-based services, and have them on all the time.

For example, weather apps, which an estimated 65 percent of adults share their location with and check daily, require the users' locations to provide accurate weather information.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Speaker pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Engel) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 115.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 115) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico is agreed to.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

**UNITED STATES-MEXICO ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP ACT**

Mr. Engel. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 133) to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

**SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.** This Act may be cited as the "United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act".

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.** Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States and Mexico have benefitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

(2) In 2013, Mexico adopted major energy reforms that opened its energy sector to private investment, increasing energy cooperation between Mexico and the United States and opening new opportunities for United States energy engagement.

(3) On January 18, 2018, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State stated, "Our exchange programs build enduring relationships and networks to advance U.S. national interests and foreign policy goals. The role of our exchanges in advancing U.S. national security and economic interests enjoys broad bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders, and provides a strong return on investment."

(4) According to the Institute of International Education, in the 2015-2016 academic year, more than 56,000 United States students studied in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region while more than 80,000 United States students from the region studied in the United States, but only 5,000 of those United States students studied...
in Mexico and only 16,000 of those non-United States students were from Mexico.

(5) In March 2011, the United States launched the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative, which seeks to increase educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region so that 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

(6) In January 2014, the United States established the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund, which seeks to reaffirm and to reach the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facilitating a public-private partnership between the Department of State and institutions, such as multinational organizations, corporations, and universities in the United States and other countries of the Western Hemisphere region.

(7) To date, the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund has awarded more than 100 grants to more than 250 higher education institutions from 25 countries in the Western Hemisphere region, and has raised $9,000,000 in investments, 75 percent of which was from corporations, foundations, and regional governments.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to continue deepening economic cooperation between the United States and Mexico and

(2) to seek to prioritize and expand educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO PRIORITIZE AND EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH MEXICO.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to carry out the policy described in section 3, to include prioritizing and expanding educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) encourage more academic exchanges between the United States and Mexico at the secondary, post-secondary, and post-graduate level with community colleges and through academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academics and business leaders to collaborate to assist prospective and developing entrepreneurs in strengthening their business skills and promoting cooperation and joint business initiatives across the United States and Mexico, with a focus on initiatives in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(3) promote energy infrastructure coordination and cooperation through support of vocational-level education, internships, and exchanges between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the region in which the Eagle Ford Shale is located and in proximity to such region; and

(4) assess the feasibility of fostering partnerships between universities in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in Mexico to ensure that medical school and nursing programs in Mexico have comparable education standards to those in the United States and medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Education Commission For Education in Nursing, so that medical students can pass nursing licensing exams, and nursing students can pass nursing licensing exams, in the United States.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to Congress a report on the strategy required under subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) 100,000 STRONG IN THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE.—The term "100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative" means the initiative established in March 2011 by the United States Government to increase educational exchanges in the Western Hemisphere.

(2) COVERED UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER REGION.—The term "United States-Mexico border region" means those portions of the United States and Mexico that are within 100 kilometers of the international boundary between those countries.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. McCaul be a coauthor of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure. I thank Representative CUELLAR for introducing this measure, and I will discuss its merits in a moment.

But I can't stand in good conscience on the House floor to talk about our economic partnership with Mexico and not speak for a moment on what is happening right now on our southern border.

The government is currently shut down, with thousands of workers furloughed and prevented from doing their jobs. This is something that should be ameliorated quickly. Government should open.

The measure before us today deals with the incredibly important relationship with our neighbor to the south, Mexico. Mexico is our close friend and ally and a country with which we have extraordinarily close cultural and personal ties.

This bill builds on the Obama administration's 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative by requiring the Secretary of State to expand the exchange programs and allow our students and business leaders to share and learn from each other.

It is also crucial that we send a strong message to the Mexican people that the United States Congress will not walk away from them despite the damage done to the relationship.

As I have said many times in the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on the House floor, the United States should be in the business of building bridges, not walls, to our friends in Mexico.

By passing this measure today, the House of Representatives is recommitting itself to our bilateral relationship. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of the U.S.-Mexico Economic Partnership Act authored by my good friend and fellow Texan, Mr. CUELLAR.

As a native Texan, I know how critical the U.S.-Mexico relationship is to the prosperity and security of our two nations. And as the former chairman of the U.S.-Mexico IPG, I had the honor of leading congressional delegations to sit down with our Mexican counterparts to discuss bilateral issues, such as trade and security, and just recently went down for the President's inauguration. These legislative exchanges have been imperative for furthering the relationship between our two nations.

However, we must look beyond traditional and shared connections and foster cultural and academic partnerships and grow the U.S.-Mexico relationship among the younger generations. This bill achieves that goal by creating academic exchanges in the private sector that are focused on health and energy. This academic pipeline will strengthen our energy infrastructure and develop new generations of medical professionals who could work in both of our countries.

This bill builds on the economic growth initiatives and the recently negotiated USMCA trade agreement, and it promotes the U.S.-Mexico relationship at the committee level.

Again, as I mentioned just a few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of attending the inauguration of President Lopez Obrador, and I was honored to meet many of my colleagues. Our two countries have a very proud history together, and I think these are times, trying times, as the chairman mentioned, but I think that is why this bill is so important. I think we have a brighter future together between our two nations. I urge my colleagues to support it to strengthen this relationship.

In closing, I would like to once again thank Mr. CUELLAR for leading this message. Growing up in Texas, I dealt with our Mexican counterpart, their largest trading partner, have done a lot with Mexico. When I was in the Attorney General's office, I met with Mexico periodically, and also as a Member of Congress.

This is an important relationship between our countries. While there have been moments of disagreement, I think it is important that our countries remain allies and we are friends with our neighbors to the south.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to close by again emphasizing the importance of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.}
Twenty years ago, it would have been hard to imagine coming to the House floor in support of a bipartisan bill on educational exchanges with Mexico. Now, a bill like this will glide through the House with little, if any, opposition, just as it did last year. But we cannot take it for granted. We have to keep on working with Mexico to improve our relationship.

I thank my colleagues for supporting me and joining me in supporting this legislation to build on the successes in the U.S.-Mexico partnership, and I urge its immediate passage.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 133, the “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” that promotes economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico.

The “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” strategy predominantly focuses on academic, business and medical exchanges.

The United States and Mexico have benefited from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both nations.

In March 2011, the United States launched the “100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative”, which increased educational exchanges between the United States and other countries in the Western Hemisphere region.

The 100,000 United States students are studying in other countries in the Western Hemisphere region and 100,000 non-United States students from the region are studying in the United States per year by 2020.

The “United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act” would expand the educational and professional exchange programs with Mexico, including through the framework of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative.

In the 18th Congressional District of Texas, the Houston Independent School District is educating nearly 3,500 immigrant students in their first year in American school systems.

The state’s largest district of Texas has more than 11,000 immigrant students who have been here for three or less than three years.

Rene´ Sanchez, the principal of Cesar E. Chavez High School located in the 18th district and the son of Mexican immigrants made statements to incoming high schoolers.

"Many of you were not in Houston last year, were not in the United States, yet we’re holding you to the same standards as students living in the United States all their lives,” said Rene´ Sanchez.

High school students like Sophia Martinez, an 18-year-old senior from Mexico have been in Houston for nearly two years and speak near-fluently but stumble over the essay section.

For these students and reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 133.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question of the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 133. The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 192) to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 192

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 “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, launched in 2005, is an interagency program to assist partner countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address terrorist threats and prevent the spread of violent extremism;

(2) armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, the Islamic State of West Africa, and other affiliated groups, have killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, displaced populations, destabilized local and national governments, and caused mass human suffering in the affected communities;

(3) it is in the national security interest of the United States to combat the spread of radical Islamist extremism and build partner countries’ capacity to combat these threats in Africa;

(4) extremist movements exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance; and

(5) to address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions of Africa, a coordinated, interagency approach is needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, deconflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development assistance.

SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHLRA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Design:

(1) Establishment.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a partnership, to be known as the “Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership” (TSCTP), to coordinate and support all United States government programs, projects, and activities in North and West Africa that are conducted for any of the following purposes:

(A) To build the capacity of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to conduct counterterrorism operations.

(B) To improve the ability of foreign military and law enforcement entities in such regions to cooperate with the United States and other partner countries on countering terrorism efforts.

(C) To enhance the border security capacity of partner countries in such regions, including the ability to monitor, restrain, and interdict terrorists.

(D) To strengthen the rule of law in such countries, including access to justice, and the ability of the law enforcement entities of such partner countries to detect, disrupt, respond to, investigate, and prosecute terrorist activity.

(E) To monitor and counter the financing of terrorism.

(F) To further reduce any vulnerabilities among affected populations in such regions to recruitment or incitement of terrorist activity or to financial support for terrorists, such as supporting youth employment, promoting meaningful participation of women, strengthening local governance and civil society capacity, and improving access to economic opportunities and education.

(G) To support independent, local-language media, particularly in the region, counter media operations and recruitment propaganda by terrorist organizations.

(b) Consultation.—In coordinating programs through the TSCTP, the Secretary of State shall also consult, as appropriate, with the Director of National Intelligence, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media (formerly known as the Broadcasting Board of Governors), and the heads of other relevant Federal departments.

(c) Congressional notification.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to paragraph (a), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 684A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), that includes the following:

(1) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1).

(2) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(3) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the assistance to be provided.

(4) The estimated cost and anticipated implementation timeline for assistance.

(e) As applicable, a description of the arrangements to sustain any equipment provided by the activity beyond the completion date of such activity, if applicable, and the estimated cost and source of funds to support such sustainment.

(f) The amount, type, statutory authorization, and purpose of any United States security assistance provided to such foreign country during the three preceding fiscal years pursuant to authorities under title 10, United States Code, and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), or any other “train and equip” authorities of the Department of Defense.

(g) Comprehensive Strategy for Counterterrorism Efforts.—

(1) Development.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, interagency strategy that—

(A) states the objectives of the United States counterterrorism effort in North and West Africa with respect to the use of all forms of United States assistance to counter violent extremism;

(B) includes a plan by the Secretary of State for the manner in which programs shall be coordinated by the TSCTP pursuant to subsection (a)(1), including which agency or bureau of the Department of State, as applicable, will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program; and

(C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate TSCTP programs to identify key indicators that will be used to measure performance and progress under the strategy.
Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which already passed the House last year, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 192, the "Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership Act," which will help to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure and state again that I look forward to working closely with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Mr. KEATING for his work on this measure and state again that I look forward to working closely with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

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Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Mr. KEATING for his work on this measure and state again that I look forward to working closely with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Mr. MCCAUL for his work on this measure and state again that I look forward to working closely with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 192, the "Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Partnership Act," which will help to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

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Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure and state again that I look forward to working closely with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to support this important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.
caused mass human suffering in the affected communities.

As Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are being driven out of the Middle East, Africa is becoming the new battleground for their terrorist attacks.

According to the Environmental System Research Institute, in the last four years, terrorist attacks have killed 31,600 people in 4,455 attacks in Africa.

Boko Haram alone caused more than 8,000 fatalities across Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

Boko Haram have taken control of the former commercial town of Baga near the border with Chad, which caused the displacement of hundreds of people.

Armed groups and violent Islamist terrorist organizations exploit vulnerable and marginalized communities suffering from poverty, lack of economic opportunity (particularly among youth populations), and weak governance.

Youth populations are more likely to join an expanding terrorist network in West and Central Africa, which makes the region more likely to be involved in violent attacks.

Al-Qaeda and ISIS recruited in Tunisia 6,500 youth volunteers.


On October 6, 2017, a terrorist attack killed more than 300 people, injured nearly 400 and leveled an entire block in Mogadishu, Somalia.

That is why it is important that we vote today to implement the following recommendations from the report:

To establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel and humanitarian challenges in these regions can assist its partner countries to:

- Combat anti-Semitism and combat anti-Semite threats in Africa.
- Establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel and humanitarian challenges in these regions.
- Combat anti-Semitism and combat anti-Semite threats in Africa.

H.R. 192 follows the recommendation from the report and ensures that the U.S. Congress can assist its partner countries to:

- Address critical security, political, economic, and humanitarian challenges in these regions.
- Establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel and humanitarian challenges in these regions.
- Combat anti-Semitism and combat anti-Semite threats in Africa.

H.R. 192 is a step in the right direction because it will help to establish an interagency program to assist countries in the Sahel and Maghreb regions of Africa on their immediate and long-term capabilities to address and prevent the spread of violent extremism.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 192.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.
We must have a senior official push back against intolerance and hatred of anti-Semitism. American leadership is desperately needed in the fight against this ancient form of hatred. I am sick and tired of foot-dragging on filling this critical role.

This is why I am glad we are moving this bill forward. This legislation would elevate the Special Envoy position and require the President to put forward a nominee no more than 120 days after a vacancy. This is essential for maintaining a prolonged vacancy like we have right now never happens again. We must have a senior State Department official dedicated to coordinating U.S. Government efforts to combat anti-Semitism abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this measure. I ask my colleagues to join me in doing so, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am in strong support of this bill to ensure that American efforts to fight the scourge of anti-Semitism are as strong as possible.

In December, the European Union released the results of a survey of over 16,500 Jews. The results of this survey are, frankly, disturbing.

In its report, the EU wrote that anti-Semitism pervades everyday life. It also stated that anti-Semitism undermines Jews’ feelings of safety and security and makes it hard to maintain normal living. It is so common that it becomes normalized.

Europe is not alone in seeing a resurgence of anti-Semitism. Textbooks across the Middle East teach children to hate Jews. Malaysia’s Prime Minister has repeated offensive, anti-Semitic statements. Here in the United States, we were devastated by the attack on a Pittsburgh synagogue in October. No region or country is immune from anti-Semitism.

In 2004, the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act was passed into law, establishing a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. This position was created to combat this threat worldwide through bilateral relationships and international organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations. Fifteen years later, we need to modernize the way our government is set up to fight this hatred.

This bipartisan bill, which has been previously introduced in the House and passed in the House, requires the President to appoint a Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. The bill also elevates the Special Envoy position to the rank of Ambassador and ensures direct access to the Secretary of State. It is finally time for the stature of this position to reflect the level of work that must be done.

Unfortunately, a Special Envoy has yet to be nominated under this administration, and I strongly urge the President to appoint a qualified candidate as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Congressman Chris Smith for introducing this important bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. Engel. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), who is the Democratic lead on this bill.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of, the bipartisan Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act, H.R. 221. I thank Representative Chris Smith for introducing this bill and Ranking Member McCaul for their leadership in bringing it to the floor today.

I am sad to see that we live in a time when anti-Semitism is again on the rise across our globe. Last fall, the entire world was shocked by the shooting in Pittsburgh of 11 Jews at prayer in the Tree of Life synagogue, the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in our country's history.

Here in the United States, according to the Anti-Defamation League, anti-Semitic incidents increased 57 percent in the U.S. alone in 2017 compared to the previous year. In the European Union, a survey found that European Jewish communities fear attacks and rated anti-Semitism on the Internet and social media as the biggest social and political problem.

A Kantor study on contemporary anti-Semitism immediately following the 2018 attack on the Tree of Life synagogue, the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in our country's history. That study found that Europe’s largest Jewish communities are experiencing normalization and mainstreaming of anti-Semitism not seen since the Second World War.

The United States has an important leadership role to play in tamping out hate both here and around the world. That is why I am concerned that the State Department Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism remains unfilled, as it has since the start of the Trump administration. Our bill would elevate this role to a position of proper importance at the ambassadorial rank and sets requirements to ensure the role is filled within 90 days.

We need to do all we can to support our allies and combat anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it manifests itself. Hate is truly a cancer that eats away at our foundations. What may first begin as words can fester and manifest into discrimination, violence, or worse.

I am proud this House passed our bill overwhelmingly in the last Congress but disappointed that the Senate did not take action. I am pleased that this is a priority at the start of this new Congress, and I hope the Senate will follow our lead and take up this important legislation. I hope the President will take note and pass this legislation and fill this long-overdue vacancy.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SRUHR), who is the author of this bill.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McCaul for yielding and for his very strong support of this legislation. And Eliot Engel, the new chairman, I thank him as well. I thank Brad Schneider for being the original Democratic cosponsor.

This is a bipartisan bill. In the last Congress, we had 86 cosponsors. Even in this Congress, we already have gotten up to 80 cosponsors. It shows that we can reach across the aisle and fight this pernicious evil called anti-Semitism.

In 2004, Mr. Speaker, I authored the provisions of law that created and required this position and the office it leads at the State Department. H.R. 221 upgrades and strengthens the position to better anticipate, prevent, mitigate, and respond to threats against Jewish communities worldwide.

H.R. 221 elevates the Special Envoy to the rank of Ambassador, reporting directly to the Secretary of State. This would enable sufficient seniority and access inside the U.S. Government and with foreign governments.

The bill requires the President to nominate a candidate no later than 90 days—and all the Presidents from Bush to Obama, and now, sadly, under President Trump, have been very late in forwarding a nominee. That is why I am glad we are moving this bill.

There was a nominee for the Special Envoy, but because of illness or a health crisis, that person was not named. But we—all of us—have asked the President to name that person and to act quickly.

This bill requires, as I said, to do it no later than 90 days after the bill becomes law and no later than 120 days thereafter whenever that position is empty.

H.R. 221 prohibits double-hatting of the Special Envoy with duties irrelevant to combating anti-Semitism. The legislation also mandates the Special Envoy to be the primary adviser to the U.S. Government on monitoring and combating anti-Semitism.

Far too often, Mr. Speaker, over the decades, the U.S. Government has put combating anti-Semitism, human trafficking, and religious freedom violations in the back seat of our foreign policy. That is why Congress has created offices and positions to ensure the United States was focused on fighting these evils.

Over the past decades, there has been an unprecedented rise in anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions around the world: Jews harassed, assaulted, and even murdered; synagogues attacked; graves and cemeteries desecrated; anti-Semitic slurs; plus targeting the State of Israel itself with the three Ds—demobilizations, double-standard, and delegitimization. My good friend, the great Soviet Jewish refusenik and delegitimization, as my good friend, the great Soviet Jewish refusenik and religious prisoner Natan Sharansky named them. The so-called BDS movement to boycott, divest from, and sanction Israel is one of the most pernicious examples of what Sharansky called the new anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitic hatred is hardwired into the ideology of violent Islamist...
Mr. BILIRAKIS, the cosponsor of this bill, that Jews and people of all faiths are free to practice their religion without fear or harm.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Engel for his friendship and for the good work we did these years, as well. Again, I also thank Representative SMITH, my good friend, for sponsoring this piece of legislation.

As co-chair of the International Religious Freedom Caucus, I rise in strong support of H.R. 221, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.

The Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism was established by the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act. The Special Envoy develops and implements policies and projects to support efforts to combat anti-Semitism globally.

This bill elevates the position to the rank of ambassador, directly reporting to the Secretary of State, sending a clear message to the world regarding our commitment to combating anti-Semitism.

In addition to requiring the position be filled, the bill prevents the appointee from holding any other office, making this a priority and ensuring their sole focus is monitoring and combating the scourge of anti-Semitism.

Throughout history, humanity has experienced evil. Mr. Speaker, Our brightest moments as a Nation were those when we recognized evil and worked together to swiftly and unapologetically defeat it. Our darkest moments were those when we stood by and did nothing while making excuses for our passivity.

Combating anti-Semitism and promoting human rights are pivotal components of American diplomacy and foreign policy. Additionally, dedicated U.S. leadership in this area is crucial, especially at a time when anti-Semitism around the world is dangerously on the rise.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH), one of my fellow co-chairs of a bipartisan task force to combat anti-Semitism.

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Engel for helping to shepherd this legislation through the committee last year and for bringing it to the floor so quickly this year. I thank the ranking member, I thank my fellow co-chairs of the Anti-Semitism Task Force, and I especially want to thank my colleague, CHRIS SMITH, who has been a stalwart ally in combating anti-Semitism and has worked to create and strengthen this position for many years.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, on January 9, 2015, a gunman entered a kosher supermarket in Paris, killing four. Last year, on the anniversary of the Hypercacher shooting, another kosher supermarket in southern Paris was targeted with assault rifles and arson.

Tragically, there have been countless attacks against the Jewish communities of Europe over the last few years, some of which make headlines, but many of which don’t: The anti-Semitic murder of a Holocaust survivor; the man attacked in Germany for wearing a kippah, a Jewish skullcap; the shootings at the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels that killed four; the shooting at a Bat Mitzvah in Copenhagen; an 11-year-old in England attacked on the street as children shouted, “Burn all the Jews;” and White supremacists and anti-Semites marching in European capitals.

Anti-Semitism is certainly not a new phenomenon, but we should expect that the United States Government would take a leading role in tracking, combating, and preventing it. After October 27, 2018, the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in America took place and 11 Jews were gunned down for practicing their religion. America has an obligation to lead. We need a global-facing officer at the State Department who will engage with Members of Congress who will engage Jewish communities and European leaders to make their countries safer for Jews.

We have repeatedly asked this administration to fill the Special Envoy position. They have left it vacant for almost a full year. And we have sent letters to two different Secretaries of State. Members of Congress have sent letters to the White House and the State Department. We have asked administration officials in person about whether they plan to appoint a Special Envoy.

There is bipartisan frustration over the delay.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is the canary in the coal mine. When it is present in your country, there is hatred in your country. I am pleased the House will vote on this bipartisan bill early in this Congress to send a clear message to the administration that there is no time to waste. Democrats and Republicans together expect America and the President to stand firmly against anti-Semitism by filling this important position.

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), my good friend. She and I have districts that border each other.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased to thank Chairman Engel for initiating and working so hard on this absolutely essential issue.

It is really shocking to me, with anti-Semitism spreading throughout Europe and other places in the world, that we don’t have a Special Envoy. I have brought this to the attention of the former Secretary of State. The urgency of this issue demands a person who is focused, with a staff, and working with Members of Congress who share their passion. We need this Special Envoy now.

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

In closing, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for his hard work to ensure that anti-Semitism remains at the top of our country’s foreign policy agenda. I, too, echo my colleagues’ on the other side of the aisle plea to this administration in a bipartisan way to appoint a Special Envoy.
If I can just conclude by saying that I am the son of a World War II veteran. My father was a bombardier on a B-17. He was part of the D-day air campaign. He bombed the Nazis. We saw the horrors of Nazi Germany. I have been to Auschwitz to see the horrors of the gas chambers and the Nazis perpetrated against the Jewish people. We thought it was stamped out then. We thought it was over. And yet it is not. It is hard to believe that so many years later, anti-Semitism and neo-Nazis still exist in this world.

It is my sincere hope, with this Special Envoy we can truly make a difference—the Greatest Generation fought against it—and that this scourge will be eliminated entirely from the planet.

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

Mr. EN格尔. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Has-

Tings).

Mr. HASTings asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.

Mr. HASTings, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this particular measure.

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

In closing, let me say that I strongly support this bipartisan bill. As all of my colleagues have said, we can never become complacent when we see anti-Semitism rear its ugly head. We need to reject it. We need to fight it. We need to shine a light in all the dark corners so it has no place to hide and foster.

What does that look like when it comes to foreign policy?

It starts by appointing a senior diplomat, someone we can point to with confidence and say, “You are leading America’s effort to grapple with this problem around the world.”

The bill would make sure that that seat will not remain vacant the way it has for the last 2 years. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation. I am proud that we have such bipartisan support for this legislation.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 221, the “Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.”

H.R. 221 amends the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to allow the monitoring and combating of Anti-Semitism globally. H.R. 221 requires that the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism be a presi-
dential-appointed and Senate confirmed po-
sition.

This position holds the rank of Ambassador and will report directly to the Secretary of State.

H.R. 221 requires the President nominate a Special Envoy no later than 90 days after the bill’s enactment and no more than 120 days after the position becomes vacant.

Since the passing of the Global Anti-Semi-
tism Review Act of 2004, Congress has found that in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent, threats to Jew-

ish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries these at-
tacks have increased in frequency, scope, vio-

lence, and lethality.

The Kauffman Center, a research department at Tel Aviv University focused on the inter-
disciplinary research of European Jewry from the end of World War II to the present day, re-
corded 327 worldwide major incidents of vio-

lence, vandalism, and desecration in 2017.

This number, 327, does not represent all in-
cidents but major incidents—arson, weapon and weaponless attacks, serious threats, vandalism, and desecration.

Targets of these attacks include people, synagogues, community centers and schools, ceme-
teries and memorial sites, and private property.

There has also been an increase in harass-
ment and abuse, both in person and digitally.

Anti-Semitic attacks are human rights viola-
tions and they need to be treated that way.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 221 which estab-
lishes a Special Envoy that will serve, not only as the primary advisor to the Government, but will also coordinate efforts relating to moni-
toring and combating anti-Semitism showing the United States’ commitment to human rights worldwide.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTings) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 221.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. EN格尔. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was defeated.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pro-
ceedings will resume on questions previ-
ously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:
The motion to reconsider on H.R. 267; Passage of H.R. 371; The motion to reconsider on H.R. 265; and, Passage of H.R. 265.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, remaining elec-

tronic votes will be conducted as 5-

minute votes.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND REL-
ATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 267) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending Sep-
tember 30, 2019, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the mo-
tion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to reconsider.

The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—yeas 193, nays 228, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—193

Abraham
Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Axne
Babin
Baca
Balderson
Banks
Berman
Bugs
Burgos
Bishop (UT)
Bost
Brownsberger
Brooks (AL)
Brooks (IN)
Budd
Burgess
Byrne
Calvert
Carter (GA)
Chabot
Cheney
Clay
Cloud
Cundey
Davila
Davila
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Ferguson
Filipcik
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbe
Fox
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gohmert
Gonzales (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Grisham
Grothman
Grushka
Guthrie
Hagedorn
Harley
Hartler
Herrin
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hilary (AR)
Hollingsworth
Honda
Husize
Huizenga
Hunt
Berkley
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Kelley (IN)
King (IA)
King (NT)
Kimmerer
Kustoff (TN)
LaHood
Lamborn
Latta
Lesko
Long
Loudermilk
Lucido
Luetkemeyer
Marchant
Marino
Marshall
Maes
Maehy
Turley
Waite
Walberg
Walsh
Walden
Walden
Walden
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Bologica
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Buchanan
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
Boydstun
Brindisi
Brownley (CA)
Bustos
Butler
Buck
Byrne
Carr
Cartwright
Carter (GA)
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cunningham
Curtis
Davis, Rodney
Delgado
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Duffy
Duncan
Emmer
Engel
Farr
Farr
Farstad
Ferrer
Flores
Forbes
Fox
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gianforte
Gilchrest
Gohmert
Gonzales (TX)
Gooden
Gosar
Palazzo
Granger
Pence
Graves (MO)
Poe
Ratcliffe
Rose
Rosenthal
Rice (SC)
Righeimer
Roney
Rogers (CA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (FL)
Roe, John W
Rouser
Roy
Rutherford
Scalise
Schewler
Scott, Austin
Shiminus
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spano
Stauber
Stark
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Stivers
Taylor
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tommassoni
Tipton
Turner
Upton
Wagner
Walberg
Walden
Walker
Walski
Waltz
Waskins
Webber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Westrup
Westerman
Williams
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yoho
Young
Zeldin

NAYS—228

Adams
Aguilar
Alfred
Allard
Andrews
Barbargán
Barry
Beatty
Bera
Beyrer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Bustos
Buchanan
Bonamici
Boyle, Brendan
Boydstun
Brindisi
Brown (MD)
Brownley (CA)
Buck
Byrne
Carr
Cartwright
Mr. LA MALFA. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 22.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill. Under clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 244, nays 180, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 23]

YEAS—244
Adams
Aguiar
Allred
Armendariz
Ayer
Bailey
Baker
Baker
Barbarg
Bailey
Bates
Bauer
Baxley
Bennett
Bennett
Bentz
Bettendorf
Bhattacharya
Bhattacharya
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Bingham
Binkley
Bipperly
Bishop
Bishop
Blackburn
Blake
Blumenauer
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Ms. SHALALA and Mr. GALLEGOS changed their vote from "yea" to "nay." So the motion to recommit was rejected.
emergency so he could usurp Congress and trample on our Constitution.

These bully tactics may have worked running his business, but they will not work running our country.

Let me promise the American people right now, Democrats in Congress will fight like hell to slow Trump to waste your hard-earned taxpayer dollars on his ridiculous wall. That is why I have introduced legislation to stop the wall.

My This Land Is Our Land Act will counter the many threats Trump has made to get his money and ineffective wall: It won’t allow him to build it on public land; it won’t allow him to take away people’s private land by using eminent domain; and, most importantly, it won’t allow him to use fake national emergencies.

So let me finish by paraphrasing Ronald Reagan: Mr. Trump, give up your wall.

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

So the bill was passed. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, New York

PREPRINT: TRUMP’S THREAT TO DECLARE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY TO BUILD A BORDER WALL

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has threatened to build his wall and has put out of work over 800,000 Americans through his Trump shutdown, and just today he doubled down on a threat to declare a national border emergency so he could usurp Congress and trample on our Constitution.

These bully tactics may have worked running his business, but they will not work running our country.

Let me promise the American people right now, Democrats in Congress will fight like hell to slow Trump to waste your hard-earned taxpayer dollars on his ridiculous wall. That is why I have introduced legislation to stop the wall.

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Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, New York

SIGN THE BILL AND OPEN UP THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, to the White House: Sign the bill and open up the government.

Today, the President is in my home state, impossible for him to see the entire border on the southern border and to realize that work has been done for almost two decades on barriers, and that is why only 12 known or alleged terrorists have crossed that border as compared to the unfenced northern border, which was where the 2000 terrorists coming across the border as the century turned occurred.

Tomorrow, there will be faithful Federal employees who will not get their money, many in Texas: 9,000 Treasury employees are stationed in Texas, 5,700 Homeland Security; the airports in my district, with 51,000 screeners, may miss their first paychecks; and Johnson Space Center—hardworking Americans.

This is no time for one’s ego or one’s preference of what type of barrier. It is a time for those of us who care about border security, Democrats who give billions of dollars, including $1.3 billion that we gave in this budget and $1.6 billion.

Open the government and pay these people their checks.

I look forward to meeting with Federal employees. Call my office. We want to give you as much help as we can.

Open the government. That is what should be done.

Mr. Speaker, because this President insists on an immoral and ineffective border wall, he has shut down the government and said he would be proud to do it.

This is a presidential temper tantrum. The President clearly does not realize what he asking, and the impact this has on Americans throughout the nation.

In my homestate, I know that the consequences are real—mortgages and rent are not paid, car payments are not being made, spring tuition checks are not being paid, supplemental nutrition assistance.

Texas has 35,694 employees in agencies without appropriations.

With its vast size, Texas accounts for at least a few thousand workers in nearly every major federal agency.

Nearly 9,000 Treasury Department employees are stationed there, along with about 5,700 Homeland Security employees and 4,300 in the Department of Transportation.

Smaller agencies with particularly high concentrations of Texas-based employees include NASA and the Small Business Administration.

The impact to the city of Houston is not insignificant.

Houston is the nation’s fourth largest city, and the shutdown is affecting us acutely.

To get to and from my district, I am proud to fly through George Bush international airport in Houston.

I am proud to say that this airport is in my district, with 51,000 screeners, may miss their first paychecks; and John- son Space Center—hardworking Americans.

Travelers waited in nearly hour-long security lines at New York’s LaGuardia Airport on Monday.
The TSA worries lines may get even longer if more screeners call out sick.

Tomorrow could be a tipping point when 51,000 screeners may miss their first paychecks.

TSA agents are considered essential employees and must report to work even though they aren't getting paid during the shutdown.

Houston is also home to one of the greatest aeronautical institutions all the world—the Johnson Space Center.

There are more than 16,000 NASA employees still out of work as the federal government shutdown continues.

The partial government shutdown impacts 800,000 of the 2.1 million federal workers nationwide, including 16,700 NASA employees, which accounts for 96 percent of the workforce.

Although most of NASA’s employees will be furloughed, those responsible for keeping people and property safe are exempted from the shutdown.

For example, International Space Station operations will continue: about 200 of the 3,055 federal employees at Johnson Space Center in Houston will continue working primarily to keep the three astronauts aboard the space station alive.

But that is only the beginning of the problem.

Houston citizens are unable to seek temporary private sector work because such jobs require permission, and the people who process those requests have been furloughed.

 Federally funded housing programs are in jeopardy as the shutdown stretches on.

For example, rural home loans financed by the USDA are not an option for Texans who were affected by Hurricane Harvey are still waiting for federal aid, and the shutdown won’t make it any easier to get that aid.

 Harris County is putting a hold on Harvey recovery projects that relied in part on federal money.

The Treasury Department’s loss of funding means some Texas wineries and breweries can’t get federal approval of labels allowing them to sell their products to be sold across state lines.

Federal employees are required to work throughout the shutdown without pay, like correctional officers and Border Patrol agents.

Agencies such as the national parks, NASA and some IRS employees have been sent home or furloughed in Houston, Texas.

There are any number of cascading effects—Local restaurants are feeling the impact as well; federal employees who frequent nearby eateries for meals are no longer eating out.

Federal courts are grinding to a halt and national parks are shuttered.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN FREEDOM FUND

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

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of veterans who have come together to found the non-profit American Freedom Fund.

These are—Petty Officer Gabriel Stecker, Major Rob Miller, and Lieutenant Donald Bramer, a fellow Kentuckian—have selflessly taken on an issue that faces many of our veterans when separated from service or returned home from operations abroad, to include loneliness and void of community, preventable circumstances that magnify wounds both seen and unseen.

Through the American Freedom Fund’s mission of athletics, education, and advocacy, their programs have brought hundreds of Active Reserve and veteran servicemembers together to play softball, enjoy sporting events, find their new career, and, more importantly, know that they are never alone.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I commend these patriots and the troops of volunteers that make up the American Freedom Fund for their dedication and continued service to this Nation and its heroes.

SHUTDOWN IS HARMING THE PEOPLE OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to raise the alarm and sound the alarm about the shutdown and how it is harming the people of central Virginia.

Across the country, hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are working without pay or are furloughed, including critical law enforcement personnel. The best way to illustrate the destructive effects of this shutdown is to share a story from one of my constituents in Virginia’s Seventh District. She said to us:

My husband is a Federal employee and the sole provider for our family, and right now, we don’t know when he’ll get paid. Because I got sick last year, we now have less money in the bank, and we’re not sure how we can hold on.

While he could make more money in the private sector, my husband believes that working in a Federal job is his way of making a difference, a public service—and every day, he is proud to go into the office at 5 a.m. to do what he can to serve his country.

One of the hardest days of his life was when he came home and said that earlier that day, he had told those under him that they were furloughed—just days before Christmas.

We are begging you to reopen the government.

This story demonstrates the importance of fixing this mess and reopening the government.

I encourage my colleagues and leadership to act now in a bipartisan way to protect the livelihoods of these hardworking families.

LET’S GET THE GOVERNMENT OPEN NOW

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

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand as a Member of Congress for my first floor speech. I purposely rise to speak about the issue of gun violence and, specifically, H.R. 8.

Last year, 40,000 people in America died of gun violence, over half to suicide. Another 80,000 people were wounded, literally caught in the crossfire.

This week, I was honored to stand with Gabby Giffords—a woman whose public service inspired my own—the Speaker, and Chairman THOMPSON to cosponsor H.R. 8.

Background checks work and the public knows we must pass this legislation to save lives.

As I worked with Gabby Giffords, I was reminded of the words of Robert Frost marking JFK’s inauguration. He wrote: "Courage is the primary...

We must act on that courage.

IT IS UP TO CONGRESS TO ACT

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, the information is clear: 17,000 criminals were apprehended by Customs and Border Patrol agents at our southern border last year.

90 percent of the heroin ravaging American families comes across our southern border. 400,000 immigrants were apprehended attempting to come here illegally last year.

Mr. SPANO, Mr. Speaker, recently, I have heard many of my Democratic colleagues, and even more in the media, saying that our President has manufactured a crisis at the southern border and that there is no need for funding to secure it properly.

Tell Ingrid Lake there is no crisis. Officer Singh was recently shot in cold blood by an illegal alien after a traffic stop.

Tell Officer Ronil Singh’s family there is no crisis. Officer Singh was recently shot in cold blood by an illegal alien after a traffic stop.

Last year alone, border security intercepted about 17,000 people with no criminal convictions at our border.

Members, those who oppose our President at any cost, refuse to see the truth. But, to me, and I believe to all who objectively consider the circumstances, there is clearly a full-blown legitimate crisis. It is one we have been ignoring for far too long. An overwhelming majority of constituents calling my office in the last few days agree.

Mr. Speaker, let’s get this government open now, and let’s authorize the money necessary to ensure the security of our people.
2,400 pounds of fentanyl were seized by our Border Patrol last year alone, enough to kill every living American.

The Customs and Border Patrol agency states, in no uncertain terms, a barrier or a wall is essential to do their job.

Even if these facts are trivialized, no one in Congress can seriously claim that we do not have a crisis at our southern border. It is up to Congress to act. The first duty of government is to afford protection to our citizens, and our citizens are demanding it.

I have received hundreds of calls to my office, urging us to follow the plan offered by Homeland Security experts to secure our border, build a barrier, enforce our immigration laws, and do our jobs.

END THE CHARADE AND REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the son of refugees, and the first Eritrean American to be elected to the House of Representatives.

My father, who immigrated to this country 35 years ago, sat in this same Chamber up there in the gallery only a week ago to watch his son be sworn into the people’s House.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a simple, solemn, and serious request: that this administration stop its demonization of immigrants and reopen the government.

The administration has manufactured a crisis based on fear and is now holding our government effectively hostage, blatantly causing harm to the economic security of American families across the Nation.

Bruce, a constituent in my district, had to close down his small business in Estes Park as a result of the shutdown. As Rocky Mountain National Park remains closed, small businesses have continued to struggle under this burden.

Countless workers in my district—Federal lab workers, national firefighters, weather forecasters, and many others—have been furloughed or are working without pay, and $700 million in national parks’ revenue in Colorado has been threatened.

Mr. Speaker, enough is enough.

Mr. President, end the charade and reopen the government now.

LET’S STAY AND OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I find it just fascinating that my Democratic colleagues come down here to the well of the House to talk about opening up the government when, indeed, it is their reluctance to negotiate at all that is keeping the government shut down. On day 1 of the shutdown, it was zero money for new border barriers. On day 20, it is still zero money for new border barriers.

And to address this body and to the Nation that, indeed, they are negotiating in good faith, I just find it incomprehensible.

I can tell you that we are ready to negotiate. In fact, they have been saying, it is their way or the highway. And do you know what? They are going to hit the highway in just a few hours and get out of here.

I think we ought to all stay here, let’s negotiate, let’s get a result, let’s open the government, but, more importantly, let’s protect our borders and communities across the country.

LET’S REOPEN THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this body has passed bipartisan bills to open up the government, yet this shutdown could become the longest one in the history of this country.

My communities in Houston are feeling the real effects of this shutdown. Over one-in-five families in my district depend on food stamps. This shutdown continues to threaten their food security and, in some cases, their health and well-being. This issue hits our seniors especially hard, because over 11 percent of food stamp recipients are seniors and over three-quarters of those live alone.

In Texas, almost 30,000 Federal employees are furloughed or working with no guarantee of a paycheck.

At Houston’s Hobby Airport, in my district, we may put air travelers at risk. TSA employees, air traffic controllers, and Customs and Border Protection agents are required to work without pay.

No one should be forced to barter for their rent or food, be evicted from their home, or be forced to work without pay.

We have passed bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown. Let’s reenact our government and let’s pay our workers.

LET’S PUT A BARRIER WHERE WE NEED IT

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

Mr. GOMHERT. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats refuse to open the government. They won’t provide more than a dollar. The Speaker said she would give a dollar for a border barrier. That is outrageous.

How many people in this body have walls around their homes and live in gated communities? How many of us in this body at night check to make sure their door is locked, not because a burglar can’t get around it, but because they love the people in their home and they don’t want burglars having it too easy getting in, even though they could, but it slows people down. That is what a border barrier does.

And to address the little girl that was killed by an illegal alien in my district and thrown in a well, this is not a charade. This is life or death for many people.

Let’s put a barrier where we need it, and then we can have everybody getting paid.

THE COST OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, we are paying a high price for the President’s demand for more than $5 billion to fund his wall.

The shutdown not only hurts those directly affected, it has begun to spread to the broader economy.

The shutdown slows economic growth, weakens business confidence, softens consumer spending, and depresses lending.

JPMorgan Chase estimates the economic costs to be $1.5 billion per week during the shutdown.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s, says that if the shutdown lasts into February, economic growth could be reduced by $8.7 billion.

President Trump’s own Council of Economic Advisers projects that economic growth will slow every week that the shutdown continues.

In addition, the rating agency Fitch has warned that a prolonged shutdown could lead to a downgrade of U.S. debt. This will raise borrowing costs for companies and consumers across the country.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce states that the shutdown is harming the American people, the business community, and the economy.

Mr. President, you are playing a very dangerous game, and we will all pay the price.

BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, we are here to have a conversation about the situation at our southern border.

The President calls it a border crisis and a humanitarian crisis, yet others call it immoral to give more funding to secure our Nation at the southern border. So what really is the situation?

We are in the 20th day of a government shutdown over the question of: Is the security of the American people at risk because of what is happening at
our southern border? And, if it is, what should we do about it?

Tonight, my colleagues and I want to share the facts regarding the situation, and some stories from our districts, that illustrate why we support building a wall, as well as securing our border in other ways.

For me, it is a matter of three things:

The need to stop the flow of illegal drugs;

The safety of innocent families in our districts, as well as the safety of innocent individuals who want to come here and immigrate to our country; and

Third, I believe it is a matter of fairness.

Let me share what I mean.

I believe, and I think most people agree, that we have a drug crisis in our country. I see it every week when I am back in my district, when I talk to my law enforcement. They tell me that they talk to families who have lost a child through a heroin overdose, when I see the rising foster care numbers in our State because their parents are drug addicted.

We have a crisis.

I recently had a chance to travel to the Nogales-Mariposa port of entry that is south of Tucson, in Arizona, and boy was it eye-opening. There I learned from our Border Patrol agents that the drug cartels are waging a war, basically, against our country, and, sadly, in many ways, they are winning. They have more money, they have more manpower, and they are using drug mules to carry drugs across the unsecured part of our border. They are involving the gangs that come down, and then those travel up into our districts.

I am from Missouri, and we see it there in Missouri.

Last year, sadly, more than 72,000 Americans died from a drug overdose. That is more than died in the entire Vietnam war; the entire war, and this happens every year. That is also more deaths than people who passed away in our country from traffic accidents and homicides combined. Think about it.

When we hear the nightly news and there is a homicide, that somebody has been shot and killed, it is tragic. Or we hear a report about somebody dying in a car accident, it is terrible. But all of the people in America who die from the traffic accidents and every person who died in a homicide, if you put those numbers together, that does not come close to the number of people who have died from drug overdoses. We have got to do better.

I have got some pictures of some individuals who are victims of this drug crisis that is a result of our open border. But they are not just statistics. The reason I put up their pictures here on this poster is because they are not a number. They have names. They lived. People loved them. They were sons, daughters, coworkers, and they were friends.

The lady on the far side with her little boy, her name is Victoria and her son is Andrew. Now she didn’t pass away, but she has been addicted to meth, so that when she gave birth to Andrew, he was addicted and had to go through withdrawal symptoms, and she struggled with a drug addiction.

The young man in the middle is named Eamon, and he, sadly, passed away from a heroin overdose. The mother here and her daughter, she is still alive, but she is struggling with drug addiction, through heroin, and she has lost custody of her little girl.

Like I said, we have a record number of foster kids right now in America because of parents losing their children to drug addiction.

A large number of the people have drug addictions due to opioids. In fact, according to the CDC, of more than 72,000 drug overdoses, many of them were due to fentanyl, which is also coming across our southern border. In fact, fentanyl killed 30,000 Americans last year.

The Border Patrol is doing a great job with the resources they have, but they need more help. They found and interdicted 1.2 tons of fentanyl—1.2 tons. That is enough to kill every American. It takes only 2 milligrams of fentanyl to kill an individual. If you add up how much damage 1.2 tons of fentanyl could do, it adds up to over 500 million people who could be killed. It is unbelievable.

Then cocaine, they seized enough cocaine at the southern border last year to fill 141 1-ton pickup trucks. I made a poster just to show this because a lot of us are familiar with pickup trucks. We have 1-ton trucks, ½-ton trucks. 141 of them, picture them filled with cocaine. That is how much was caught by our Border Patrol at the southern border. We have no idea how much more is not caught.

Next one I want to talk about is methamphetamine. They seized 124 tons of methamphetamine. Here is a face, and maybe you have seen these posters or pictures before. This is what meth does to individuals in a very short amount of time. It is awful. It is so addictive.

At one time, Missouri was called the meth capital of our country. It tied with California for several years. It is a terrible distinction to have, but there were meth labs everywhere. Our law enforcement was doing as good a job as they could, interdicting and shutting down these meth labs.

Now when I talk to my law enforcement at home, they say that we have hardly any meth labs, but the reason is sad. The reason is because the meth is still there, but it is coming from across our border. It is part of this tonnage coming up. That is why we have to build a wall and secure the border.

I could talk about heroin. I could show you the pictures of her. They seized 6,500 pounds of heroin. That is over 3 tons. In Missouri, in my State, we lost 380 people to heroin overdose last year.

This is the fact: 90 percent of the heroin in our country comes from across the southern border. The drug cartels aren’t backing off. They don’t care. They see this as a revenue opportunity. They don’t care about people.

Just in 2 years, there has been a 73 percent increase in fentanyl that they have shoveled across our border, a 38 percent increase in methamphetamine, a 22 percent increase in heroin. That just is what is seized.

Our Border Patrol needs some help. We have to stop this drug crisis.

But there is more. Besides drug deaths, there have been numerous deaths linked to illegal immigrants that come here.

Now, all of us support people coming here legally. Almost every one of us in the body have some story about a relative who came here, maybe they went through Ellis Island. I support legal immigration. But when we have an open border, anybody can come across. Last year, they caught 17,000 people coming across the border who had criminal records. The ones who didn’t get caught end up in our communities and, sadly, kill people like Officer Singh.

Our hearts were broken the day after Christmas when we heard this story of this legal immigrant who did it right. He came from Fiji. He immigrated here, and his goal was to become a police officer. He wanted that so much, he was willing to be a citizen and travel 4 hours every day to attend his police academy.

He learned English. He took English classes to learn the language, so that he could be a good police officer. And he was a good one. He was an honorable one.

An illegal immigrant who came across our southern border shot and killed him. This is why we have to secure our border, and we can do it.

I am also concerned about the innocent people who are being told a lie by the drug cartels. They are giving their life savings to a coyote to come here. They are brought to the border and then travel across the border.

Doctors Without Borders tells an upsetting statistic to me, and to anybody who is listening, that one-third of all the women who try to make that trip are sexually assaulted.

This current system is incentivizing those with an open border to try to make that trek, and they are being harmed. Instead, we have to close that border and give them the tools that will help them come here legally, come here safely. That is what we all want.

Lastly, I want to talk about the issue of fair, but right now, there are 700,000 people who are in the process of becoming legal citizens of our country, trying to come here and be an immigrant, following our laws.

In my district, I am working with some families who are trying to get relatives here through the legal system, and it is amazing what you go through. First of all, it takes years. It
The crisis extends to Montana where our epidemic of meth use tears apart families and threatens our communities. However, we no longer have Montana meth because of the good work of our law enforcement. Now we have Mexican meth. Law enforcement in Fergus County, Montana, tells me that they know when a shipment from Mexico arrives because they see an increase in crime. Domestic violence, burglaries, and violence are the result of Mexican meth coming into Montana communities.

Law enforcement in the State also told me that, in addition to an uptick in crime, addiction has left more families broken apart and more kids in foster care.

Law enforcement tells me that over 90 percent of all the crime we have in Montana is addiction-related.

The humanitarian crisis is not limited to our border. We can see it in our communities: crime, violence, and broken families. We must secure our border.

One element of improving border security is a wall or a physical barrier. Walls work. The results bear it out. Walls in San Diego, El Paso, Tucson, and Yuma have seen dramatic declines in the number of illegal immigrants crossing the border.

Facing an increasing humanitarian and national security crisis, it is past time that leaders across the aisle focus on securing the border. End the games. Get the job done and secure the border.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for the time and for her leadership on this issue.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I appreciate his comments. They were spot on.

We are seeing the same thing in Missouri with that meth coming up from Mexico and the record number of people in foster care. It just breaks your heart, and it doesn’t have to be that way.

Mr. GIANFORTE. We must act.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Yes, we must act.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to invite my friend from Louisiana, MIKE JOHNSON, to share what he is seeing down there in Louisiana, what his constituents are saying, and what his thoughts are.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman has given us this opportunity tonight to speak on the growing crisis at our southern border. It is a critical issue that our friends on the other side of the aisle are simply failing to address. Over the course of this government shutdown, many have sought to dismiss the very real challenges that we are facing—trafficking, sexual assault, and drug smuggling that clearly are occurring. Thousands of people are making the dangerous journey to and across our southern border, and this has been the result.

What these same opponents fail to mention is the perverse incentives that exist for these crimes.

For example, our lax immigration laws have encouraged illegal immigration. For example, the dramatic increase in unaccompanied minors and supposed family units at the border are a direct result of our catch-and-release policies. The President made it clear that the American people just a few nights ago, and he addressed the urgent need for border security. He is precisely right.

Securing our borders and protecting the American people must be a top priority of this Congress. It is our duty. It is important to maintain the strength and the sovereignty of our Nation.

A strong America is good not only for our national security and our prosperity, but it is good for all people around the world. As the last great superpower, we have to maintain our sovereignty and our strength, and it is important to do exactly that.

Here are just a few of the most devastating facts, and we will hear many of them tonight.

Last year, Customs and Border Protection agents apprehended 17,000 adults with existing criminal records.

In the past 2 years alone, ICE agents have arrested over 230,000 illegal aliens with a prior criminal history committed within our borders. That is assault, homicide, and sexual assault—violent crimes. Our border agents have arrested thousands of gang members and traffickers, and they have rescued countless children from exploitation.

By any objective measure, this is a humanitarian and a national security crisis. Anyone who says otherwise is either ignoring the facts or being dishonest.

Right now, so many of our friends on the other side are refusing to do what they have supported in the past, simply because it is now in line with President Trump’s agenda.
that. Rather than working on solutions, the Democrats here have chosen to waste the people’s time with these symbolic votes.

Not securing our border is an immoral act. What we have done here and what we are doing there is immoral by failing to address this issue. I recommend the President and all of my Republican colleagues for taking this stand.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much. I appreciate your perspective down in Missouri.

You bring up the great point of the number of children crossing across. I heard yesterday how Health and Human Services, which gets custody of these children, just does not have the capacity to house them and to take care of them. It is a crisis. That is why the President says it is a humanitarian crisis. So we have got to act.

Mr. Speaker, we started off in Missouri; we had Montana; we have gone down to Louisiana to hear their perspective; now we go to North Carolina to hear from Representative Ted BUDD.

I appreciate your being here, Representative BUDD, and we would love to hear what your thoughts are on this very timely and important topic.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Thank you, as a friend and Congresswoman from Missouri, for yielding and holding such an important and timely Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, President Trump went to the American people and rightfully made the case for the border security proposal he has submitted to Congress, and it is a proposal that I fully support.

This plan, which was developed by border security and law enforcement professionals, takes necessary steps to secure our border, protect our communities, and it ends the plague of crimes that were committed by illegal aliens against American citizens.

The truth is America is at a decision point. It is time to decide what kind of country, exactly, we want to be: a country founded on the rule of law or on lawlessness.

We have seen States across the country declare themselves a sanctuary for illegal immigrants, willing to put the lives of U.S. citizens at risk for political purposes. We have lawmakers here in Washington who are intent on eliminating our Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, ICE, which is tasked with enforcing our immigration laws.

We know that the vast majority of immigrants are great people, and it would be foolish to even think otherwise. In fact, legal immigration—that is legal, with an L—historically has been beneficial economically, socially, and culturally to the United States, and I have no doubt that we are going to continue to invite and welcome legal immigrants with open arms to our country every day. We do that for about 1 million a year. We are a very welcoming and generous country. But to ignore the crisis at our southern border is also dangerous.

Throughout 2018, Customs and Border Patrol seized 1.7 million pounds of narcotics. We have seen a 38 percent increase in methamphetamine and a 73 percent increase in fentanyl coming across our borders. These drugs are taking the lives of tens of thousands of people every year—I think we heard the number 72,000 last year, including many of those from my home State of North Carolina. For those who are living with addiction, these drugs steal their dignity, and they steal their self-worth.

The trafficking of women and children across our southern border is equally as egregious. In his address to the Nation the other night, the President called this a crisis of the heart and a crisis of the soul.

The Department of Homeland Security has also been very clear regarding the national security implications that come with having a border that can be easily accessed by those who want to cause us harm.

To conclude, I will say that, right now, the government is in a shutdown because the President is correct that the issue of what is the definition of border security: the physical barrier aspect? the technology? the observation? the border patrol agents, local law enforcement, county judges, citizens, and community leaders. We all talk about the issue of what is the definition of border security: the physical barrier aspect? the technology? the observation? the manpower? the coordination with local law enforcement?

On those trips, I meet with Border Patrol agents, local law enforcement, county judges, citizens, and community leaders. We all talk about the issue of what is the definition of border security: the physical barrier aspect? the technology? the observation? the manpower? the coordination with local law enforcement?

We always talk about drugs and drug cartels. You have heard from our leader tonight that they outman and outgun American law enforcement, Federal and State.

Just last week, I got a note from my good friend that we lost another young person from my high school due to heroin and fentanyl overdose.

I carry a little packet of Sweet’N Low in my pocket. Mr. Speaker, because a gram of fentanyl, which is the size of a Sweet’N Low packet, has enough fentanyl in it to kill 500 Americans. So it is killing our kids, Mr. Speaker, and it is coming across the border with Mexico.

Physical barriers shape the strategic deployment of our force. That is why county judges support it, mayors support it, and our Border Patrol supports it. This is why, over the past 20 years, when President Bush proposed it, President Clinton proposed it, Bush 43 proposed it, and Obama supported it, we built fence, starting in San Diego. We see, where there is fencing, 90 percent reductions in people crossing illegally.

Fences work. Physical barriers work. Physical barriers shape our force deployment and allow us to better use our manpower and coordinate our very understaffed and undergunned forces.

I yield back to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. BUDD. Thank you, as a friend from Missouri, is my perspective; and now we go to North Carolina to hear from Representative TED BUDD.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD).

Mr. Speaker, now we have my colleague and friend to the south in Arkansas. Representative FRENCH HILL wants to share a little bit. I appreciate his being here tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of North Carolina, I thank my friend from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for her leadership on this issue. Thanks for letting us gather together on the people’s House floor tonight and talk about this issue and try to lay out for the American people who are watching some of the facts associated with this situation. I am not sure they always get the full story.

When I came to Congress, I knew the only way to really understand this border issue was to go to the border. Since I was elected in 2014, I have been down on the southwest border four times and am getting ready to go back in just a few days.

On those trips, I meet with Border Patrol agents, local law enforcement, county judges, citizens, and community leaders. We all talk about the issue of what is the definition of border security: the physical barrier aspect? the technology? the observation? the manpower? the coordination with local law enforcement?

We always talk about drugs and drug cartels. You have heard from our leader tonight that they outman and outgun American law enforcement, Federal and State.

One other point I want to make before I close, my friend from Missouri, is to talk about people seeking asylum. America is a nation of immigrants. We are the most generous and welcoming country in the world.

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We have a crisis on this border, and when people tell you there isn’t one, they are not telling you the truth. That should terrify us that we don’t know who is coming across our border, Mr. Speaker.

Therefore, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for holding this hour. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak to the American people about the drugs and the impact on our youth and the impact on our national security by not having a secure southern border.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you, gentleman, that was excellent; and I appreciate you bringing a picture so we can all see all that what the Border Patrol and others are running into is that individually, clearly, are here from other countries illegally, and that is why we need to secure this border. It is very concerning what is happening as a result of having an open border.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that my colleagues from Florida has shared a little bit of his time this evening to join us.

JOHN RUTHERFORD, I appreciate your being here, and I look forward to hearing what you have to share tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are calling this a manufactured crisis, they know this isn’t about the $5 billion for the wall. In fact, most of them at one time or another have already voted to fund a wall. To worry about not wanting to support our President. It is about being part of a resistance movement.

If you want to talk about a manufactured crisis, I can point you in the right direction, because it is manufactured in Central America, it is manufactured in South America, and it is being manufactured by drug cartels to be trafficked north and smuggled across the southern border and into our communities. I have seen firsthand the lives destroyed and the communities torn apart by this scourge coming through our porous southern border.

This bickering over one-tenth of 1 percent of our budget has become a hyperbolic political football, putting lives at risk. I say, enough. Mr. Speaker. Our Federal law enforcement officers on the ground at the border have asked for our help, and we have a solemn obligation to give them what they need to keep Americans safe.

A manufactured crisis? Hardly, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. HARTZLER. You sure know what you are talking about because of the lifelong service that you have given to law enforcement.

I loved what you shared. It is time to listen to those people on the ground and in operations. That is who we need to listen to.

You are right. When I had a chance to go to the border, the Border Patrol are saying we need this. They are there every day risking their lives trying to keep us safe.

So thank you for sharing your firsthand perspective from law enforcement and what you are hearing. I appreciate it.

Now, Mr. Speaker. I would like to turn to another colleague of mine, whom I actually had to travel to the medical examiner who saw, in 2017, the highest rate of fentanyl-related deaths in the entire State of Florida.

A manufactured crisis? Hardly, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, for joining us tonight. I really appreciate your sharing with America and with our colleagues here about what you are seeing from Arizona and your perspective on the need to build this security wall at the border.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Thank you very much, Representative HARTZLER; it was really eye-opening when we went down to the Arizona border. I have been there a number of times, but I learned directly from not only the high-ranking officials, but from rank-and-file agents.

When I asked if a border fence was necessary to protect our Nation, they said, absolutely, yes. That is part of the solution. We have a major problem.

Today, I would like to focus on some people from Arizona, Representative fos, who were killed. They were killed by illegal immigrants who came into our country illegally. So I rise today because our open borders have caused a humanitarian and security crisis.

When the Democrats say that this is a manufactured crisis, that is absolutely false. I have seen firsthand and have talked to people firsthand. We have a crisis on our southern border.

ARIZONANS KNOW THE CHALLENGES OF AN UNSECURED BORDER ALL TOO WELL.

Arizona Border Agent Brian Terry’s life was taken by a group of traffickers hoping to smuggle drugs into our country. When Agent Terry and three other border agents tried to stop their illegal activity, they shot him. Perhaps had our border not been so porous, Agent Brian Terry would still be with us today.

A rancher from Cochise County, Arizona, Robert Krentz, was killed by an illegal immigrant at home on his ranch.

Unfortunately, there are too many stories just like these of innocent people getting killed by illegal immigrants.

I live in a border State. I have been to the border a number of times. Most recently, I visited the United States-Mexico border in Nogales with the gentlewoman, where I met with Customs and Border Protection agents. I asked the agents if they thought the border fence would help. As I said before, they said absolutely, yes, that a fence will help in our efforts to combat illegal immigration and other illegal activity across the border.

The crisis we are dealing with at the border is not just illegal immigration. There are illicit and illegal drugs flowing through our borders; human trafficking; and, as we have heard from the agents, dangerous cartels at the border that are exploiting vulnerable children and mothers. In fact, according to Doctors Without Borders, more than 30 percent of the women who come to the southern border have been sexually assaulted on their journey.

This is something that is up to Congress to fix. We need border security. The fence is just part of the solution.
Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the pressing issue of border security. Across our southern border, we have thousands of miles of unprotected terrain where weapons, human trafficking victims, and drugs are easily smuggled into this country every single day.

I believe it or not, the drugs that are crossing our southern border even make their way to the most northern communities in my great State of Minnesota. Just last year, more than two dozen people were arrested for their involvement in the trafficking ring. We can see this network that brought drugs to St. Louis County, where my family, friends, and constituents live. This is unacceptable.

During my 23 years as a law enforcement officer, I worked tirelessly to keep illegal drugs off the streets and out of the hands of our young children. I have given too many death notifications to unsuspecting parents. The pain and anguish of each family will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time we recognize that our porous borders are intrinsically tied to the drug crisis, the rise in human trafficking, and illegal immigration in this country. I urge the Democrats to stop playing political games so we can finally work together and secure our borders. The health and safety of the American people are depending on it, and doing nothing is no longer an option.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman has that law enforcement background that is so critical right here in Congress. That is why we are glad he is here and appreciate him sharing. I can’t imagine what he has gone through so many times, having to go to somebody’s home—the parents—and face a mom and dad to tell them that their child has died.

That is why we are here today. I appreciate the gentleman’s passion for this issue. I am so glad to have you here to talk about it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, MIKE BOST, a colleague to me, to talk about this bill. I thank him for being here tonight and appreciate him sharing about this important crisis that we have at our border.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota, PETE STAUBER. He is new to this House, but he has been working to bring attention to issues that affect him here. I appreciate him coming, and I look forward to hearing what he has to say from a Minnesotan’s point of view.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the State of Minnesota for her leadership. It is a privilege to stand here on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, if you have listened to the debate tonight, you will understand that, because I know my friends, and constituents live. This is unacceptable.

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Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the State of Minnesota for her leadership. It is a privilege to stand here on this important issue.
colleagues who are speaking here tonight do understand it.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is right. We can do both. We are all committed to doing that. That is why we are here. We are working for the American public, and I believe we will get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague and good friend from Alabama, MARTHA ROBY.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and my friend as well for holding this Special Order tonight. I agree with the comments my colleagues have made here on the floor this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to underscore the severity of the situation at our southern border. We are in the midst of a real crisis, and we must act now.

According to Homeland Security, in the last 2 months, our Border Patrol has apprehended roughly 140,000 illegal immigrants at our southern border. This is an increase of 86 percent over the same period last year. Additionally, there were more than 25,000 families apprehended last November. This is the highest monthly number ever recorded by Border Patrol.

Mr. Speaker, here in Congress, my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are talking about this issue as though it is something new. This is not a new issue. For the past decade, the people who I represent in southeast Alabama have consistently expressed to me their frustrations with our country’s illegal immigration problem.

I believe now is the time that we must use every tool available to enhance border security. And we must do it now. We cannot wait another decade. I really appreciate the gentlewoman taking this time, her leadership on this issue tonight, and her giving me the opportunity to speak.

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Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you for coming and sharing. You made so many great points. And just the sheer number of people who are coming across, we just say those numbers, but I heard the other day, it is like 2,000 a day.

In my district—I have a very rural district—there are a lot of towns that don’t have 2,000 people in them. So if I picture one of my towns that has 2,000 people in it, that is how many that are coming across every day, the southern border, 2,000 people a day.

We have just got to address this. I agree with you, we have got to do it now. And thank you so much for coming.

I would like to now yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, Representative DUNCAN, my good friend, to come here and share his thoughts from South Carolina and why he thinks this is a huge issue—then why we need to deal with it right now.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, first off, let me thank the gentlewoman for having this Special Order on a very, very important issue.

South Carolina is as far away from the Texas border, the southern border, as almost any State. We do have an international border with the port of Charleston. We have airports there. But on Tuesday, the President carefully explained the reality on our southern border.

Plain and simple, we have a real and tangible crisis on our hands with illegal immigration, drug smuggling, human smuggling, sex trafficking, and terrorist threats. Terrorists attempting to infiltrate our country through our poorest and unsafe southern border. These are people who aren’t from Central or South America. There have been people of all nationalities apprehended on our southern border.

And we do know that the Quds Force, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Special Elite Forces, the Quds Force, have tried to come across our southern border, apprehended and thwarted by an undercover DEA agent on the Mexican side of the border that stopped that. That Quds Force operative wanted to come to this city, wanted to come to Washington, D.C., to assassinate the Ambassador from Saudi Arabia at a restaurant where a Member of this body could have been eating.

The threat of terrorism is real. The illegality and illegal activities happening on our southern border are real. It is what the people want. It is what they expect from the Commander-in-Chief, to make sure that our Nation is safe. They want a true leader, a problem-solver. President Trump has proven that he is a problem-solver in private business, and he is applying that as Commander-in-Chief.

Congressional Democrats have been unwilling to secure the border, even though a lot of them voted for the 2006 Secure Fence Act, but they failed to fund it. So the show vote, if you look at their rhetoric, they believed in securing the border, it is time to put the money there to truly do it.

Seventy-nine senators voted for that as well, the 2006 Secure Fence Act. And because of Democrats’ unwillingness to fulfill their constitutional Article I duties, the government remains partially shut down.

This isn’t politics. This is national security. It is time to build the wall, secure our border, stop the illegal activities, a national security issue to protect us and our fellow citizens. We owe it to the American citizens to step up and secure this Nation.

I applaud the President and I applaud Mrs. HARTZLER for this Special Order and giving us Members a chance to voice our support for what is going on with the administration trying to secure this country.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said. Well said. I thank the gentleman; that was great.

Now, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Representative BRIAN BABIN. He is right there at the border. So what does the gentleman have to say?

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, last month, I joined my Republican colleagues here in the House and voted to fully fund the government and secure money for the border wall. Regrettably, the Democrats have blocked this commonsense legislation again, and I intend to keep my promise.

The last 2 months alone, Border Patrol agents have apprehended roughly 140,000 illegal aliens on the southwest border, which is a staggering 86 percent increase from this time last year alone. Without question, funding to build the wall is crucial, and now is our chance.

In December of 2018, Border Patrol agents apprehended more than 27,000 members of family units, the highest monthly total on record, a number which has been on a steady incline for months. I have seen this with my own eyes.

Mr. Speaker, last month, I joined my Republican colleagues here in the House and voted to fully fund the government and secure money for the border wall. Regrettably, the Democrats have blocked this commonsense legislation again, and I intend to keep my promise.

The crisis at our southern border is a dire national security and humanitarian concern, and a solution must not be delayed. Any border wall encompasses approximately 2,000 miles; but with too many of those miles left open, we are hurting our border States, and, quite frankly, the entire Nation is put at risk. It is past time for the Democrats to come to the table with a serious offer so that we can move forward toward meaningful border security.

Simply put, we have very little idea who is crossing across the border, what their intentions are, and we have to get a handle on this. Criminal organizations, cartels, and others who wish to harm us are easily entering our country undetected.

Indeed, 500 Texans have died at the hands of illegal criminals in Texas alone. And Houston, which I represent part of, is the number one port of entry for sex trafficking in the United States, a very dubious, indeed, record that we should work hard to change.

I am willing to fight for this, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.
I thank my friend the gentlewoman from Missouri, Mrs. Hartzler, for the time.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from North Carolina, Representative Rouzer, to share.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentlewoman from Missouri for leading this Special Order and her great leadership in so many respects and, particularly, in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no question about it. Our Nation is in the midst of a humanitarian and national security crisis at our southern border, one that is growing by the day, and its impact is far-reaching.

Unfortunately, many of these illegal aliens are very dangerous individuals with criminal records, members of gangs, and others coming for nefarious purposes who are exploiting the loopholes and current immigration laws. This has led to an increase in human trafficking and a lethal spike in drug trafficking that is striking rural and urban communities, alike, all across this great land.

During the past 2 years, ICE officers made 266,000 arrests of aliens with criminal records, including those charged or convicted of 100,000 assaults and nearly 30,000 sex crimes.

Data shows that 31 percent of women and nearly 17 percent of men are sexually assaulted en route to the border. The situation is so bad that nearly 70 percent of migrants are victims of some form of violence during their travel.

Now, let’s talk about the drugs.

Heroin and fentanyl are hitting rural and urban America in epidemic proportions. Just this past year, there was a 73 percent increase in fentanyl and 22 percent increase in heroin brought across the southern border. In fact, approximately 90 percent of the heroin brought into this country is smuggled across.

According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2017 alone, more than 70,000 lives were lost due to drug overdoses. They published this just this past December 18, more than 70,000 lives.

The drugs coming in across the border are destroying lives, separating families, and robbing this country of great talent that is so badly needed. Almost every business owner I talked to tells me what a hard time they have trying to find workers because, in so many cases, they can’t pass a drug test.

My home State of North Carolina also suffers greatly from the prevalence of human trafficking. In so many cases, this, too, starts at the southern border.

Here is the bottom line: Criminal organizations and others are utilizing illegal immigration as a way to make billions in profit and cause harm to countless victims in the process. A barrier in the right places makes a lot of common sense. The President is asking for a 1-mile-wide barrier, a half-mile of steel barrier out of almost 2,000 miles of border. This shouldn’t even be a debate. Give me a break.

Mr. Speaker, this is a crisis that requires bipartisan action. I applaud President Trump’s commitment to securing the border, and I am proud to stand with him until it is done.

I urge our Democratic colleagues to come to the table. This is a negotiation. This is a process. Come to the table and let’s work it out, and let’s do what is right for the American people.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the conversation that we have had tonight, sharing with the American people the facts and the stories of some people in our district about why this is so important.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FAMILIES ARE EXPERIENCING BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

In Virginia, where even a larger percentage of Federal workers live, the average payday loan is over 600 percent.

For workers living paycheck to paycheck, the shutdown and its missed paycheck comes missed payments on bills and missed payments on loans. Families will be hit with late fees and interest, often in the double or even triple digits.

Despite having no paycheck, Federal workers still have urgent expenses—prescription drugs, gas, childcare, groceries—and those who are still required to report for work incur costs to get to and from their workplaces.

This past spring, the Federal Reserve found that 40 percent of Americans don’t have the cash to pay for an unexpected $400 expense without having to sell a belonging or borrowing money. Those families also don’t have the cash to go without paychecks.

Families may feel forced to consider taking out a payday loan to get quick cash to meet their expenses. In the past 2 years, more than 10 percent of Americans have gone to a payday lender, even though the interest rates are incredibly high and the national average is almost 400 percent interest. In California, the average rate is 400 percent.

In Virginia, even a larger percentage of Federal workers live, the average payday loan is over 600 percent.

For workers living paycheck to paycheck, the shutdown and its missed paycheck can easily spiral into bankruptcy. Even if we provide Federal workers with backpay, which we should, it will not make those hurt by this shutdown whole.

When the government reopens, it won’t be able to help Federal workers who incur late fees, costs on credit reports during the shutdown. It won’t pay interest on new loans taken out by Federal workers.
One of my constituents in California’s 45th Congressional District, Aubrey, told me that her family has filed paperwork to borrow against their 401(k) retirement. Borrowing against that 401(k) will come with large tax penalties, but she is part of a single-income household making ends meet on their government wage. She and her wife and their kids rely on a steady paycheck, and they are understandably concerned about the impact that the shutdown will have on their family.

Another constituent in my district, Melinda, told me that she has been working for a government agency for over 30 years. She is debating taking out a loan. She is researching whether she can file for unemployment. She loves her job and wants to go to work but is prohibited from doing so. She just paid the tuition for one of her kids to go to college, and she does not have the means to live without a paycheck.

This shutdown is a disaster for Federal workers who aren’t getting paid, and it is a disaster for working families who deserve to get the tax refunds they are owed.

Right now, families are denied tax refunds because of the government shutdown. My colleagues, Democrats, voted to reopen the Treasury Department, the IRS, and the Small Business Administration, and we were joined by several Republicans, but this administration won’t even consider opening these agencies.

Now this administration has said the IRS will service tax refunds even with the government shutdown, but before this announcement, the IRS was operating with a barebones staff. Only one out of every eight employees was in that office, and that has made it so much harder for Americans to prepare their tax returns.

As we start filing for tax returns, American people need certainty from their government. This is day 20 of the shutdown. And since this is the first year that the Republican tax law raised taxes for Orange County families, it is even more important that taxpayers get the refunds and the tax help that they deserve.

As a professor of bankruptcy law, I also know that many families who struggle with overwhelming debt, often from unexpected medical bills, wait until this time of year to file for bankruptcy. That is because they have to use the tax refunds to pay their attorney or filing fees.

If the IRS does not get these families the refunds they are owed, they won’t be able to get help in bankruptcy from their overwhelming debts or catch up on loan payments. And without the money to file for bankruptcy, families can lose parts of their paychecks to wage garnishment, squeezing families in this country even tighter.

It is past time that we reopen the government. This is day 20 of the shutdown. This administration is recklessly hurting Federal families and workers who are counting on basic government services, including getting their own hard-earned money back from the IRS, and even backpay for these workers will not erase the harm of this shutdown.

Those families will still have $30 late fees on credit card payments. They will still have medical costs on their mortgages that could run into hundreds of dollars. If they are 2 weeks late in paying their credit card bills or mortgage payments, they can be hit with negative credit reporting, which can drop their credit scores, and those negative reports stay on their records for up to 7 years.

Simply reopening the government won’t make these families whole, but it is a necessary start. That is why I am sending letters to the leading banks and credit card companies asking them to offer relief to families. These letters ask the banks and credit card companies to waive fees, to pause debt repayment timelines, to freeze eviction and foreclosure proceedings until 2 weeks after our Federal workers receive their next paycheck. They should also freeze the reporting of negative information to credit reporting agencies during this difficult time.

20 Michigan credit unions have already offered their customers such relief. For example, Orange County’s Credit Union is providing furloughed workers 2 weeks of pay, up to $5,000, at 0 percent interest for 60 days, and they are offering these furloughed workers 90-day waivers on payments for existing loans.

Another credit union in my district, Michigan’s Credit Union, is offering unpaid workers $2,000 at 0 percent interest for 12 months. That 12-month loan period recognizes how long it will take unpaid workers to right themselves from the harm of this missed paycheck.

These efforts by these credit unions will go a long way to mitigating the real consequences of this shutdown for American families, and I hope other financial institutions and lenders join and engage in similar efforts.

President Trump has the power to reopen the government and stop hurting families, especially unpaid workers. Orange County, California, and this Nation deserve a government at work.

I yield to my colleague from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against drunk driving, a senseless, unacceptable, and preventable act. I uplift my dear friends, the Abbas family, who lost their lives tragically due to the fault of a drunk driver. They were kind, they were loving.

According to the CDC, alcohol-impaired fatalities accounted for 29 percent of the total vehicle traffic accidents in 2017. I honor their memory today by supporting my colleague, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, in her proposal to expand the use of breathalyzers in new vehicles.

This doesn’t change the fact that someone got drunk and got behind the wheel of a car, and, as a result, we lost five bright lights in Michigan: Issam Abbas, Dr. Rima Abbas, and their three children, Ali, Isabell, and Giselle.

I want to repeat a quote by Helen Keller: “What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose, for all the love we lose deeply becomes part of us.”

Let us honor the memory and the lives of the Abbas family and pray for the comfort of their surviving family.

In regards to the shutdown, Mr. Speaker, I would like to help my colleagues understand the human toll on our residents and thousands of Federal workers across the Nation. It is now day 20.

Today, over 400 housing units across my district, the 13th Congressional District, are directly impacted by the HUD funding expiring due to the government shutdown. HUD is begging landlords to not evict our residents due to the lack of payment.

HUD provides affordable rent for over 40,000 low-income families across this Nation. We are talking about residents who are disabled, children, seniors, and veterans who are living with challenges that require assistance to live.

Mr. Speaker, again, going on day 20, we are creating a humanitarian crisis. In Detroit, Michigan, there are nearly 1,000 families affected by this current situation. The number is sure to rise as the shutdown continues.

Another area of the shutdown that we cannot stress enough is the amount of workers who do not know when they will receive their next paycheck. In Michigan alone, we have 6,000 workers, mostly in southeastern Michigan, and now they are scrambling to figure out how they will pay for their shelter and food for their family.

In Wayne County, Michigan, Federal workers are being given an extension to pay their property taxes. The shutdown is causing a disruption in their lives and so many are impacted. The bills will continue to come, Mr. Speaker. The late fines and interest fees will pile up while the administration plays games with the lives of the American people.

Government must be about people first. The continued denial that the real crisis is the shutdown will cause a detrimental impact on our residents. The cost to reopen government will continue to increase. We deserve better. We deserve our President to lead with compassion.

It is critical that we put a human face to this crisis so that we understand the real impact on everyday people.

The U.S. Coast Guard employees in Michigan today are at risk of missing their next paycheck. They are currently working around the clock on the Great Lakes breaking ice to keep our shipping and logistics industries going. They are providing a critical role in our regional economy and security without knowing whether they will get paid.

Our Coast Guard even rescued a man from Lake Michigan, an honorable action, but let’s thank them by paying
them so they can take care of their families.

Jasmine, a worker that has been with the TSA for nearly 16 years, has already been unable to cover her bills and had to turn to her own mother for financial help. She said that they are doing their job to the best of their ability and feel that they are being treated as pawns in something they have no control over.

She is right, Mr. Speaker. She and her fellow workers are wondering how they are going to pay for gas and feed their children.

I know I am a new Member here, but the disconnect of many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the current administration, it has been felt here and also back home. I see it. It is toxic, and it will never serve the American people. The disconnection with real people will continue to deny colleagues from our citizens to live with human dignity.

I have vital EPA workers that monitor air pollution in my district that have been off duty for weeks now. One in five children has asthma in my district. Mr. Speaker. This is unjust. We need to have a functional and open government that protects us. We have some of the worst corporate polluters in the country in the 13th Congressional District, and now we have no one protecting us from air pollution violators. Let’s get them back to work for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a handful of examples of Americans that are being harmed by the actions of this administration and the inaction of the Senate. We must end this shutdown now. Our residents deserve us to lead with compassion and responsibility.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleagues from the great State of California, Mike Levin.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Mr. Speaker, when the people of California’s 49th District elected me to represent them in Congress, I do not imagine that I would be sworn in during a partial government shutdown. However, on the same day that I raised my right hand and took the oath of office, I also cast my first votes to fund Federal agencies that have been shut down by President Trump.

We have since voted on several similar bills, including earlier today. The bills we voted on were not controversial. In fact, they were the same exact bills that the Republicans supported just 1 month ago, and they have received bipartisan support here in the House. In fact, just today, 12 Republicans voted to fund and reopen Transportation and HUD, and 10 voted to reopen Agriculture and the SNAP program.

One-third of the Federal workforce is comprised of veterans. The shutdown is hurting their credit rating and that of all Federal employees. How can President Trump claim to care about veterans while allowing this to continue?

For those in my district back home who are impacted, I hear your voices. I have heard the voice of the Fish and Wildlife Service employee in my district who told me the other day that many of her colleagues are living paycheck to paycheck and can’t afford to go any longer without the pay that they have earned and that they deserve.

I have heard the grocery store owner in my district who can’t get help with his food stamp eligibility because the appropriate USDA office is shut down.

The Trump shutdown is hurting people in every district who have done nothing but worked hard and played by the rules.

We can end this today by reopening the government while we continue to debate border security. And make no mistake, we need smart, effective, and humane border security, but we do not need 5th century technology for a 21st century problem.

I strongly urge Leader MCCONNELL to bring up the bipartisan funding bills for a vote in the Senate, and urge President Trump to do the right thing and sign them.

Mr. Speaker, 20 days is far too long. The American people have had enough. Let’s end this senseless shutdown, and let’s end it now.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my colleague.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, the distinguished Congresswoman from California, for her leadership and her amazing journey here to the United States House of Representatives. It is clearly because of life stories like hers that we will be more effective in representing all of the American people, so I thank her for leading the Congressional Progressive Caucus this evening and really speaking to our colleagues and, yes, the American people.

I know that the number 20 has many meanings. For 3-year-olds and 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds, you give them 20 pennies for their piggy bank and you can see their sparkling eyes, just really happy.

You can count down 20 days till your vacation. It is reasonable. You can get ready, get new clothes and new suitcases.

You may be able to count down if you are suffering from an illness and the doctor says that in 20 days things will be looking up.

But in this instance, I am standing alongside of this sign. “20 Days,” because it represents pain and frustration. It certainly represents a sadness that is truly unnecessary, for we will approach my district and every shutdown of the Federal Government, the longest abuse of power that the United States of America has ever seen.

Just a few weeks ago, we saw the President of the United States indicate that he will take ownership of a shutdown. I think it is important to take note of the fact that this is a policy dispute, a simple policy dispute that is not a constitutional crisis.

In the meantime, we have dangerous conditions in the Nation’s parks, national historic sites, and we have a shut door for the Nation’s schoolchildren at our museums.

Individuals who are seeking mortgages, first-time buyers, young couples, retirees, have been stopped in their tracks.

Those brave men and women, including firefighters under the Department of the Interior—who fought those terrible fires in California, will not be paid tomorrow.

My colleagues and friends in Texas, as a border State resident, will not be paid tomorrow: border Patrol, Customs and Border Protection, the brave men and women that I visited with working in the Nation’s airports and in my airport, the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas.

Mortgages and rent not paid, car payments not being paid, spring tuition not being paid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance not being paid. So much is riding on the fact that these individuals are working without pay because of, simply, a temper tantrum.

Now, I want information. I was down at the border just a couple of weeks ago. I go all the time. I served on the Border Security Committee on Homeland Security. I helped write a bipartisan Homeland Security border security bill.

When the Border Patrol was a small agency, we poured millions of dollars, post-9/11, to build up their personnel, give them laptops, night goggles, jeeps. I went to the border at night, in the dark of night. I saw their work. I know what they need. I know that they have their views.

Many have said: I don’t care what kind of barrier it is; a concrete wall will not work, but we need a combination of things. And so what the Commander-in-Chief will see at the border that will warrant the shutting down of government, the make-believe national crisis, I hope—and I wanted him to visit the patrol stations, the Border Patrol stations where hopeless families and children are there, some suffering, as little Felipe was, because the conditions are not there for welcoming women and children seeking asylum through the normal legal process, of which some would be granted and some will be directed to go home. That is the American way.

But yet 35,694 employees are not getting a paycheck in Texas because of this tragic condition.

So I say to the commonsense people, the Democrats who majority that voted on legislation that could have simply gone to the other body, been placed on the calendar for the Senate, voted on, and
How do I know? I have been at the border when a bust has been made and seen the car open and the most unique places where millions of dollars of drugs were hidden.

Thank you to the canine team that is so effective.

None of this was spoken about. The narrative was not true. The White House is not presenting to the American people what really is a national emergency. Opioid is, but the way it must must must must get access to healthcare and not the continued undermining of the Affordable Care Act.

So, finally, we have heard the President call and scream that he will declare a national emergency.

I think it is important, as it is for the Members of this great body, this great Nation, to know that we have a Constitution where Article I is the Congress and Article II is the Executive, and nowhere in those two articles does it say what to do to the administration—nowhere. An independent body must stand for what the American people need. So there are statutes that govern the emergency declaration.

I will give the insight: There are two statutes that require either that there be a declaration of war—I have not heard that—or else a proper formal declaration of national emergency. They don’t dictate exactly what the conditions are. It is all about process and transparency.

If, for example, the President would want to declare this a national emergency, he would have to frame it, and he would have to determine what that means. Do we want to use the Armed Forces? What kind of national emergency is it?

And do you realize that national emergency means taking money from so many vital programs? Just like the $5.7 billion wall, for some reason, the supporters or people listening to this narrative of the wall, they must think that we have a hidden treasure somewhere that we will just go in and dig down in the pot and get $5.7 billion. You take $5.7 billion, and you will take it out of the United States military. You will take it out of the Coast Guard. You will take it out of education. You will take it out of healthcare. You will take it out of the environment, and you will take it out of international diplomacy. You will take it out of those suffering from HIV/AIDS. You will take it out of the starving people around the world. That is where the money will come from.

So I hope that there will be a pathway where the body of Congress works to send the bills to the President’s desk. I hope that we don’t go 2 or 3 more days past this day tomorrow, when no checks will come to thousands of Americans, and get this government open.

If the President thinks he can declare a national emergency and that is the only narrative he wants to use, we will do our job. He will do his job, but we should have, as our number one job, to open this government now and to provide the good, hardworking Americans who serve us in the Federal Government and those who are impacted by them to be able to get a check, to be able to do the things that a great Nation has allowed them to do; for we stumble, we do not realize that, in the Declaration of Independence, it indicated that we were all created equal, with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I take that to heart, what this country stands for, and we have got to fight for those who cannot fight for themselves.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the kind words.

I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT).

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I want to first thank the gentlewoman and the Progressive Caucus for organizing this very important Special Order hour. It is an important opportunity for us to share stories about how the Trump shutdown is causing real damage in many of our communities and to remind the American people that President Trump is holding government hostage not for some noble cause, but for his petulant demand for an unnecessary and medieval border wall.

There are 14,000 Federal workers in New York State whose pay has been impacted by this Trump shutdown, but I will share the story of one of my constituents.

This is the reality of a constituent from the 13th Congressional District, someone I have the privilege to represent and know. That person is a NASA employee who, along with dozens of her colleagues, has been furloughed due to the Trump shutdown.

Most Americans are unaware that NASA operates and conducts some of the most important climate change research in New York City through NASA labs right in the heart of New York City.

My constituent’s work is even more critical now than ever before, as our global climate is in its most fragile state, with record-shattering hurricanes pummeling the Caribbean. We saw how Hurricane Maria ravaged through the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico and the Gulf Coast of our country, as well as the massive wildfires burning throughout California and other parts of the West Coast.

My constituent and her fellow workers, dedicated researchers, conduct observational-based climate assessment. Now, because of the Trump shutdown, these crucial studies will stop.

The intensive models they build explain past climate behavior and help us understand climate conditions so we can be better prepared in the future.

This is not surprising. Mr. Speaker, because many of the folks around the
White House believe that climate change is a hoax, that it doesn’t exist at all. These researchers that have been furloughed are so necessary for the future of our Nation and our planet. Their periodic reports are essential for understanding our climate and how it is changing.

In a response from agencies that seems almost like a cruel joke, furloughed Federal workers, like my constituent, have been encouraged to get create a virtual “door” at home. They have been asked that perhaps they could make ends meet if they baby-sit or if they have garage sales.

This is the message that these agencies have given to some of the furloughed workers across the country, but too many in our Federal workforce simply cannot afford to miss a loan payment, a utility bill, their rent, their mortgage.

This President simply doesn’t understand how hard it is for working class people and middle class people. As Speaker PELOSI aptly put it, President Trump doesn’t understand that working people cannot ask their dad or their mom for money. The whole situation is unacceptable. And just like President Trump said when he accepted the Republican nomination back in 2016, he alone can fix this. He created this crisis.

I bring this here to show the American people who is crossing the border. I went down to the border in New Mexico, and I saw moms and little children running away from violence, from hunger, running away from natural disasters, sleeping on a cold, dirty, dingy floor, packed like sardines.

We are a better country. We are a better America.

We ask you, Mr. President: Give up your wall. Give up your wall and re-open government. Free the 800,000 Federal workers you have hold hostage in this manufactured, fictitious security crisis.

This is the moment, this is the time. Mr. Speaker, we must fight back, we must reopen government. We will not give in to the wall.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for being here tonight.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was just on the floor, but I could not leave the floor without reminding us that our constituents have names.

So I wanted Edith to know how concerned I am about her, and to say that when I spoke about the 20 days and the 20 people that is, if you will, things that are static, but a human being who has to deal with life’s ups and downs is real.

Edith Banda—recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East—is among thousands of people in the Houston area feeling the impact of the government shutdown.

Edith has not worked her Federal job in downtown Houston, which is where my congressional office is, since the shutdown 17 days ago.

Making matters worse, she and dozens of others in Houston are unable to seek private jobs because such jobs require permission, and the people who process these requests have been furloughed; just like some are trying to get unemployment, and some of the documentation they need are with people who are furloughed.

Edith has been selling her personal possessions to make ends meet, but she said another couple of weeks of no work would be crushing.

Now, I know our Speaker has indicated that we are working very hard here to get access to credit through union credits and no-interest loans. We have letters that they can send.

I want to personally say that my office is open, my local office. My staff, get ready, in case we can be of help to you down in Houston to be able to see what we can do about your circumstances.

Finally, I just want to say that Carol has been a Federal employee for over 25 years. She is waiting to find out when she will be allowed to return to work. She has been furloughed.

After reflecting on her two daughters enrolled in school, her fears of no longer being able to help them with their education expenses, she wrote about how the Trump shutdown was hurting her. And like many employees, she has a mortgage, credit card payments, Federal student loans, and she is trying to be a mother.

And I would just say this as close, that she has got to deal with late fees, interest rate hikes and damage to her credit score, and so she is one of those individuals.

I just want to say that the metaphor, the narrative, again, of so many people having gates to their homes, and to use that when these people are pouring out their life savings, they are pouring their heart out, they are in distress. I have a very diverse district, and I can assure you I can travel around and see very few gated communities of all economic levels. And they love their family. They have a door, but they are moving around the community. This is a great Nation. That is a poor example, that we have gated communities because we love the people that are in or not, because we don’t like the people who are out.

It is because you have a dislike for the people who are out. That must be your lack of understanding of all of our humanity, because for those of us at Homeland Security who have been to the northern border as well, there is not one person that wants a fence. And we know what happened in 2000 when a person came across to do harm to the United States.

We can find a better solution. Let’s stop using the narrative, because I think many Americans live in circumstances where they see their neighbors, they interact with their neighbors, and they don’t have locked gates on their property. Some do. That is their choice. But that is not the definition of who we are.

So I want to say to Edith and to Carol and others, Democrats are here working as hard as we can. Congresswoman PORTER is working as hard as we can. And we will be back on the floor again tomorrow.

I am just hoping that the Senate, the other body, can take up our bills. Once they do that, it is very clear that they can go right to the President. If it sits for 10 days, it is law.

I feel that if it is vetoed, I really feel that the good people of this House and Senate will override it and get these people back where they need to be.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, so I could tell Edith and Carol’s story.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to join my colleagues in discussing the Trump Shutdown and its devastating impact on the financial security of federal families and contractors.

As the Trump Shutdown enters its third week, the effects of President Trump and Republicans’ reckless decision to shutter the government over a wasteful and unnecessary border wall are obvious.

Frontline federal employees, including law enforcement and public safety personnel, have been working without pay since December 22. This includes around 14,000 FBI agents, 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents, 47,000 Transportation Security Officers and 6,000 Forest Service firefighters.

TSA employees received their last paycheck on December 28, giving them money that would typically last through the next pay period but which will now have to stretch much further.

The shutdown has already forced some employees to look for new jobs or take on extra work, and the pressure is immense for employees and families with no other source of income.

This also includes 3,200 Secret Service agents who risk their lives every single day to protect President Trump and his family.

In addition to the federal employees working without pay, hardworking federal employees at agencies like the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Agriculture, and NASA have been furloughed without pay, plunging them and their families into uncertainty.

These are real American families that are being put through an unwanted and unnecessary shutdown and are suffering because of it.

With many federal employees being furloughed, and those deemed essential being expected to work without pay American families are now stuck wondering how they are going to get by without an income, especially since things like rent, groceries, and general day-to-day living costs still need to be paid whether the government is fully functional or not.

TheTrumpShutdownwill end when the President comes to his senses.
Not only are Americans struggling to pay for their day-to-day expenses but veterans and military families are suffering as well. If the shutdown lasts for more than two or three weeks, the Department of Veterans Affairs has said that it may not have enough money to pay disability claims and pension payments. That could affect approximately 3.6 million veterans.

For military families, although their pay has continued, the military is suffering in other areas. For example, changes of station for military personnel will be delayed, medical offerings could be scaled back, and facility and weapons maintenance could be suspended.

Additionally, military commissaries (base grocery stores) have shut down and military families are being forced to shop elsewhere. According to the Defense Commissary Agency, military families generally save more than 30 percent on average at the commissaries.

Shopping on the off base can be pricey, especially for military families living in cities with a high cost of living.

Edith Banda who recently returned from a reservist deployment in the Middle East is among thousands of people in the Houston area feeling the impact of the government shutdown.

Edith has not worked her federal job in downtown Houston since the shutdown 17 days ago.

Making matters worse, she and dozens of others in Houston are unable to seek temporary private sector work because such jobs require permission, and the people who process those requests have been furloughed.

Edith has begun selling her personal possessions to make ends meet, but she said another couple of weeks of no work would be crushing.

There are so many other issues that we could tackle with the money Trump wants to spend on the wall.

With an increase of $265 million the Department of Justice could hire 2,000 new police officers and make steps towards making many communities a safer place.

With increase of $99 million the Office of National Drug Control Policy could support community-level efforts to address substance abuse programs in nearly 730 additional communities.

Economic Development Administration with an increase of $200 million could create or preserve 31,000 jobs for our hardworking Americans.

Small Business Administration grants with an additional $1 billion could support dozens more Women’s Business and Veterans Outreach Centers providing business training, counseling and outreach to 47,000 additional US veterans and women.

These are the changes that American citizens deserve.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the President ends this government shutdown and end the unwarranted suffering of American families across the nation.

Carol with the Bureau of Land Management wrote to me sharing her frustrations and anxiety over the Trump Shutdown.

Carol has been a federal employee for over 25 years. She is waiting to find out when she will be allowed to return to work. Carol is one of 800,000 federal government employees living with constant worry and angst. Hearing that President Trump is willing to keep her and many others furloughed for years has her questioning her career choice.

After reflecting on her two daughters enrollment in college and fearing that of no longer being able to help them with their education expenses did she write about how Trump's Shutdown will hurt her.

She, like many other federal employees, has a mortgage, has credit card payments, has federal student loans. The places where she could look for assistance are closed, leaving her to attempt to navigate and negotiate late fees, interest rate hikes, and damage to her credit score that inevitable missed payments will create.

Carol is just one of the 800,000 federal government employees who will not be receiving a paycheck tomorrow.

The President should be ashamed.

Prior to Trump's election the nation heard about his history of refusing to pay contractors for work they had completed. The United States Federal government does not and will not conduct business in this way. The United States Government pays its workers.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much. I appreciate her sharing their stories and adding the voices of Edith and Carol to those that I shared of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I think this really shows that the harms of the shutdown are being felt in communities around the country, including from her home State in Texas and mine in California.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call for an end to the Trump shutdown. This Republican-imposed shutdown is threatening job creation, harming small businesses and leaving families with uncertainty and instability.

It is shameful that President Trump and Congressional Republicans are so desperate to secure taxpayer funding for a senseless border wall that they're willing to harm hard-working Americans by shutting down the federal government.

This outrageous shutdown is forcing 420,000 federal employees to work without pay. These dedicated public servants have been doing their jobs and serving the public without pay since December 22. They include about 14,000 FBI agents, 6,000 Forest Service firefighters, and 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents. Furthermore, thousands of airport security screeners and air traffic controllers are working without pay to protect the safety of the flying public as the airports throughout the country, including LAX in my congressional district.

In addition, 400,000 federal employees have been furloughed without pay. This includes federal workers at the Departments of Transportation, State, Commerce, Interior and Agriculture. These dedicated public servants are sitting at home wondering how they will pay their mortgages and buy food for their families. Yet, they want nothing more than to go back to work serving the Federal government.

As the Chair of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am especially concerned about the impact of the Trump Shutdown on American homebuyers and renters. Millions of families that rely on Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) rental assistance programs are dangerously close to eviction and foreclosure due to lapses in funding. Families aspiring to become homeowners may see their Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or rural housing loans delayed or be unable to close on their loans altogether during the shutdown. In rural communities, very low-income, elderly homeowners who rely on HUD grants and loans to address health and safety hazards will not receive payments and may be forced to live in dangerous conditions.

In addition, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the agency that investors and the public rely on to police Wall Street and maintain the safety of our capital markets system has furloughed roughly 94% of its staff, leading to a backlog of complaints that could delay enforcement actions. Companies looking to go public and enter the stock market for the first time may also have to delay their Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).

Meanwhile, our National Parks are overflowing with uncold trash, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stopped conducting inspections of drinking water systems, hazardous waste facilities, and chemical facilities.

If the Trump shutdown continues beyond January, about 40 percent of 40 million individuals and families across the country who are dependent upon the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as Food Stamps, will see their benefits reduced.

These are just a few examples of the harm being done by the third shutdown this nation has experienced since Trump took office. It is time for Republicans to stop jeopardizing livelihoods, the financial system, and our economy by ending this shutdown immediately.

It’s long past time to end this Trump shutdown, and put America’s public servants back to work serving the public.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed the following bill in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 24. An act to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

OUR GREATEST DIFFICULTY AS A SOCIETY IS DEMOGRAPHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those opportunities, now that we have the new session of Congress up and running, to come up here and sort of walk through some of the math and the reality.

And, look, it is always fascinating when we hear, you know, the discussion of, well, there is $5 billion for security and the barriers, but I just want...
to say to everyone, before we sort of go into the presentation of the actual math of what is going on in our society, you do realize the total amount that is being discussed as the plus-up for the border security is less than what we borrow in 2 days. It is less than 2 days of borrowing.

I mean, we live in this world of absurdity where the politics actually have outstripped sort of the reality and the math.

And, look, I accept that there is part of—out of that. You see, desperately does the White House to ever get any of its priorities, they will burn the place down, but come on.

Being from a border State, you know, come and see the fentanyl, the heroin, the human exploitation that is happening not only across the country, but particularly for those of us that are from border States.

But that isn't why I had reserved tonight's time. I actually want to make sure that once we get beyond this partial shutdown and we might get back to the business of governing, we actually start to have some understanding of the reality of what our society is up against.

In the first chart I have brought I am going to try to make an argument that our greatest difficulty we have as a society, as a country, is actually demographics. This is something we often don't talk about, because it is not something we really can do a lot about, but the reality of it is, as a society, we are getting older very fast.

There was an article just last week saying we are growing older the fastest in 80 years. You have seen the crash in our birth rates. I mean, you do realize that our birth rates are nowhere near what we call replacement rates as a society. So, what is it that they say? 1.76 births, when you need over 2.1 just for population stability.

What does that actually mean? Well, we are going to walk through a number of these boards and start to understand what that fiscal impact means if you want to keep our society's promises on things such as Social Security, Medicare, and how we deal with it.

I actually want to give sort of an optimistic idea. We believe we have sort of a five-point idea, but it is going to require my brothers and sisters on the left, my friends on the right, and people in between to pull out their calculators and think.

The fact of the matter is I often feel like I work in a math-free zone.

Just a bit of trivia. In 11 years, you and your partner, so two people, will be supporting one retiree. In 11 years, two workers for every one person in retirement. That happens in 11 years.

It is hard to talk about because, let's face it, we are Members of Congress. We often like talking about the shiny object, the thing that when we walk out these doors, the reporter is going to stick the microphone in our face, and it is going to be the shiny object of the day instead of the structural reality of what threatens our Republic.

The first slide here, all I want to be absorbed is this is 1965, a long time ago, 50-some years. Do you see the red? That is what we call mandatory spending. Those are things that are on autopilot.

The most elegant way I think to describe is that you have Social Security and Medicare. Those are mandates. You worked a certain number of quarters; you paid in; and you get those benefits.

There are other entitlements that fall under this. If you are part of a certain Twain, you have a present obligation. Or if you fall under a certain income, you get these benefits. But they are mandatory. They are built into the base. We don't vote on them. They are on autopilot.

In last year actually, well over 70 percent of all the spending was on autopilot. It is what, ultimately, is consuming the budget.

We are going to do a couple of these slides, just to try to get our heads around this. Let's swap to the next one. This is just to sort of help the breakdown.

My understanding is that in this coming budget year—you need to think about this—defense spending in the 2019 cycle will basically be the same as Medicare.

How many of us, when we go home to talk to our constituents, somehow think defense is two-thirds, a third of the budget? Basically, as you start to look at the charts here, you will actually see—and these are the 2018 numbers.

As you walk through, you see the blue. We will call that the sea foam blue. That is Social Security. That is 24 percent of all our spending.

If you come over here, national defense is this rust. That is 15.

Last year, Medicare was actually a little over 14-point-something. This year, Medicare and defense are almost the same.

With our demographics—remember the baby boomers? 78 million of us; brothers and sisters who were born in that 18-year period who are baby boomers—the peak of the baby boom right now is about 62, 63 years old. They are just starting to move into the years where they will receive those earned benefits.

Then you come to Medicaid and other income programs, net interest—remember, interest is a mandatory. You have to pay it to protect the sanctity and full faith and credit of U.S. just to start to realize the amount that we, as Members of Congress, actually get to work on starting being about a quarter of all the spending.

It is not driven, really, by current policy. These are previous policies. It is driven by our demographics. We are getting older very fast.

This is the slide that is the most devastating to get your head around. Yes, I have not adjusted this for inflation, and that is the rate. When you use a 30-year time window, you can deduct about a third. Eventually, I will get this slide up, and I will do the interest deduction.

But think of this: Over the next 30 years—2018 to 2048, a 30-year window—what is causing an $84 trillion budget deficit? It is substantially interest, the shortfalls in Social Security, and the shortfalls in Medicare. The rest of the budget has about a $16 trillion surplus in what we calculated as revenues to spending.

That is really important to get our heads around. It is fascinating that, when you show these numbers, I will get people who will protest the math. It is not my math; it is not Democratic math; it is just math.

The reality of it is that we have these massive, unfunded liabilities that are basically in two programs, Social Security and Medicare, and we have a moral obligation to keep our promises as a society.

So how do we get there?

The next one, I am just going to put this one up so it helps reemphasize the work that I have done. Think of this: From 2008 to 2028—so that 20-year window—91 percent of the increased spending in this body comes from three things: interest, the growth in Social Security, and the growth in spending in healthcare entitlements.

When you see my kind come behind these microphones, and we speak as eloquently as we can, unless we are telling the truth about the demographics, we are actually not telling the truth of what is really going on. I know it is hard. It is math with lots and lots of zeroes. But this is the reality. When you look at the charts, things like defense, nondefense discretionary, even some of what we call the other entitlements, they are substantially flat over that 20-year period.

We are getting older very fast as a society, and our birth rates as a society have collapsed. We don't have enough children right now, over the last decade, to even be at replacement rates. We are basically following the trend of the rest of the industrialized world.

You have to think that through. What does that mean for our ability to promise Americans, as they move into their senior years, that retirement security? That, I think, both Republicans and Democrats all agree we must have, but, yet, then we do everything we can to avoid the actual math.

The next slide I want to go to is to, once again, reemphasize the reality of what is happening, demographically-wise. For this next chart, I am using Arizona, because that is my home. But guess which State appears
to have the biggest fall in birth rates? Arizona.

Now, please be merciful on me. I am going to try to explain something with a lack of sort of elegant language. I have had multiple conversations with a couple of boards that have been living just fixed on demographic numbers, and they, partially, are giddy about this for one thing in society. They sort of come back and say: Look, in previous demographic modeling, we thought parts of our Hispanic population and parts of others were going to continue to have very high birth rates, and that was going to provide some population stability.

But the fact of the matter is the melting pot, apparently, is actually working in our society. In our country, the melting pot is working. One of the ways that demographers refer to it is say: Look, we are all not having children like each other. The likelihood you will get similar education, live in the same neighborhood, and now also not have children like each other, you see it in the math.

So, on one hand, yes, the melting pot is working. That is great for our country. Americans. We are a diverse lot, but we are Americans.

Now we need to deal with the social entitlement problem. That is, in 11 years, if I have two workers for every one person that is retired, and my birth rates are continuing to fall, how do you make the math work? How do you keep your promises?

Remember my first quip when first coming up to the podium: We are having this dispute over an additional $5 billion of border security and the effects that has on humanitarian aid. But the absurdity is that it is less than 2 days of borrowing right now, and almost all that borrowing is driven by—you saw it on the previous slide—our allocation of our interest costs, Social Security, and the healthcare entitlements, where almost all the spending growth is.

This is a reality, but it is fascinating. The beginning of this is 2000. In 2000, we were basically about 3.1 in birth rates. Fertility rates have collapsed. When you actually start to do the mean nationally, we are now down to—what is it?—1.67.

We need to actually couple that in with our unfunded liabilities we have and start to understand that the greatest threat to our country right now is massive entitlement promises and the lack of resources to cover them.

I have done it before, and I am going to do this about every week. I am going to bring in different boards. I have a series of boards that show almost every idea that gets quipped out of: "Well, we will raise tax rates to this, or we will do this." None of them come anywhere close to actually covering the scale of our obligations.

Right now, I want to do one or two things that I actually believe are opti- mistic. I am going to give you sort of a five-point idea. This is something I have been talking about in Arizona and partially around the country and other places. I need us to think about, okay, this is the math reality. We have these massive unfunded liabilities that are basically driven and drive our interest obligations. How do we fix it?

Let’s actually walk through a list and understand it. I call this the unified theory because we have to do all of them at the same time, and we have to fixate on the growth aspects they all bring.

The first one I want to talk about is immigration. As we go through, partially, the political theater, as this body has been doing with regard to immigration, let’s actually take a step backward and say: What immigration policy maximizes economic growth for the country so that growth helps us pay our promises, so people will receive their Social Security and Medicare?

We will have to move to a talent-based immigration system, because, as the rest of the world has done, whether it be New Zealand, Great Britain, Canada, or Australia, the rest of the world has basically moved to a talent-based system because they figured out it maximizes economic growth.

In our case, hopefully, we would move to a substantially talent-based system. You still are going to have certain policies, the expatriates of visas for our brothers and sisters around the world that meet our standards of compassion. But with that, I believe, you also are going to have to put in math shock absorbers that deal with the fact that we are going through a cycle right now with birth rates falling.

Would you adjust certain portions of that talent-based immigration population to deal with something we call population stability for the future?

Remember it is about maximizing economic growth. How do we keep our promises as a society.

The slide I have next to me is sort of as we deal with the next couple issues. So I believe a major reform in the immigration system can maximize economic expansion.

The next thing is a fixation on growth. When we did tax reform, as we get together and start to realize this supercomputer we carry in our pocket, oddly enough, could be the greatest regulator in our society because it can crowd source information. I have done presentations on this in the past.

Instead of building bureaucratic models, where we make people fill out lots of pieces of paper and shove them in file cabinets. How about moving to a modern system?

As a simple example, how many of you use Waze as a way you drove to your office, or to work, or to pick up the kids? That is a crowd source model that gives us information.

It turns out that same concept can actually be a way to regulate air quality and know that we are safe without building a bureaucratic model. It can be so many things.

We need to fixate on what maximizes economic growth in our society, and that is Tax Code; that is regulatory code; that is removing barriers, removing the barriers at the State, local, and Federal level that encourage risk-taking entrepreneurship, the things that create the economic disruptions, so we grow.

The third thing, and that is what that chart is about, we call it labor force participation. We got the report last week that was actually in some ways wonderful and in some ways it is heartbreaking.

We are giddy that we broke 63 percent labor force participation. We hit 63.1. I can show you a stack of articles barbell-type curve where we have lots of smart economists, mostly on the left side. They said we are never going to get back to 63 percent labor force participation because we are getting older as a society, we have so many worn-out workers, or whatever the current pop cultural term is.

Well, we broke through 63.1 last month in December. But understand, it was only a decade ago we were pushing around 67 percent labor force participation. What does that mean? It means we have substantial portions of our population who, for lots of reasons, whether it be drugs, whether it be certain educational aspects, whether it be some other expectations, are not in the labor force.

I have actually done it before, and we will do it again over the next couple of months. I will do some charts where it is actually a really interesting sort of way interesting, we have lots of young people—mostly males—who are not in the workforce, and then older parts of our population who are choosing maybe the rational thing to retire.

How do you build a society that encourages a person to stay or to enter the workforce? So as we have debates around here where the left wants to talk about certain types of income assistance, we in the right will talk about: How do you take that and make it a reward to work?

We need more of our population to work. If we could go right now from that 63 percent labor force participation and get back to that 67 that we were at just a decade ago, it is amazing how it helps.

So the third thing I am going to give you is we need to have everything, whether it be from the discussion of SNAP—food stamps—into incentives in Social Security and Medicare, to encourage someone to stay in the workforce longer, to a young person in their student loans to actually enter the workforce and begin that process.

Every program we as a government, as a society, part should maximize the incentive to work because we need it if we are going to keep our promises.
January 10, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

H457

Remember, this is a loop. Everything here we talk about is, if we are going to keep our promises on Social Security and Medicare, we have got to have the economic expansion that provides the resources.

That is why I am going to give you is the one that I am most optimistic about. And let’s put that board up. But this one is a little harder to talk about, so I will beg you to bear with me.

When we have had debates around here on the ACA—some people know it as ObamaCare—or our Republican alternative, or this healthcare debate. I need everyone intellectually to strip away our partisanship and take a step backwards. Almost all of the debates have been about who gets to pay.

The ACA just shifted lots and lots of the spending onto the government. Some of our alternatives were actually trying to spread the cost out more across the private payer populations. But we have done almost nothing to disrupt the cost curve.

So part of the thought experiment I want us all to engage in is: How many of us went to Blockbuster Video last weekend? I know it is a little starchy, but think about it. Didn’t it feel like almost overnight you no longer stood in line at the local retail strip center at Blockbuster Video to get the little silver disk that you were going to take home and shove into your Blu-ray player? You would now go home and you hit a button and you get Netflix, or HBO Go, or Hulu, or whatever you are watching.

That is what we call a disruption. Almost overnight, society figured out, hey, this is cheaper, faster, better.

How do we take that sort of concept of disruption and make it part of healthcare? How do you say, instead of playing this game that we have played over and over of just trying to move around who gets to pay, we are going to engage technology in such a fashion that we disrupt the cost curve of healthcare delivery?

The fact of the matter is there is so much technology rolling out, this is about to become your primary care physician.

How many of you have seen the articles of something that looks like a kazoo, a large kazoo that you blow into and it tells you if you have the flu virus. The article from last week, something a little bigger, a cone over your nose and mouth, you blow into it and it tells you if you have a bacteria.

There is the Apple Watch that will help you manage your arrhythmia. There is all of this technology rolling out. There are things, I am told, right now at the Consumer Electronics Show, a couple of hundred items being shown at this moment that are all technology—we like to refer to them as digiceuticals in our office—that will disrupt the cost of healthcare if we can break down the regulatory legal barriers, whether it be on how we pay for them or the fact that many of them provide a level of autonomous healthcare. Our system as it is regulated and compensated today does not, was not designed for a level of autonomy.

We have a company in Scottsdale that now has four or five locations up. I guess they used to be Theranos booths. I think they are at Safeways, if I am allowed to say such a thing.

You go in and you functionally fill out your information in an iPad. You go into a private booth. There is an avatar on the screen. You grab the scope—and forgive me, I am not a medical person—and you shove it down your throat, in your ear, in your nose. It tells you how to move it. It tells you what they need.

You put your hand on something. It can do a pulse and the temperatures and other things. And an algorithm does the calculations. Apparently, the algorithm is amazingly accurate.

What would happen if that type of healthcare became available to all of us? We crash the price. We dramatically change the accessibility. And, yes, these things are scary because it is a disruption of technology into our economy, but we don’t have a choice.

You saw the charts before. The greatest fragility in our society is promises we have made that we have no money. And almost every solution gets us nowhere close to the types of resources needed. We must have a disruption in the cost of delivery.

And part of the thought experiment, it has been a year or two, but we have seen things like the contact lens that can calculate your blood glucose, that talks to your insulin pum...
### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

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<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
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1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
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### HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.


### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2018

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### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2018

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### HOUSE COMMITTEES

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### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

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### HOUSE COMMITTEES

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### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

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### HOUSE COMMITTEES

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HON. JEB HENSARLING, Chairman, Jan. 2, 2019.
### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2018

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3 Military air transportation.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2018

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### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

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HON. MICHAEL T. McCUIIL, Chairman, Dec. 6, 2018.

HON. GREGG HARPER, Chairman, Dec. 20, 2018.
### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUN. 1 AND SEP. 30, 2018

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HON. PETE SESSIONS, Chairman, Oct. 9, 2018.

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

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[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):
H.R. 431. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve the management and administration of the security clearance processes throughout the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. DUNN (for himself and Mr. LAMB):
H.R. 434. A bill to promote veteran involvement in STEM education, computer science, and scientific research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. GIANFORTE:
H.R. 432. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BASS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HUD of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):
H.R. 439. A bill to designate the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 435. A bill to provide for a coordinated national research program to examine the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of violence and unintended injury and death relating to gun ownership, use, and trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHULTZ, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. MOORE):
H.R. 436. A bill to re-establish certain hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure rules, standards for well construction, and waste management rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 438. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving contributions of $1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. NEAL (for himself and Mr. BRADY):
H.R. 430. A bill to extend the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families and related programs through June 30, 2019; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:
H.R. 431. A bill to repeal the corporate average fuel economy standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESALVADORI (for himself, Mr. MCEINNEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):
H.R. 432. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to obtain and facilitate the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 433. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that veterans may attend pre-apprenticeship programs using certain educational assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. LEWIS, Ms. BASS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HUD of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROGERS of Texas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):
H.R. 439. A bill to designate the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JOHNSON of Texas:
H.R. 435. A bill to provide for a coordinated national research program to examine the nature, causes, consequences, and prevention of violence and unintended injury and death relating to gun ownership, use, and trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. SCHULTZ, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. MOORE):
H.R. 436. A bill to re-establish certain hydraulic fracturing chemical disclosure rules, standards for well construction, and waste management rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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By Mr. WILLIAMS:
H.R. 431. A bill to repeal the corporate average fuel economy standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESALVADORI (for himself, Mr. MCEINNEY, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):
H.R. 446. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax credits to veterans for the establishment of franchises; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FINGER, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. SHEARMAN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JAYAPAL, Ms. OMAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. GABBAR, Mr. LANDOEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. REICHEMANN, Mr. SCHALLER, Mr. NEGUUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, and Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 446. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELAUR, Ms. GABBAR, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. OMAAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. COHEN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JAYAPAL, Ms. OMAAR, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. NEGUUS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 448. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the importation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formula for the reimbursement of Hospital and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; 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 Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 49. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to direct the Assistant Secretary for State and Local Law Enforcement to produce and disseminate an annual catalog on Department of Homeland Security training, publications, programs, and services for State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 50. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 51. A bill to repeal the section of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 that requires the Federal Communications Commission to reallocate and auction that portion of the spectrum to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLEischmann (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. POCAH, and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 455. A bill to take certain Federal lands in Tennessee into trust for the benefit of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FLEischmann (for himself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 45. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for employee-related disclosures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. FLEischmann:

H.R. 455. A bill to modernize the functionality and security of new Federal websites that collect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 456. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to permit insurers to offer catastrophic coverage plans to anyone, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 457. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the maximum contribution limit for health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:

H.R. 458. A bill to prohibit implementation of the reinsurance of short-term, limited duration insurance in order to permit such insurance to provide up to 12 months of coverage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself and Ms. PINSK:

H.R. 459. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRIFFIT:

H.R. 460. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to amend the Federal medical assistance percentage for the District of Columbia for fiscal years after 2020, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRIFFITH (for himself, Mr. WALDEN, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 461. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to ensure appropriate care by certifying dentists for victims of sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. MCARSELLE-Powell, Mrs. MURPHY, and Mr. CRIST):

H.R. 462. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to provide for expedited project implementation relating to the comprehensive Everglades restoration plan; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 463. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for forgiveness of certain overpayments of retired pay paid to deceased retired members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. JONES:

H.R. 464. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain totally disabled veterans; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. KHANNA (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAAR, Ms. DELAUR, Mr. NEGUUS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. GABBAR, Mr. DEFARIO, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 465. A bill to significantly lower prescription drug prices in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median price for the same drug in other countries; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. KINZINGER (for himself, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. WALDEN):

H.R. 466. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to amend its rules so as to prohibit the application to amateur stations of certain private land use restrictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINZINGER (for himself and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 467. A bill to provide for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to encourage a victim-centered approach to combating human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire (for herself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 468. A bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park”, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 469. A bill to require the use of replacement cost value in determining the premiums for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 470. A bill to repeal the mandatory flood insurance coverage requirement for commercial properties located in flood hazard areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 471. A bill to provide for greater transfer of risk under the National Flood Insurance Program to private capital and reinsurance markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 472. A bill to allow communities to develop alternative flood insurance rate maps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. LAMBOY, Mr. TIPPTON, Ms. DIGGETT, Mr. PEHLUMUT, and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 473. A bill to authorize the Every Word We Utter Monument to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMBOY, and Mr. TIPPTON):

H.R. 474. A bill to insure adequate use and access to the existing Bolts Ditch headgate and ditch segment within the Holy Cross Wilderness in Eagle County, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMBOY, and Mr. TIPPTON):

H.R. 475. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Arapaho National Forest, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 476. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase for 2 years the
residential energy credit and the investment tax credit with respect to solar property with a nameplate capacity of less than 20 kilowatts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALLONE:
H.R. 477. A bill to amend section 7 of Public Law 109-85 (16 U.S.C. 3244 note) to promote the preservation of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory at Gateway National Recreation Area by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER):
H.R. 478. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the personal importation of safe and affordable drugs from approved pharmacies in Canada; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POSEY:
H.R. 479. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi):
H.R. 480. A bill to require an annual homeland threat assessment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:
H.R. 481. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to alter the deadlines by which an application for asylum must be made, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. INHOFFEN):
H.R. 482. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities, provide for carrying out the reorganization of the Forest Service, the Forest Service Center for Commercial Recreation Services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SIMPSON:
H.R. 483. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land within the Henry's Lake Wilderness Study Area in the State of Idaho to resolve an unvested claim thereon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 484. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to regulate hydraulic fracturing operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. TIPPLE (for himself, Ms. DELAURIE, and Mr. WITTMAN):
H.R. 485. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for circumstances under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide reimbursement for emergency ambulance services; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VARGAS (for himself, Mr. VEJA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. PRICE of Georgia):
H.R. 486. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicano Park, located in San Diego, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. Yoho (for himself, Mr. PETTENKOFER, Mr. LAVALLE, Mr. WEBER of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. THORNBERY, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. COMER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mrs. HARTZLER of Missouri, and Mr. ROYAL): H.R. 487. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to modify provisions relating to hours of service requirements with respect to transportation of certain live animals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BYRNE (for himself and Mr. BASS):
H.J. Res. 23. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms to the Senate of Representatives to the House of Representatives; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself and Mr. MARINO):
H. Res. 35. A resolution recognizing January 2019 as "National Mentoring Month", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. LOWENTHAL (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):
H. Res. 36. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that congressional redistricting should be reformed to remove political gerrymandering; 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. THOMPSON of Mississippi:
H.R. 424. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 425. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. LOWENTHAL:
H.R. 426. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. GIANFORTE:
H.R. 427. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:
H.R. 428. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 429. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CALVERTL:
H.R. 430. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 431. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 432. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Ms. JACKSON LORD:
H.R. 433. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:
H.R. 434. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CALVET:
H.R. 435. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. FREEDMANN:
H.R. 436. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. LANGEVIN:
H.R. 437. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. AMASH:
H.R. 438. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BABB:
H.R. 439. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 440. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 441. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 442. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the Constitution: The Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.
By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 443.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 444.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:
H.R. 445.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. FTENBERRY:
H.R. 446.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GOLDEN:
H.R. 447.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:
H.R. 448.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HASTINGS:
H.R. 449.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. JONES:
H.R. 450.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KINZINGER:
H.R. 451.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KUSTER of New Hampshire:
H.R. 452.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. KUSTER of Ohio:
H.R. 453.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 454.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PALMO:
H.R. 455.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PALMO:
H.R. 456.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. PALMO:
H.R. 457.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 458.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 459.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 460.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 461.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 462.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 463.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 464.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 465.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 466.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 467.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 468.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 469.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 470.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 471.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NEGU:
H.R. 472.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers), and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and 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. SOTO:

H.R. 484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. TIPTON:

H.R. 485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. VARGAS:

H.R. 486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Article I of the Constitution, which states: The Congress shall have the 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 construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or any particular State.

By Mr. YOHIO:

H.R. 487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:

H.R. 488.

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:

H.R. 489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 4 and 5—The Congress shall have Power “To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas; and Offenses against the Law of Nations; To annul the翎 of any State, and determin[e] the same Terms of Trade among other Nations; To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 490.

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 491.

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 this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. SIMPSON:

H.R. 492.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
“The constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and 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. SIMPSON:

H.R. 493.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
“The constitutional authority of Congress to enact legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 (relating to the power of Congress to provide for the general welfare of the United States) and clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress), and 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. SIMPSON:

H.R. 494.
The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are wisdom without end, mercy without limits, and strength beyond resistance. We praise Your holy Name.

On this 19th day of the partial government shutdown, illumine our darkness, revive our faith, and heal our wounds. Give wisdom to our lawmakers. May they transform the jarring discord of anxiety and fear into the music of Your purposes.

Lord, help our Senators to serve our Nation and world, unsullied by base motives of self-interest. Pardon and overrule what has been done unworthy or left undone or done amiss.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 251, H.R. 264, AND H.R. 269

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading on bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 251) to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 264) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 269) to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved drug application, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, all week I have been outlining the humanitarian and security crisis at our Nation’s southern border. I have discussed the threats from the inflow of drugs and criminal aliens; I have shared career border security experts’ strong support for physical barriers; and I have cited the empirical data that actually backs them up. But on day 20 of this partial government shutdown—a shutdown that has been prolonged by my Democratic colleagues’ refusal to even come to the table—I thought I might try something different this morning, so I brought a visual aid.

The chart right here behind me sums up my Democratic colleagues’ past and present positions on border security.

Over here on the left, you have a border fence made out of steel bollard at the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, AZ. Construction on this upgraded steel slat barrier began back in 2011 at the direction of President Obama’s Department of Homeland Security—this fence over here, under President Obama, at the direction of his Department of Homeland Security.

Just 5 years prior, Senator Obama joined with then-Senator Hillary Clinton, the current Democratic leader, and several other Democrats and voted to authorize 700 miles—700 miles—of physical barriers under the Secure Fence Act of 2006.

On the right of this chart, we have an example of a barrier like those the new Speaker of the House has recently described as immoral. I would defy my colleagues to tell me what the difference is. They are exactly identical. So we went from the Obama administration, when everybody was supporting a wall that looked just like this, to the Trump administration, where now it is immoral. It is the kind of barrier that all of a sudden the Democrats are so opposed to that they would rather prolong the partial government shutdown than agree to an additional investment of approximately one-tenth—one-tenth—of 1 percent of Federal spending.

They are identical walls, exactly alike. When President Obama was there, they were for it. When President Trump is there, they are not. As I said, it is basically the same photograph twice.

I do that to underscore the point that the Trump administration is requesting funding for the same kinds of physical barriers that the Obama administration was actually proud to build and
They are the same kinds of barriers that Customs and Border Protection experts have told us actually produce real results. You could call them steel slats, you could call them fences; you could call them steel slats, but what they really are is effective. That is what they are. Call them what you will, but they are effective.

According to the Government Accountability Office, after the outdated fencing in Nogales was replaced by this particular steel slat structure, the Border Patrol reported a significant drop in violent encounters with illegal immigrants. The Border Patrol is not on either side of this debate. They are just giving us the facts—just the facts.

During the 2 years leading up to the 2011 construction, 376 assaults on Border Patrol agents were recorded in the Nogales station. In the 2 years after—at the bollard fence went up, the number of assaults fell to 71. That is 376 down to 71. That is a decline of 81 percent after the wall or fence or steel slats were in place. We choose to call them walls.

Of structures that her own party leaders recently praised as essential? Why are we trying to push down the throats of Republicans something they don’t support or they can’t swallow? The Democrats who used to support and that President Obama’s Border Patrol Chief and other security experts continue to support.

Let’s call it what it is—a flip-flop that is not based on principle or on evidence but solely on the fact that President Trump is the occupant of the White House.

So Republicans support the President’s commonsense request. The experts on the ground who actually risk their own safety to secure our Nation support it. Even the 2006 versions of President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and the Democratic leader would have supported it, but today’s Democrats now say that the same fencing and barriers that were A-OK when President Obama was in the White House are now “immoral”—“immoral”—because President Trump is the one making the requests. This is not how you make serious policy. Partisan tantrums are no way to govern. My Democratic colleagues need to get serious about their responsibilities, seek treatment for their brand-new partisan allergy, seek some treatment for their brand-new party allergy to border security, sit down with the President, and negotiate a solution that works for everyone. That is the only way to move the country forward.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today is the 20th day of the Trump shutdown. Tomorrow, it will tie the record for the longest shutdown in American history, and 800,000 Federal workers will miss a paycheck—TSA agents and Border Patrol, air traffic controllers and food safety inspectors, veterans, and FEMA aides, and more. Many Federal employees—particularly, GS-3s and GS-4s and GS-5s—live paycheck to paycheck. Who is going to make the next mortgage payment for those who is going to suffer the consequences? And what will our workers, who are the same kinds of barriers that our party leaders used to call them, do? What will they do? Who is going to put food on the table for those who are the same kinds of barriers that our party leaders used to call them? Who is going to put food on the table for those who are the same kinds of barriers that our party leaders used to call them?

Mr. SCHUMER. This is not an accident. Call them steel slats, but what they really are is effective. That is what they are. Call them what you will, but they are effective.

Mr. SCHUMER. That was then, and this is now. Why are they trying to block. Here is the real daylight between border security. The House majority leader, Mr. HOYER, was asked if this government shutdown was supported or one that used to support and that President Obama’s Border Patrol Chief and other security experts continue to support.

Let’s call it what it is—a flip-flop that is not based on principle or on evidence but solely on the fact that President Trump is the occupant of the White House.

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The Congress—the Senate in particular—can no longer wait for this President to see the light of reason. We gave it a good-faith effort. Staffers worked over the weekend. Speaker Pelosi and I have gone over to the White House whenever we have been asked, but the President is simply not budging.

A few weeks back, we all thought that the President, realizing he doesn’t control the House, would come around and support a true compromise before hundreds of thousands of Federal workers would miss their paychecks. Clearly, that was wrong.

We need intervention, and Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans have a responsibility not simply to wait for the President but to intervene. Leader McConnell has voted for every single one of the six appropriation bills Democrats passed through the House. He voted for all six of them in committee, and he voted for four of them again in the chamber before he couldn’t get to the floor. There is nothing that he or his party truly opposes in this legislation.

They are refusing to vote on it because the President has bullied them into the hostage-taking gambit. I know that is not where most of my friends on the other side want to be. I don’t even believe it is where my friend Leader McConnell wants to be. Just listen to Leader McConnell from last year:

Well I’m in favor of border security. There are some places along the border where [a wall is] probably not the best way to secure the border.

Here is Leader McConnell in 2014:

Remember me? I am the guy that gets us out of shutdowns . . . it’s a failed policy.

Fast-forward to today, and Leader McConnell—"the guy that gets us out of shutdowns"—is aiding and abetting the blockade against reopening the government over a policy he doesn’t fully support.

In a statement, my friends Senators Cardin and Van Hollen will give the Senate a chance to do the right thing by asking this Chamber to vote on the six appropriations bills already supported by Senate Republicans and a short-term continuing resolution for Homeland Security.

Frankly, even if President Trump doesn’t support this legislation, his intransigence has forced our hand and hurt America. We need to move forward, and Leader McConnell should allow the vote to happen.

I yield to the Senator from Maryland.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, as Leader Schumer has pointed out, starting today, 800,000 Federal workers are going to be missing their paychecks. In this region, there are 140,000. Senator Van Hollen and I, representing Maryland, Senators Warner and Kaine, representing Virginia, have made the point of what this is going to mean for families in our communities.

This shutdown is outrageous and dangerous—caused by President Trump. Workers are not going to be receiving their paychecks and are going to be at risk. Our whole country is at risk. Let me put this in perspective, if I might. It is like AT&T, General Motors, Apple, Lockheed Martin, Google, and ExxonMobil laying off their entire workforce at one time. That is the impact we have now with 800,000 workers not receiving their paychecks. Kevin Hassett, who is the Chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, points out that this will cause a $1.2 billion-per-week hit on our economy.

America is being held hostage by President Trump—held hostage over his desire to have a wall built. It is not about border security. We have already appropriated funds for border security, and we are prepared to continue to protect our borders. This is about President Trump and his wall. We should open government and work together for the American people.

There are seven appropriations bills that have not yet been acted upon. With six of those appropriations bills, there is no controversy. They have nothing to do with the border wall. They have nothing to do with homeland security. These are six appropriations bills that this body has already acted on in one way or the other. They include Financial Services and General Government, Agriculture, Interior and Environment, and Transportation-HUD. Those six appropriations bills passed this body by a vote of 92 to 6. Then, there are State-Foreign Operations, which passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously, and Commerce-Justice-Science, which passed by a vote of 30 to 1.

These six appropriations bills have already been acted on under Republican leadership in a bipartisan manner in this body. That is exactly what H.R. 21, which is pending before this committee, incorporates. It is not a Democratic effort; it is to reaffirm what this body has already done and allow these six appropriations bills to pass and for those workers and those Agencies to be fully operable without the hostage-taking by the President of the United States.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 21

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 5, H.R. 21, making appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, reserving the right to object, there is a lot of important business the Senate could be tackling. We have typically done that during these government shutdowns. The last thing we need to do right now is to trade pointless—absolutely pointless—show votes back and forth across the aisle.

A few weeks back, we all thought that the President, realizing he doesn’t control the House, would come around and support a true compromise before hundreds of thousands of Federal workers would miss their paychecks. Clearly, that was wrong.

Here is how the Democratic leader himself stated his position, and remember, this was very recently: In order for an agreement to be reached, all four congressional leaders must sign off and the President must endorse it and say he will sign it. That is how you make a law. Most importantly, the President must publicly support and say he will sign our agreement before it gets a vote in either Chamber—before it gets a vote in either Chamber.

That was my good friend the Democratic leader just recently. I intend to keep my word, and I intend to hold him to his.

Yesterday, the White House made clear that the President opposes piece-meal appropriations that neglect border security and would veto them, so obviously that isn’t going to become law. This proposal flunks the Democratic leader’s own test of a few days ago.

Look, the political stunts are not going to get us anywhere. Senate Democrats should stop blocking the Senate from taking up other urgent matters like the coronavirus, Iran, Israel and the Syrian civil war.

In previous government shutdowns, the Senate has done business. The Senate hasn’t been shut down. That is what we ought to be doing and actually at the same time negotiate with the President on border security because nothing else is going to get a solution. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, if I could, very briefly.

I am extremely disappointed. I can assure you, the majority leader, this is not a show vote issue with 800,000 Federal workers being denied their paychecks. The last time I checked the Constitution, we are a coequal branch of government, and we should act as a coequal branch of government and pass legislation that is overwhelmingly supported by this body.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, colleagues on the Democratic side of
the aisle apparently pledged to oppose proceeding to other important bills—
we have experienced that at least to this point—during the government shutdown even though there is no precedent for that.

All but four yesterday voted against the motion to proceed to S. 1, and I am assuming they will vote against it again this afternoon. S. 1—the bill they are preventing us from going to—has wide bipartisan support and is a critical step in supporting our allies in the Middle East and securing peace in Syria.

I have talked to many Americans who are intensely interested in the Israel issues. They don’t understand why this important legislation would be stymied over a dispute over something entirely different.

Through the Chair, I ask Senator Cardin if this blockade against business on the floor is absolute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Senator from Maryland may respond.

Mr. Cardin. Madam President, I might return the question and ask the distinguished majority leader whether his objections to reopening the government with action we have already taken previously is absolute. I can assure the majority leader that it is my commitment to our Federal workers and to our country that the first order of business being the reopening of government. There are other important issues we need to do that I strongly support. I, quite frankly, do not understand the majority leader’s position as to why he would deny us a vote on reopening government that passed this body unanimously in the past.

Mr. McConnell. Madam President, I say to my friend from Maryland—I will repeat the question in a minute, but the answer to his question to me is, because this will not produce a result.

It has been perfectly clear that the only way to produce this result is for the President, the Speaker of the House, and the minority leader to agree, because we need votes from Democrats both in the Senate and the House in order to pass a measure that the President will sign.

My question of the Senator from Maryland was, is this blockade against business on the floor absolute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. Cardin. Madam President, of course I would repeat my request of the distinguished majority leader whether his objections are absolute.

Let me make sure this out. We passed the bill that I asked unanimous consent—basically that has been passed nearly unanimously by this body—92 to 6 for these appropriations to pass. The last time I checked the Constitution, that is enough even for a veto to override. I don’t think anything has changed. These bills have nothing to do—zero to do with the Homeland Security wall issue. Zero. So why doesn’t our distinguished majority leader, as the leader of a coeal branch of government, allow us to speak on behalf of our responsibilities under article I of the Constitution? Let us take our action that we can take right now, today, on this very moment the appropriations bills where there is no controversy whatsoever in this body.

Mr. McConnell. As I said, Madam President, repeatedly, it will not solve the problem because the President has made it clear.

Let me try one more time. Does the Senator, through the Chair—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will come to order.

Mr. McConnell. Can we have order in the Senate?

Does the Senator intend to vote against proceeding to other measures during the government shutdown?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. Cardin. My first order of priority right now, since we can do this at this very moment, is to reopen the government. It is outrageous that the government is closed. People’s lives are being affected every minute. I heard just yesterday of a layoff of another 180 jobs in my State because the Department of Agriculture is closed. We have an important economic development program in Baltimore, and HUD can’t act on the papers right now. That is being done right now.

To me, that is something we can get done right now. As a Senator from Maryland, I am going to use every opportunity I can to reopen government in a responsible manner. I am disappointed that the majority leader is not using the opportunity we have right now to pass six appropriations bills that are not in controversy.

If the majority leader could answer for me, why are we holding up these six bills that have nothing to do with the central debate argument? We can put enough votes on the board to show the President of the United States that he doesn’t have the support in the Senate, and we have the votes to override his veto. To me, that should be our first order of business.

Mr. McConnell. Madam President, I think since the Senator from Maryland is unwilling to answer my question, the assumption should be—and I believe—stated pro-Israel community in America that we all interact with on issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship—the Senator is saying he might well vote to proceed to something else but not vote to proceed to these important Israel bills and this important Syria bill.

I want to make sure everybody understands where we are. The Senator is refusing to answer the question as to whether or not this blockade against Senate business applies to everything or just to these pro-Israel bills. So I think the refusal to answer provides the answer for our colleagues, and I assume we can anticipate the Democrats will try to get votes on other matters during the government shutdown but just not the Israel issue and the Syria issue.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. Cardin. Madam President, I will express my views on issues. I don’t need the majority leader trying to express how I will vote on future issues. I will answer to the people of Maryland on how I will act on issues that are up before the Senate.

My top priority right now is to reopen the government, and I am very disappointed that the majority leader will not allow us to act as a coequal branch of government.

Mr. Schumer. Madam President, would my colleague from Maryland yield?

I will just say three words to my friend the majority leader: Open the government. It is in your hands.

I yield the floor.

Mr. McConnell. Madam President, through the Chair, I have a question of Senator Van Hollen. He is going to propound a consent agreement, I assume.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. Van Hollen. Madam President, I think we all know the Constitution of the United States, under article I, says the Senate and the House of the United States are separate and coequal branches of government with the executive branch.

We are now seeing more and more Americans hurt every day by the government shutdown. Americans losing access to services. We just saw that the Food and Drug Administration has stopped routine food safety inspections of seafood. We just saw that the EPA has halted one of the Federal Government’s most important health activities—the inspection of Federal facilities—powerplants, oil refineries, water treatment plants. Eight hundred thousand Federal employees are not getting paid. Hundreds of thousands of them are going to work every day, including at our border, protecting our border, not getting paid. Hundreds of thousands more have been locked out of work.

There is a Maryland mom who just had to go on the internet to set up a GoFundMe account to help pay her daughter’s college tuition because they are on a monthly installment plan. I talked to the head of a community college in Maryland just the other day, I went to see her, asked how things are. The first thing she told me, her phone had been ringing off the hook all morning because the parents of students of the community college weren’t going to be able to make their monthly installment payments.

Hundreds of thousands of Federal employees are not getting a paycheck now because the parents of students of the community college weren’t going to be able to pay their mortgage or their rent, and tomorrow hundreds of thousands of them are not going to get a paycheck.
So to the majority leader, I will just say, we should not be contracting out our constitutional responsibilities to any President—certainly not a President who said he is proud to shut down the Government of the United States. There is nothing to be proud of in denying services and leaving 800,000 people without a paycheck. I don’t think any of us should be proud of that, and we shouldn’t be contracting out our responsibilities to the President of the United States.

We should not let these measures we have already voted for. Senator CARDEIN just asked us to vote on this at the Senate desk. It has been supported in various ways by a bipartisan majority right here in the U.S. Senate. I have in my hand H.J. Res. 1. This is also on the Senate calendar. It is identical, with respect to the Department of Homeland Security, to the measure this Senate passed just a few weeks ago.

Let’s reopen the Department of Homeland Security at current funding levels until February 8. In fact, if I recall, that was the majority leader’s legislation. We passed it overwhelmingly on a bipartisan vote.

The House, 1 week ago, as their first order of business, passed this bill and the bill Senator CARDEIN asked us to vote on.

This bill to open the Department of Homeland Security, as we negotiate the border security—and there is no dispute over whether we need border security. Of course we need secure borders. The issue is over the most effective and smart way to accomplish that.

So now this bill is right back in our possession. It is on the calendar. The question is, Why are our colleagues on the Republican side refusing to allow a vote on the very bill they proposed in this body just a few weeks ago, and how can you justify to the American people you are not going to vote on something you yourself proposed as the first order of business in the U.S. Senate, when people are losing those services, losing public safety protections, and 800,000 Federal employees are not being paid?

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
H.J. RES. 1
Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 6, H.J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCONNELL. I will not prolong this because I know a lot of my Democratic colleagues on the floor may want to speak, but there are two shutdowns going on here. The first one related to the government can only be solved with a Presidential signature, supportive of the Speaker of the House and supportive of at least 10 of our Democratic colleagues—or 7 on the other side. In other words, there has to be a deal, an agreement.

There is a shutdown going on that, as far as my research can discover, is rather unprecedented. The Senate itself is being shut down because of the refusal of our colleagues on the other side to do business in the Senate during this period. There is no precedent for that. There is no reason for that. We are all here.

The bill they are refusing to let us get on relates to Israel, our great friend Israel, and addresses the atrocities that have been occurring in Syria.

I am having a hard time understanding why the Senate should be shut down as well as the government. We are all here. In fact, attendance looks pretty good today. I don’t know why we can’t process bills that the vast majority of us support.

I had hoped to pass all of these bills at the end of last session. We had some last-minute objections—and I will say on your side—and so we were unable to do it, but the vast majority of the Members of the Senate do want to process these bills.

So I would hope, no matter how you view the government shutdown, that there is no real significant reason to shut down the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. We are clearly not shut down. We are all here.

I would say to the majority leader, if you go to a lot of Federal Agencies today, they are shut down. They can’t do the work of the American people, which is why the FDA is no longer doing important food inspections on seafood. It is why the EPA is not able to inspect major polluters to protect the public health. We are open.

All we are saying is, we want our first order of business to be to also open the eight of nine Federal Departments that have nothing to do with a wall or border security. The EPA’s work has nothing to do with a wall. The work the FDA does on food inspection has nothing to do with a wall. So pass the measures that have already been agreed to in the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan basis upon those eight of nine Departments at funding levels the Senate supported to the end of the fiscal year. Then, with the Department of Homeland Security, do exactly what the majority leader proposed right here and which we supported just a few weeks ago. We agreed with the President. I mean, he walked out the other day, but we would like to work with the President to resolve that.

What we are saying is, we are open, and we want to focus on the urgent business of reopening the rest of the Federal Government, both to provide the American people with the services they paid for and to make sure Federal employees don’t go without paychecks.

I will tell you, your phones will all be ringing off the hook tomorrow when Federal employees begin to miss that first paycheck. I will tell you, GS-2s, GS-3s in the Federal Government, they are one paycheck away from not being able to pay their bills.

On top of that, you have small businesses all over the country—I have heard from my Republican colleagues, small businesses that are contractors to the Federal Government, they are being squeezed. One in the State of Maryland, nonprofit small business, laid off 173 people just yesterday. The Federal contractors’ employees? They are not coming to work. They are shut out, and they are not getting paid.

So this is having an increasingly harmful effect every day on people throughout the country, and we have it in our power today to vote on bills we have already voted for in the U.S. Senate on a bipartisan basis to reopen.

We should not be accomplices to the shutdown the President said he would be proud of. We should say today, we are proud to cast our first vote, as the House did, to reopen the Federal Government and get people back to work.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S.1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, now, President Trump is right about one thing. There is a crisis in America, and I want the President to know I agree with him, but I would note it is not fictitious bodies of illegal immigrants crashing into our southern border. That is nothing more than the imaginary invasion of a President obsessed with constructing a wasteful monument to himself; the obsession of a President who, long before the Trump shutdown, began resorting to misinformation and stoking fear among the American people for political gain.
There is a crisis in America, but it is not the crisis the President wants us to believe. It is a crisis at the kitchen table of Americans.

Hundreds of thousands of American families are preparing to miss their first paycheck through no fault of their own. They are trying to figure out how they are going to make ends meet, how they will pay their mortgage or heating bills or, God forbid, whether they can afford both food for their table and medicine for their child's next week. That is not fiction. That is a real choice in America today. That is the crisis in America.

These are the adjustments President Trump has glibly said our country's public servants are "willing" to make on behalf of its wasteful border wall; incidentally, a wall the President repeatedly promised—gave his word—that Mexico would pay for.

I have been privileged to be here for a long time, but in my 44 years in the U.S. Senate, I have never seen something so tone deaf from a President of the United States of either party. Even during his address to the Nation on Tuesday night—which was more of an exercise in data-distorting demographic cherry-picking than informing the American people—President Trump refused to acknowledge the real pain the Trump shutdown is causing.

Dozens of Vermonters have contacted my office to share how they are suffering under the Trump shutdown. These Vermonters are urging the President and my Republican colleagues in the Senate to stop playing politics with their lives and reopen the Federal Government. These are not just people who are Federal employees; these are people who have contracts with the Federal Government. These are people who have to rely on the Federal Government being open.

I will give you one example. Like many Americans affected by the Trump shutdown, one of the Vermonters who contacted my office is a veteran. He spent more than two decades serving his country in the Navy. He is now a Federal employee in charge of more than a dozen people who are coming to him with questions he cannot answer.

He writes:
I have run out of words to tell the 15 employees who work for me when asked how they are supposed to provide food, heat, and electricity for their families here in Vermont.

Keep in mind, the weather in Vermont is projected to drop well below zero this weekend with enough snow to knock down all of Washington.

This Navy veteran continues:
We are real people, with real families, and real bills. Creditors do not "understand" [as the President claimed they would]. They want their money.

"Try telling the bank why you cannot pay your mortgage this month. Go to the bank and say: Well, the President of the United States is throwing a tantrum, and he is holding my paycheck hostage. Try explaining that to the bank. Try explaining that to your children."

Another Vermonter wrote to me expressing concern for his 88-year-old aunt. She recently moved to a new home to be closer to the family. Because the phones at the Treasury Department are going unanswered, approval for the transfer of his aunt's benefits from one facility to another has been delayed. Thankfully, we heard that the transfer has been approved, but the Vermonter's anxiety caused for this family.

The new home allowed her to stay with her sister. Her sister joined the U.S. Forest Service. In the wake of the recent hurricanes and typhoons, she used government funds issued in her name, following orders to travel with the service to assist in the aftermath of these disasters. But now the bills for her official travel—travel she was ordered to take by the Federal Government—are due. Guess what. There is no one at the Forest Service to pay them. She is now stuck with more than $5,500 in government bills in her name for carrying out her duties for the Federal Government. Now she has to pay them or risk damaging her own financial record.

In her letter to me, she writes:
"This, though, is one very small story in a flood of credit disasters, unpaid mortgages, Christmas debts, anxieties, and uncertainties among government employees affected by the shutdown.

I'm writing you to suggest that this kind of government shutdown should not be on the negotiation table, because it holds out the possibility that the suffering of the American people can be used as political leverage. There are other ways I agree. This is just a handful of stories from my small State of Vermont. Think of the fear and anxiety today of American families as they sit around the kitchen table trying to figure out what to do when the check does not arrive tomorrow. Think about the impact this has on the talented young student who is thinking about taking a pay cut to work for their government out of a sense of duty. Think about the morale of the American people who serve this country when the President of the United States and their livelihoods are worth risking over his border wall—and I say "border wall" on purpose. If this were about border security, the men and women who protect our borders and patrol our coastlines would be receiving their paychecks, not forced to be pawns in the President's political game.

Think about that. If this were really about border security and protecting us would be paid. The great irony of the Trump shutdown is that it has made our borders less safe, not more safe. Today, 88 percent of the Department of Homeland Security, including 54,000 Customs and Border Patrol agents, who are working without pay.

At our airports, where the overwhelming majority of the "suspected terrorists" President Trump's wall is meant to stop are actually intercepted—keep that in mind. He keeps talking about all of the suspected terrorists. They are not coming across the border. They are being stopped at the airports. So what has happened at our airports? More than 51,000 TSA agents at our airports are working without pay as I stand here today. The morale is so low that many just stopped showing up for work, leading to longer wait times and straining security measures.

What does President Trump say to all of this? Nothing. It has been widely reported that instead of sitting down and negotiating with Democrats, President Trump simply stood up and walked out of the room like a bully yesterday, tweeting shortly afterwards, "Bye-bye..."

Does anybody think he hadn't planned to do this before he went there? This is what you do on so-called reality TV. Well, this is not reality TV; this is reality. He should try to act Presidential.

There is a real crisis in our country. It is a crisis at the kitchen table as families struggle over how they will make it through the next week. It is a crisis of morale as dedicated men and women who serve our country debate whether to stop serving our country and look instead for a career where they cannot be used as a political pawn. It is a crisis of confidence in the young men and women, doubting a career in public service, and it is a crisis of leadership when the President simply walks away so that he can tweet another tweet. This is a crisis created by one man, President Trump.

We have bipartisan bills before us that could reopen the government. We have passed them in this body before. Our Coast Guard is deployed along the coast of the distinguished Presiding Officer's State and are deployed in my State.

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is time for Republicans and Democrats to join together to tell the President to put a stop to this self-inflicted wound on this great country, and he needs to hear it from both Democrats and Republicans. I implore Leader McConnell, bring up H.R. 21 and H.J. Res. 1. Send them to the President. Send them to the President. Show the rest of the world that the United States is a great country and can act like a great country, not act like a pawn in a temper tantrum.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank my colleague the Senator from Connecticut for giving me a chance to very briefly—less than 1 minute—add my voice as well.

I echo what my friend the Senator from Vermont has said. I want to commend the leadership of my friends the Senators from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN and Mr. VAN HOLLEN. The Commonwealth of Virginia is experiencing the same kinds of challenges and crisis that Maryland have a disproportional number of Federal employees, and I think we underestimate what is going to happen when these employees don't get their paychecks on Friday—that coming on top of countless number of contractors. I have small business contractors who have had to shut down their business because they can't make the payroll. Even reopening the government will not mean these businesses will come back into operation. I shudder to think the majority leader is not here. The majority leader keeps saying, know, that we are powerless in this body to do anything, that the only way we can pass any legislation is if the President agrees.

I do not want to overstate the case, but I would simply refer the majority leader to article I, section 7, clause 2 of our Constitution, which gives this body the ability to override a Presidential veto and make the legislation, which has already passed this body by a 96 to 2 vote. If those same votes stand by the legislation that we all agreed to before Christmas—if it was a good idea before Christmas to reopen the government and continue the debate on national security on a separate path, how is it not a good idea today, when Federal employees are going without their pay?

So Leader's unreasonableness to allow us to vote, to have our voices be heard—and if that vote would in any way appear close to where this same body voted before Christmas, we would have a solution to this crisis. I simply ask my friend the Leader to reconsider.

I know the majority leader knows our laws and knows our Constitution, but I find it a little bit rich when he says that we have no ability at all to weigh in on this process and he refuses to take any action that will not meet with the agreement of this President.

The Constitution of the United States gives the Senate the ability to have their voices heard. We have already voted in margins that would well exceed the veto requirements laid out by the Constitution. I hope he will give us the right to vote and let us have our voices heard and potentially be able to have the government of the United States reopen.

With that, I thank my colleagues for giving me the chance to add that small item to the debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority wh.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was happy to yield to the Senator from Virginia because I know this issue of the government shutdown is particularly acute in Virginia and in the State of Maryland, but we feel it all across the United States of America.

Just a few minutes ago, I was on the phone with Dr. Scott Gottlieb of the Food and Drug Administration, and I asked him: What is the impact of the Trump shutdown on the Food and Drug Administration? He was very explicit. He said that the area that was hardest hit was food safety.

Food safety is a responsibility that was assumed by the Federal Government over 100 years ago after publication of the book "The Jungle" by Upton Sinclair. We decided to create a Federal Agency with the responsibility of inspecting food so that people across America would not suffer foodborne illness or worse.

We have a great Agency, and it does a great job when it is fully funded operationally, but the fact is, over 40 million Americans will end up with a food illness in any given year, and over 3,000 will die. The responsibility of this Agency is not some bureaucratic function; it is quite literally a life-and-death responsibility.

I asked Dr. Gottlieb: What does the government shutdown do to the Food and Drug Administration when it comes to food safety? He said: We have had to suspend operations at the highest-risk food operations.

I asked him for an illustration, and he said: For example, the facilities that make baby food, high-risk food inspection responsibilities at the FDA. He said: We decided we had to call back 150 employees to make sure that we resume inspections at these high-risk facilities, such as those that make baby food.

Thank goodness.

He told me he has a problem. Here is the problem. The people he is going to call back are in the lower income categories of Federal employees. Many of them are making a decent wage, but only a decent wage, and, certainly, they are not wealthy by any stretch, nor do they have savings to turn to.

He said: I have to call back these folks who are literally out of work because of the government shutdown—some of whom have applied for unemployment compensation—and tell them they have to come to work. Commissioner Gottlieb said: When I declare them essential, that is the law. They have to return to work and come here for no pay.

We have an important responsibility of the government, food safety, which is now being ignored—or I should say diminished—because of the shutdown, and as they try to resume some part of it, Commissioner Gottlieb has the awful responsibility of trying to pick those employees who will be hurt the least if they are called back to work.

This is America. This is America. This is the U.S.A. This is a great country, perhaps one of the greatest in the history of the world, and this is where we stand when it comes to making certain that baby food is safe for American families across the United States. Now we have to pick and choose those who will be asked to come to work for nothing to perform that function.

That is not the only area that he mentioned. He went on to talk about areas that are not covered by user fees. You see, some of the pharmaceutical companies and medical device companies actually pay for inspections. As long as user fees are coming in, the inspections don't apply to every aspect when it comes to medicine. For example, when it comes to compounding medicines, which is done at the State level, primarily, the Federal Government has a responsibility in some areas to make sure that those medicines are safe. Do you recall a few years ago, in the State of Massachusetts, when the compounding standards were lax and innocent people died because the injections they were given were not done properly? That is why the responsibilities of the Food and Drug Administration. They are the responsibilities that are not being met as they are supposed to be met today because of this government shutdown.

I think this is just about a lot of bureaucrats who are not showing up to work and are sitting by some swimming pool, you are dead wrong. These are people who are doing important things for America and keeping us safe in the process.

There is also one other thing I want to mention to you. If you are in the midst of a clinical trial to approve a new drug—an important drug for someone whose life depends on it—the clinical trials continue through the government shutdown. But if you completed your trials and you want to make an application to sell this drug in America, you are stopped cold by this shutdown. Commissioner Gottlieb says we can't processes these. Those potential lifesaving drugs have to sit on the shelf because of the government shutdown, which this President has proudly declared he believes is in his interest.

Tell that to the families who are waiting for that drug. Tell that to the people who labored for years to get it ready for market—that they just have to wait until the President is ready to move.

I was there yesterday. I was at the meeting of the leaders with the President, Vice President, and members of
The last point I want to make is this. I am concerned that the majority leader—the Republican leader, Senator McConnell—has made it clear that he is waiting for a permission slip from President Trump to be the leader of the Senate. We are separated and proud branches of government. We are given authority under this Constitution which the President does not have. We do not wait for a permission slip from him to exercise that constitutional authority. The votes to pass these appropriations bills are on the floor of the Senate today, and that is what has led Senator McConnell to the conclusion that he wouldn’t dare call the bill. I think there are enough Republican Senators who have spoken to privately that they are ready to step forward and say: End this mindless shutdown. They are ready to vote for the spending bills. Will it reach 67 to override a Presidential veto? It just might do that. But let’s test it by being the Senate under the Constitution, not by permission slip from President Trump to exercise the constitutional responsibilities each of us swore to uphold when we became Members of this important body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the Senator from Illinois is absolutely right. The votes are there to pass these six bills. The majority leader, in effect, is acting as a buffer for the President. He is not serving this body because he knows that his own Members would vote for it and vote to reopen the government. That is because they are hearing the American people tell them, as they are telling us: Reopen the government.

That was the message that Senator Schumer delivered. It is simple, direct, and it is true. The American people want the government reopened. They know we have disagreements all the time. We disagree about policy and politics, proposals and legislation, but we don’t shut down the government simply because we disagree. The government continues to do its work and serve the American people even as we have disagreements.

Our friends on the other side, the Republican leadership, are complicit in this shutdown to permit us to do our duty and our work, which is to consider and pass legislation that will keep the government serving the people of the United States. If the President vetoes those bills, there may well be enough votes here to override them, that is our job as well.

The reason the American people want us to reopen the government is that they know the crisis here is one that Donald Trump has made himself. It is a manufactured crisis involving dedicated public servants who are missing paychecks, taxpayers denied critical government services, economic hardship for small businesses, and low-income Americans. It is a crisis that is spreading.

It is not a crisis at the border in security that the President, supposedly, is witnessing as we speak here. There is a humanitarian crisis at the border, which is also of Donald Trump’s making, but the broader crisis throughout this country will affect our economy, our education system, our transportation, and the real security of this country, which is our ability to help each other.

I have looked at those folks in the face, most recently the day before yesterday, at Foodshare, our food bank in Connecticut, which will soon be unable to meet the challenges of anxiety of the food insecure in Connecticut because the Commodities Distribution Program will be crippled. Their cost and transportation and storage will be overwhelming and unmet. Children and seniors will begin to see their resources will be exhausted by the end of this month.

I have spoken to the Coast Guard members who will be unpaid. Alone of our military services, the Coast Guard is the only branch of the military that isn’t guaranteed pay during this Trump shutdown because, by a quirk of history, it is now part of the Department of Homeland Security, not the Pentagon. These Active-Duty Coast Guard members based in New Haven and New London and across the country are continuing to protect our Nation’s security, continuing to rescue lives at sea, continuing to interdict drugs that threaten our Nation, and they are going unpaid.

That is why a bipartisan group of Senators—and I want to thank Senators Thune, Cantwell, and others—have introduced legislation to pay them during this Trump shutdown and any other shutdown going forward. I call on the Senate leadership to immediately approve this bill and allow it for a vote. Our military members in the Coast Guard deserve better, but so do all of the homeowners of this Nation who are seeking mortgages and must put those efforts on hold, so do the community development projects that create jobs and economic growth, and so do law enforcement, essential to our security, who are going untrained.

Food safety inspections have been suspended. Housing safety inspections, like the ones at Barbour Garden in Connecticut and Infield apartments, have stalled.
Breweries, like many in Connecticut—and I am hoping to visit a number tomorrow—are unable to deliver their products to market and onto store shelves.

The National Parks have been left unserviced. Last week, the Hartford Courant highlighted the story of Bryan Krampovits. He is a resident of West Haven and an air traffic controller at Bradley International Airport. A number of traffic controllers are here in Washington, DC, and they will be outside this building today. He is continuing the work, but he told the Hartford Courant:

“I’m a single father of my daughter, and she relies on me to be her sole provider. I have a home and a mortgage. It’s a hard time to be in. I’m forced to continue to go to work or face the possibility of losing my job.”

If the Federal Government is still closed at the time of his next scheduled pay, he will receive “a zero dollar paycheck.”

Like him, so many of these Federal workers are living paycheck to paycheck. The effect, though, will be on Americans as a whole.

The President continues to divide us with rhetoric that is distorted and divisive, with misleading, malicious mendacity. I am reminded of the sign I saw on TV: “Stop truth decay.” The President should stop truth decay as he visits the border today. He should recognize that there is no crisis, insecurity at the border; it is manufactured by him. The idea that drugs are imported across the border is correct, but the idea that these drugs are imported across the border is correct, but it is at the ports of entry. The idea that terrorists are coming across the border is factually absurd. In fact, the 3,700 figures the President has been completely debunked. The idea that the wall will be effective or practical has been abandoned by members of his own administration who have recognized that a wall from sea to shining sea is simply impossible and impractical.

So we are left with a vanity problem—an applause line in the President’s campaign—that has become a wall to progress. It is a wall to progress only in the President’s mind, as every wall to progress is simply impossible and impossible to build.

As we go on about our day, I ask everyone of us, if you see them, to thank them. They are actually going to work and are not getting paid and can’t pay their rent. For those who are furloughed and staying home, they are still struggling in the same way.

This is outrageous. This whole process is outrageous. There is a simple answer to all of this, and we know it. It is doing our jobs. I came to this Congress as a U.S. Senator. I believe in article 1. I believe we are a coequal branch of government. We should not be abdicating to the executive branch.

The solution to this is simple. Reopening the government and sending Federal workers hostage for political gain. They are not leverage. These are hard-working people who are committed to doing work even single day that is what they are sworn to do, to make sure our services run and that we are protected, for they are standing guard even though they are not getting paid.

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I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss the ways in which the pointless shutdown has done real harm to American workers and families. I appreciate the words of my colleague from Nevada as she explained how devastating this has been in her State.

We are now in day 20, and the stories are flooding in, in the calls to my office, as to how this political gamesmanship from the White House is harming the American people.

The Washington Post estimates that 6,100 Federal workers in Minnesota have been affected by the shutdown. This includes 1,700 who work for the Department of Agriculture—right when the farm bill has passed. We have many small dairy farmers in Minnesota for whom we had worked so hard to get this bill passed. Now they need to understand it, and they need to figure out what programs to sign up for, but they have no one to talk to. These aren’t big milking operations. These are the places with a couple of dozen cows, with 50 cows, and they have no one to talk to.

As I said, the Washington Post has cited 6,100 Federal workers. Some of these employees are furloughed and are forced to stay away from work. Others are forced to work without pay. Here are a few of their stories.

Sandy Parr works as a food service supervisor and nurse at the Federal Medical Center Rochester in Rochester, MN. Federal workers were asked to work 60-hour shifts during the shutdown and to fill in for dozens of absent colleagues—all without being paid. She told one of our newspapers that she may soon be forced to choose between groceries and medicine for her 14-year-old son who has autism.

Celia Hahn is a transportation security officer at our airport, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. It is a major airport, a place the Senator staffers have told a local newspaper that she has canceled her plans to sign up her twin 9-year-old boys for a soccer clinic. If the shutdown drags on, she will have to call her mortgage lender to negotiate payments, which is a step many of her colleagues have already had to take.

It goes from the small—a soccer signup that might not seem that important, but anyone who is a parent knows it is a really important thing for kids. Are you going to be able to afford your house? Then it goes to the even bigger as you look at a major airport that has lines and people who are working without pay and where you have law enforcement on the frontlines who is Homeland Security or whether they are FBI agents who are going to be working without pay.

Of course, my State is by no means unique in being hurt by this shutdown. I have heard the stories from so many of my colleagues.

Senator KAINE told us about Alan, a veteran and civil servant in Yorktown.

He has had to work without pay since the shutdown began. His emergency savings are exhausted, and he is behind in his bills.

Senator DURBIN of Illinois talked about a Transportation Security Administration worker and a TSA worker, who feared the impact of missing a mortgage or a rent payment. The man told the Senator that if he can’t make one of those payments on time, it will hurt his credit rating, which could affect the interest rates he will pay on loans and mortgages for the rest of his life.

These are real people with real-world problems.

Senator HINCHEN of New Mexico told the story of Nicholas, a firefighter. If the shutdown isn’t resolved, he told the Senator, he will not be able to support his family.

On Tuesday night, I joined Senator SHAHEEN, who talked about how furloughs have slowed down the work at the Office of National Drug Control Policy and about how the continued delays in funding will pull the rug out from first responders who rely on this funding.

Senator WARNER of Virginia talked about the shutdown’s impact on Federal contractors, including custodians, cafeteria workers, and security guards who work as Federal contractors who will never see backpay for the shutdown unless we do something about it.

This is what is happening.

The public IRS office is closed. That is in my State. A woman is trying to make a payment for taxes due and is concerned about the interest and penalties because of the time it will take to process her payment by mail.

The Neighborhood Development Center in St. Paul, MN, a community lender, has two projects awaiting construction funding from the SBA, the Small Business Administration. That is shutdown.

A young man needs his tax transcripts for a late enrollment in college. With the IRS not providing this service, he will not be able to attend the first day of his classes.

A woman who was the victim of identity theft in my State was trying to report it to the IRS but to no avail.

These are basic services that our constituents are being forced to go without.

These are promises we made to our constituents and to the men and women who serve the public as Federal employees. It is time for the President to end this pointless shutdown and reopen the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE: The Senator from Louisiana.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes today about America’s foreign policy, I want to talk about interests, and I want to talk about values.

As you know, Congress is about to consider our foreign policy priorities in the Middle East. As we do that, I want to draw attention to some of our most vital allies in the Middle East. These allies have stood by America and we have stood by them for decades, through thick and thin. As a result, American interests in the Middle East have been protected, and our people have been protected.

I am talking about the Syrian Kurds. I am talking about Israel. I am talking about Jordan.

In my judgment, America must now stand for the Syrian Kurds and, Jordan—all of whom have paid a heavy price for the destabilization in Syria over the past 5 years—to make sure that this fight stays won.

Once the Senate turns our attention to S. 1—and we will eventually—I plan to offer an amendment to S. 1 that will allow the U.S. military to defend the Kurds in Syria, if need be. It would give the President the authority to use the U.S. Armed Forces as he deems fit to keep our promise and to protect our interests. That is a role that we and Congress would do. It wouldn’t require anything, but it would give the President of the United States the authority to protect one of our allies in the Middle East—the Syrian Kurds—because, after all, the Kurds have contributed to the fight against ISIS, and we owe them. We owe them some peace of mind as we draw down our presence in the region.

The Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces—better known as the SDF—have been another set of boots on the ground in our fight against ISIS. In the words of former Secretary Mattis, Kurdish fighters “shredded” ISIS. We couldn’t have done it without them. With the help of coalition supplies, weapons, and airstrikes, the SDF—the Syrian Kurds—have been able to recapture large parts of both northern Syria and eastern Syria from ISIS’s iron grip.

That is just a fact. Four years ago, there were nearly 100,000 ISIS fighters. Thanks to our Kurdish allies and others, including American blood and treasure, those numbers have now dwindled to just 5,000.

Today, ISIS has surrendered 99 percent of its territory. Let me say that again. Today, ISIS has surrendered 99 percent of its territory, including its former capital of Raqqa. To put that accomplishment in perspective, in January 2015, ISIS controlled more than 34,000 square miles of Syria and Iraq. Today, those four thousand square miles of Syria and Iraq was ISIS-controlled territory. The world looks a lot different today. Less than 3 weeks ago, the so-called caliphate—the ISIS caliphate—washed away from their last major urban stronghold in Syria. They are now being held to a small silver of territory on the eastern border with Iraq, near the Euphrates River.

I think it is plain to see that the Syrian Kurds have been indispensable in our fight against the Islamic State. Today, the Syrian Kurds control nearly a quarter of Syria. That land no longer belongs to ISIS. That land is being lived in peacefully by the
Syrian Kurds. It doesn’t belong to Rus-

sia, and it doesn’t belong to Iran. It is

land where the Kurds know they will

be free from persecution and slaughter.

There are 30 million Kurds in the

world, as the Presiding Officer well

knows, living in Iraq, Iran, Syria, and

Turkey. In each country, the Syrian

Kurds have been subjected to disci-

mentation, massacres, forced reloca-

tion, and countless other human

rights violations.

The Kurdish people are one of the

largest, if not the largest ethnic minor-

ity in the world that doesn’t have a

state or a country to call its own. After

World War I, when Western interests

carved up the Middle East, the Kurds

were left without a state, despite Presi-

dent Woodrow Wilson’s argument that

this would be—and indeed is—unfair.

The truth is that the Kurds in the

world today, no matter where they are,

are not completely safe anywhere. The

Turkish Defense Minister made that

clear in December when he said that

when the time comes—when the time

comes, the Turkish Defense

Minister said, the Kurds “will be bur-

ied in the ditches they dig. No one

should doubt this.” That is a direct

quote.

Just last week, Secretary of State

Pompeo said that “ensuring that the

Turks don’t slaughter the Kurds [and]

the protection of religious minorities

there in Syria” are “still part of the

American mission set.” Secretary

Pompeo is a wise man.

Our troops there in the region who

stand beside our Kurdish friends do

more than simply offer supplies and

logistical support to the Kurds; they

are a visible sign of our solidarity in

the fight against Islamic terrorism.

Without assurances of our support, the

Kurds will be left to fend for them-

selves. Without the Kurds, we cannot

be certain who will step in to fill the

power vacuums in the areas that they
currently control. We just cannot.

We can only guess, and the an-

swers aren’t good.

The threat of U.S. military force has

been a major deterrent for the reemerg-

cence of jihadists like ISIS and al-

Qaida. We know that. Our presence has

held back Assad, Turkey, Russia, and

Iran from gaining stronger footholds in

the area. If the Kurds are vulnerable to

attack from Turkey or Syrian rebels, I

fear that this will hand our enemies

protection. Even if the Kurds didn’t,

they can’t fight off Turkish troops and

pursue the remnants of ISIS at the

same time. For America to abandon

the Kurds in Syria now would com-

promise the security of our allies,

would compromise the security of

Israel and Jordan, and would risk ex-

posing the region to more turmoil.

I think it was the late, great Ambas-

dor George Kennan, writing, of course,
during the Cold War, who stated:

“If the United States and the U.S.

Government are to be made to con-

form to moral standards”—not self-interest,

to moral standards—“those standards

are going to have to be America’s own,

founded on traditional American prin-

ciples of justice and propriety.” The

Ambassador was correct.

As I read his words, as I have read his

words, and as I have studied his words,

I have always known what he meant by

“American principles of jus-

tice and propriety.” If justice is get-

ting what you deserve, as C.S. Lewis

said, and propriety is doing what is

right, as I think most of us believe,

then we should give the President the

authority to act on behalf of the Kur-

dish people. That is what my amendment

would do. We have to do it because they

are our friends. We also have to do it be-

cause it is the right thing to do for

America’s interests and for the Middle

East peace process.

Once we take up the bill, I want to

urge my colleagues in the Senate to

consider my amendment and to help

me make sure that American foreign

policy continues to have that impor-

tant moral component. Standing with

our friends in the face of evil despots

and dictators is just as important
today as it was during the Cold War.

I understand President Trump’s deci-

sion with respect to Syria. I under-

stand how American defense policy

is a visible sign of our solidarity in

the world today, no matter where they

are. The Syrian Kurds have been sub-

jected to relocation, and countless other

human rights violations.

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are. The Syrian Kurds have been sub-

jected to relocation, and countless other

human rights violations.
The next letter is from Jonathan, from Lino Lakes, MN. This is what Jonathan wrote:

For the last two weeks, air traffic controllers have remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight. But we don’t know when we will receive our next paycheck. My wife is due with our fourth child in two weeks and this uncertainty only adds to an already stressful situation.

Here is another one from Mike, from Minnesota, MN. He is describing the impact of the shutdown on his family’s future.

I am a father to twin four-year-old boys (Jax and Finn) and had to close their college fund so that I could pay bills through the end of the month. The shutdown has also prevented me from training and certifying on my last few positions to receive a $5,000 pay raise. These hardships are going to affect my family for years to come. The replenishment of my boys’ college fund alone could take years as a single income family.

Mike goes on to say:

This is going to have a lasting negative impact on me and my family. Please help stop the shutdown to lessen the already great impact it has had on me and my family. My kids’ future and our current financial hardship depends on it.

Next is Christopher, from Dundas, MN. He writes:

As a cancer survivor, I have a huge stack of medical bills on structured and negotiated payments. My colleagues and I have suffered the sudden loss of our income due to this shutdown. It will be very hard to meet all of my financial obligations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Majority Whip.

Mr. THUNE, Madam President, yesterday President Trump and Republican leaders once again tried to sit down with the House to break the impasse over border security funding and fully reopen the government. Yet, again, Democrats proved unwilling to offer any serious solution or agree to work with the President in any way.

When the President asked Speaker Pelosi to be willing to commit to funding the border wall if the government was reopened, she said no—no.

Democrats are saying that they need to end this partial shutdown and reopen the government, but I completely agree with that, but it is Democrats who are standing in the way of that happening. Instead of seriously trying to resolve this shutdown, they are holding show votes in the House and trying to score political points.

The administration made an offer on Sunday. Yet 4 days later, Democrats have yet to respond. If they really want to reopen the government, they will sit down and negotiate in good faith. If the President is to arrive at a solution that both parties can support and that the President will sign.

I have to ask: When did securing our borders become immoral?

It used to be that Members of both parties recognized that border security was a basic obligation of our government and that we had a duty to ensure that our borders were protected and that dangerous individuals or goods were not entering our country, but apparently, some Democrats don’t agree with that anymore.

According to Speaker Pelosi, building barriers to protect our border is “immoral.” That is right—“immoral.” According to the Speaker of the House, protecting our borders with barriers to prevent illegal entries is “immoral.”

Contrary to what Democrats would like people to believe, border security isn’t an issue dreamed up by hard-hearted Republicans to oppress various groups of people. Border security is a national security imperative—something that both parties recognized, until recently. No country can be secure if dangerous individuals can creep across its borders unchecked and unobserved.

Democrats talk about border barriers as if they are meant to prevent anyone from entering our country. That is just false. America is a land of immigrants, and will always welcome new faces to America with open arms. In fact, I, like many others in this Chamber, am the grandson of immigrants who came through Ellis Island. My grandparents obviously came and settled in South Dakota, but we didn’t let individuals who are coming to this country are coming here legally and that we know who they are and why they are coming. We do that by enforcing our laws and by securing our borders—with physical barriers, Border Patrol agents, and technology—so that individuals can’t cross our borders illegally and undetected.

Leaving our borders open to any criminal, drug dealer, or human trafficker who wants to sneak across isn’t compassion. It is an abdication of our responsibility.

Right now, we are facing a security and humanitarian crisis along our border. Tens of thousands of individuals try to cross our southern border illegally each month. This is a serious security problem. It is also a humanitarian problem. Individuals attempting the journey to come here illegally are vulnerable to exploitation, to illness, and to abuse. One out of every three women attempting the journey to the United States is sexually assaulted. A staggering 70 percent of individuals become victims of violence along their way. Illness and other medical issues are a serious problem. By encouraging illegal immigration, we are perpetuating this humanitarian crisis.

The inadequate state of our border security—both around barriers and through our ports of entry—also allows other problems to flourish, like the flow of illegal drugs pouring into the country. Every week in this country, 300 Americans die from heroin. Ninety percent of the heroin supply—90 percent—flows across our southern border.

Democrats will say it doesn’t come across, that it comes through ports of entry. A lot of it does come through ports of entry—that is part of our borders—and the President in his proposal has advanced measures that would also deal with those drugs coming through over-the-border entry. One of the most important things I think we’re missing is, we have to secure our border, and that requires a whole range of measures as a part of that solution.

Democrats didn’t always think that securing our borders was immoral. In fact, in 2006, the Democratic leaders and the ranking member on the Senate Judiciary Committee voted for legislation to authorize a border fence. They were joined in their vote by then-Senator Biden, then-Senator Clinton, and then-Senator Obama. In 2013, every Democrat in the Senate supported legislation requiring the completion of a 700-mile fence along our southern border. This legislation would have
provided $46 billion for border security and $8 billion specifically for a physical barrier.

As recently as last February, nearly every Senate Democrat—46 out of 49—supported $25 billion for border security—just last February.

In 2009, the Senate Democratic leader said in a speech: “Any immigration solution must recognize that we must do as much as we can to gain operational control of our borders as soon as possible.”

Let me repeat that. In 2009, the Democratic leader said: “Any immigration solution must recognize that we must do as much as we can to gain control of our borders as soon as possible.”

Then he went on to discuss progress that had been made on our border security between 2005 and 2009, including “construction of 630 miles of border fence that create a significant barrier to illegal immigration on our southern border.”

That is right. In 2009, the Democratic leader not only didn’t oppose border fences; he was praising them for their effectiveness.

So what has changed? The need to secure our borders certainly hasn’t changed. Everybody says: Is it a crisis or isn’t it a crisis? I would say that having 300 people a day dying from heroin in this country is a crisis, particularly given the fact that 90 percent of that heroin is coming across our southern border. That strikes me as a crisis.

The President has changed, and that, more than anything else, is the thing that has changed the minds of a lot of Democrats in the Senate because we used to have a President Democrats like; now we have one they don’t like and, in many cases, they are openly hostile to.

For Democrats opposing this President and catering to the far-left, anti-border-security wing of their party seem to be more important than addressing the security and humanitarian crisis that our border is.

I venture to say that deep down, a lot of Democrats still realize we need to secure our borders. I think many realize how important the physical structure—some sort of barrier—is in making sure that the border is secure. Certainly, those who protect our border would tell you that, and certainly those who have observed what has happened over the past 20 or 30 years—a border fence has been built in certain areas of our southern border—would tell you that has been very effective.

I think it is important for us to listen to the experts and allow the opinions of the experts to shape the policies we put into place. I think what the experts have been telling us is that, yes, we need a comprehensive solution, one that includes a physical barrier, one that includes technology, one that includes manpower—all of which this President, his team, have been willing to put on the table and be a partner in working out.

With their partial shutdown now into its 20th day, I hope they will soon end this political theater and fulfill their obligations to keep Americans safe.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. I thank the PRESIDING OFFICER for recognition.

Madam President, look, we have heard a lot about the shutdown today. We have heard a lot about the impacts of this on businesses and on our society in general. We heard a speech recently on the floor of the Senate on how Democrats don’t want border security, which cannot be further from the truth.

The fact is, last year, we appropriated $21 billion for border security. That was in 2017. For 2018, it was $21.5 billion. The truth is, everybody I know of who serves in this body, whether a Democrat or Republican, wants to make it’s to keep our borders secure and be more cost-effective for the American taxpayer.

What did the President do? Twenty-five times he said: I am going to shut down the government. Guess what. The government is shut down. It doesn’t take a genius to do that. We have heard the stories—and they will continue, especially after tomorrow when working folks will not get their paycheck—if the impacts on this country, on average Americans, who could lose their homes, their autos, not be able to send their kids to school, and not be able to afford healthcare. The list goes on and on.

I ask: Is this how you make America great again? Is this how it is done? It is not working.

Senator CARDIN came to the floor a bit ago, and he said: I want to put up not show bills; I want to put up Repu- tation has already passed and that the House passed this last week so that the Senate would do their job and hopefully reopen the government. I think there are enough votes to do it. I think there are enough votes to do it.

The majority leader’s response was: No, we are not going to do this; we want to take up a bill on Israel.

I am telling you, I am a big supporter of Israel, but I took an oath of office to protect this country first, and we are turning our back on this country.

We can continue to have the debate about the best way to secure the border. It should not be done by holding the American people hostage. It should be done by having a debate in this body—the most deliberative body in the world. I was told before I got here. I got to serve with great Senators, got to serve with Robert C. Byrd, Richard Lugar, Kennedy, and Lieberman. The list goes on and on. We don’t debate. We don’t even vote. In fact, we don’t even live up to the Constitution’s goals for us, its requirements for us—whatever you want to call them.

We are a coequal branch of government. We shouldn’t be allowing—as Senator DURBIN said, asking for a permission slip from the President to be able to do our business. Bring the bills to the floor to open this government, vote on it. If they go down, they go down. I think they will pass. If the President vetoes them, bring them back for a veto override. It is as simple as that.

I wonder what the forefathers would think today if they saw this body—a shell of its former self. And it is not due to the rules; it is due to the fact that we have leadership that will not live up to the obligation of this body as set up to begin with.

We have work to do here. We have a lot of work to do, and that work starts with opening the Government of the United States. If we don’t do it or if we say we are only going to do it with permission from the President, then we all ought to hold our heads in shame.

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

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, we are in day 20 of a government shut down. It is exceptionally avoidable, but it is also exceptionally painful and distracting to the American people.

At the USDA, the Farm Service Agency loans have stopped. At the FAA, new air traffic controllers take their spot in the tower who are working now—by tomorrow, they will miss a paycheck, but they will still be at work.

Home lending programs have halted. Forêt de Repu- tation has already passed and that the House passed this last week so that the Senate would do their job and hopefully reopen the government. I think there are enough votes to do it. I think there are enough votes to do it.

The majority leader’s response was: No, we are not going to do this; we want to take up a bill on Israel.

Agency loans have stopped. At the USDA, the Farm Service Agency loans have stopped. At the FAA, new air traffic control-
IRS taxpayer advocate services are closed. Indian Health Service is being stretched.

At the Bureau of Indian Affairs, most employees have been furloughed. The Department of Commerce and many others have been affected.

While this doesn’t affect most Agen-
cies in the Federal Government, it af-
fects a lot, and it affects real lives and
real people. Let me give some examples
from just my State of Oklahoma.

There is a technology company in
Tulsa that will have to begin fur-
loughing employees because it is a con-
tractor for the Federal workforce.

Those folks who are selling their cat-
tle right now and who have a relation-
ship with Farm Service can’t cash that
check because they can’t get a second
consignor for the check, and that de-
nitely affects them.

A Federal worker contacted us and
said she is a contractor, and as of a
couple days from now, she is not going
to be able to pay her son’s tu-
tion so he can go back to college,
because it will be too far a stretch.

The food banks in my State have al-
ready given out and running out to
Federal employees who may not get
a check starting tomorrow and may
be stretched and need some addi-
tional assistance, many of them for the
first time ever.

We have a family in the Norman
area, south of Oklahoma City, who
typically handles the contract for
housing for students who are coming
to the FAA, to the academy. Well, obvi-
ously those academy students have all
gone home, and they are losing $5,000 a
week due to the shutdown and the lack
of housing for those folks. And it is not
just empty facilities; employees who
are contractors there are now being
furloughed.

See, this affects real lives and real
people. This was an exceptionally
avoidable shutdown. Months and
months ago, the President of the
United States announced publicly and
repetitively that he was not going to
sign a funding bill at the end of the
year that does not add additional bor-
der security. Over and over again, in
public speeches and in private con-
versations on this Hill, the President
repeated over and over: I am not going
to sign a funding bill unless it adds ad-
ditional border security.

For some reason, half of this Hill ig-
nored it and said: He is just kidding.
He is not just kidding. He sees the issue
of border security—as I do, by the way,
as well—as being a serious issue that has
been talked about for decades that has
not been addressed. Now all of these
families are being impacted because
half of this Hill said they thought the
President was kidding.

We should be able to do basic border
security. This used to not be a partisan
issue. It was just a decade ago that this
body voted to add 650 miles of addi-
tional fencing along the border be-
tween Mexico and the United States
because at that time, a decade ago, this
body said: There is a serious issue with
border security. We should add fencing
to the border.

Outspoken liberals like Senator Clin-
ton and Senator Obama voted to add
fencing to the border in 2006 and said
that is the right thing to do. But sud-
denly now, a decade and a couple years
later, it is a partisan issue and we can’t
allow President Trump to have addi-
tional fencing. It seems very odd to me.
This seems like a personal attack on
the President in a time when the fed-
eral government is closed down and
where we have been as a country for a
long time. We should have basic bor-
der security.

For the President to be actually very
malleable on this—shockingly so, to
some people—he stepped out and said:
I want $5.7 billion for a wall or for fenc-
ing or for steel barriers or whatever
you want to call it. We need some addi-
tional barriers on it.

To negotiate during the Christmas
time period to be stuck because the
White House makes an offer to Sen-
tator SCHUMER, and Senator SCHUMER’s
response apparently was, we will wait
to negotiate this after NANCY PELOSI
becomes speaker—for 10 days we sat
there with nothing. Then we found out
had to wait until there was a Speaker
PELOSI.

Now Speaker PELOSI steps up and
says: We are going to do nothing on this.
And the President says: No, we need to
have additional border security. That is
something that the American people
saw as obvious—why wouldn’t we do
basic things for border security—has
suddenly become political and con-
troversial.

The President, even in his speaking
earlier this week from the Oval Office,
started by saying we should do addi-
tional technology at the border. I fully
agree. In fact, just in the last 2 years,
the Department of Homeland Security
has added 60 mobile surveillance
tower units to the southern border, has
added 50 mobile surveillance systems
to the southern border, and has added
ground sensors and tunnel detection
capabilities to the southern border.

Those are all technology aspects of
helping the southern border. The Presi-
dent stepped up and said we need to
do more in that area.

He said we need to add additional
agents, which, again, has not been a
partisan issue in the past.

He said we need to add additional im-
migration judges, which, again, has
not been controversial. We have 800,000
people waiting in immigration courts
to get due process right now. Many of
them will wait 2 years or more just to
get to a court. That is because we have
too few judges handling the many im-
migration cases that are out there. It
should be common sense to say “Let’s add
additional judges so people can get
to due process faster,” but suddenly
that has become controversial.

The President said we need to add
a steel barrier. Now, I am fully aware he
has talked about a wall in the past, and
he said wall, wall, wall over and over,
and some people have this picture that
it is going to be the Berlin Wall, com-
plete with graffiti on the side of it.
That is not what DHS is putting up,
nor what they have put up. They put
up a steel barrier, and Customs and Border
Patrol folks don’t want a solid wall. They
need to be able to see through it to see
whether there is a threat coming to them.

Has it made a difference? It has abso-
lutely made a difference. Some of my
telephone donors at the border in San
Diego just a month ago. They visited
with the Customs and Border Patrol
families there. They stated that the old
fencing that is there—and there is
some very old fencing in that area—
that old fencing had more than a dozen
penetrations through it a day—a day.
It was meaningless. But the new fenc-
ing that they are putting up, these big
steel slats, that steel barrier has one
person a month. So it moved from 10 to
1 to 1 a month. That is a pretty big
difference. That is helping manage
our border. That is why fencing actu-
ally does work.

I am fully aware of folks saying, if
you put up a 30-foot fence you get a 31-
foot ladder, but what about when you
have to climb a 31-foot ladder, you
have to slow down in the process, and
it gives time for the Border Patrol to
be able to interdict. That is what a
fence is about, to say: You can’t cross
there easily. You have to slow down
through the process—and we can inter-
dict folks.

This is a completely avoidable and,
quite frankly, very recognizable prob-
lem. We should not have a government
shutdown happening right now. Inter-
estingly enough, some of my Demo-
cratic colleagues I have spoken with
over the last 2 days were quietly whis-
pering in these hallways: I hope the
President will just declare a national
emergency so the fencing can get built,
and we can say we fought it, rather
than actually bringing a piece of legis-
lation here to solve it.

There are real families and real lives
getting affected by this. Let’s resolve
this. This is not a big number. This is
not a complicated issue. We can come
to common agreement on basic border
security to protect our communities
and our cities. We should have the abil-
ity for individuals to come into the
United States to work. We have always
been that way.

Interestingly enough, I remind people
all the time that the 5,000 people com-
ing from the migrant caravan from
Honduras are camped out 250 yards
from the largest legal border crossing
in the world, the San Ysidro crossing.
We have 5,000 people who are trying to
illegally cross the border literally 250
yards from where 100,000 people a day
cross legally every single day, but the
cameras are all focused on the 5,000
people illegally crossing, not turning
the camera 90 degrees to focus in
on the 100,000 people a day who filled
out the forms and did it right and are
coming into our country. We are still a country with open immigration, and we should be; we just ask people to do it the right way. I don’t think it is that unreasonable.

So how do we get out of this? The most direct way out of this is just to do what we talked about for months—let’s sit down and figure out how to do border security—just the simple process of that. Some of my colleagues have said the President needs to appoint, and there will talk about border security. That will be the same argument we have had for a couple of years now, where they say: Some other time, some another time. The President said, after months and months, this is the time to talk about this. So let’s resolve it as quick-ly as we possibly can.

Let’s not complicate it. I have heard people say: Let’s add all these additional things to the conversation and make the deal bigger. Making the deal bigger just slows down the process even more. Federal employees and all these families need answers right now. Let’s not continue to try to make this a bigger and bigger argument that stretches out longer and longer in debate. Let’s solve the issue we have in front of us right now and keep debating the other issues.

Finally, let’s get a permanent resolution to this issue of government shutdowns. It has been interesting to me to see the idea of a continuing resolution go to the one that happened during the Jimmy Carter Presidency or the Clinton Presidency or the three that happened during the Reagan Presidency or those that happened in the Bush Presidency. This is a bad habit Congress is in.

There were 16 of us who met this last year, from April all the way through December—eight Democrats and eight Republicans, half from the House and half from the Senate—to try to reconstitute the budget process. Most of us spoke up, myself included, over and over again, saying that this is a broken budget process, saying we have to end the government shutdowns. By the time we got to the middle of December, that group of 16 could not come to a resolution to address this problem. Well, how about now? Are we willing to admit now that there is a problem with budgeting?

Here was one of the solutions I brought to the committee. I think it is straightforward. The simple solution is, if you get to the end of the budget year and if we don’t have things resolved at that point, go into a continuing resolution; that is, continue to fund the government, hold the Agencies and employees harmless, but Members of Congress have to stay in Washington, DC, and the Cabinet and the White House have to stay in Washington, DC—no travel for anyone. We have to be here.

If you want to hit Members of Congress where it hurts, don’t let anyone go home for the weekend to see their families. We have families we want to see, too, but we shouldn’t be able to walk away when there is still work to be done. The greatest pressure point we can have in this body is that we would have to stay in continuous session until the negotiations are finished. Everyone is here.

That may be overly simplistic, but when I bring that up to other Members of Congress, they are like: Whoa. That is too much. Really? Everyone needs to stay here, keep the negotiations—from the House, the Senate, the Cabinet of the White House, and the White House staff itself.

The second measure we can take is, each week, through any kind of fight that goes on to get the budgeting done, cut everyone’s budget in the House, Senate, and White House’s operating budget 5 percent that week. Now, again, holding all the Agencies harmless, but for those who are doing the negotiations, they start feeling the pressure. Not only can you not travel, but you can’t even see your family. You have to stay in continuous session, but your budget is getting cut every week by 5 percent, each week until it gets resolved. Again, the pressure is on the people it should be on, holding harmless them. It makes sense to put 200-mile-long wall. It is not even needed, but in areas where there is a city on both sides of the border, and you literally cross the border within seconds unless there is a barrier there, it makes sense to have a barrier in those locations. It makes sense to put technology in other areas to be able to monitor folks who are illegally crossing the border in other areas. We can do this in a commonsense way. We can do this quickly. Let’s get it resolved.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I am unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, in a few minutes here—in 45 minutes or so—the Senate is going to vote to decide whether we want to begin debate on the bill that is before us, S. 1, Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act of 2019. I remind everybody of why we began with this bill.

I don’t know what the number is, but I would say the overwhelming majority of the Members of the Senate did not agree when the President decided to pull us out of Syria and Iraq for different reasons. Everybody was asking us: Well, why don’t you guys do something about it? As you know, it is difficult. The Congress cannot order the President to take military action. It can authorize it, it can fund it, and it can defund it, but it cannot compel it. That is the role of the Commander in Chief. There are some things we can do. However, because there are things we were concerned about with his decision, we are the ones who are sort of deal with the consequences of what, I believe, would be a mistake, and this bill endeavors to do that.

We went through and said: Let’s find something that would help our allies in the region—Israel, Jordan—and that deal with the human rights catastrophe in Syria. Let’s find things that are bipartisan and have widespread support so that we are not starting with something that is controversial. Then let’s put it all together in one bill so that the country will be able to see that the Senate is engaged in the foreign policy of this country and is acting out its constitutional role as a check and balance to the Executive branch.

That is what we did. No good deed goes unpunished, though, because as that bill was filed, apparently, the Democratic leader and others in the leadership asked their Members to vote against even beginning debate on a bill that an overwhelming number of them supported, that a majority of the Democrats supported. They asked them to vote not to proceed on the bill, and the argument is because of the government shutdown.

I still don’t know how it makes any sense to respond to a government shutdown by shutting down the Senate. In essence, why did we even come up here this week? It appears they are not making any progress on the negotiations, and we are not moving on any bills or legislation. I don’t know if it gives people any comfort to know that at least the Senate is shut down too. I don’t know how that helps our situation. This should be a place that can walk and chew gum at the same time, meaning a place that works on solving and ending this shutdown, which is bad for everybody, that keeps our allies in th region. That is what this bill is about.

We are going to have another vote here for the second time this week. So
that everybody understands, this vote is not even in favor of or against the bill; it is just to the question of whether we can start debate on this bill. I hope a few more Democrats will join us so that we can get the 60 votes we need just to begin debating the bill. If you still want to do this, your point will be made at the end of the day, then go ahead and vote again at it or whatever. I hope you don’t, but let’s at least begin debate on it. We will see what happens here in about 30 minutes. My sense is that we will still get the votes to do that, and it is unfortunate.

I do want to address two things that have been brought up with regard to this bill—one thing that has been brought up and one element of the bill that I hope will change people’s minds in terms of beginning the debate on it.

First, let me talk about a provision in this bill that deals with BDS. BDS—boycott, divestment and sanctions—is an international effort to wage economic warfare in order to teach it for its supposed treatment of Palestinians. It boycotts companies that do business in Israel until they cut ties. It boycotts or pressures banks and investment firms until they divest of any stock that helps Israel. It then asks governments to impose sanctions on Israel. That is BDS.

Some people support it. There are two newly elected Members of the House who openly support it. I assume that is what they think is right. I think that is wrong, but that is their right. The vast majority of people do not support it.

What has happened across America is that there are States and counties and cities that have decided they don’t support BDS. It is not illegal and we are not going to make it illegal if you want to be a company that participates in BDS. Yet we—the government, the cities, and the States—are not going to buy services or goods from any company that is doing business in Israel. All this bill does is protect them from lawsuits if they make that decision.

The argument against this has been—and I have seen this now in numerous statements from those on the other side of the aisle—that it infringes on the First Amendment rights of individuals. I don’t know what bill does that, but it isn’t this one.

To begin with, this bill doesn’t even apply to individuals. Individuals can do whatever they want to do. If you don’t want to buy stock in a company that does business in Israel, I think it is shortsighted, but no one is stopping you from doing that. If you want to divest your investments from companies that do business in Israel, no one is stopping you from doing that. If you don’t want to shop at or buy from companies that do business with Israel, that is not illegal. This doesn’t apply to any individuals.

By the way, it doesn’t even make it illegal for companies to make that decision. This is not banning participating in BDS. You have every right to support it. You are wrong, but you have every right to support it. You have every right to carry it out if you are a company or an individual.

This bill does not apply to individuals. Any time people say they are protecting the individual First Amendment right of an American is opposing this legislation. I don’t know what they are talking about because this does not apply to individuals.

All this says is to go ahead and do it. If you, company X, want to boycott Israel—deselect investments from Israel, you can, but the people who disagree with you can boycott and divest from you. You see, free speech is a two-way street. If you want to proclaim something or say something, you have every right to do it, but the people who disagree with you have a right to do that as well. If there is a First Amendment right to companies to boycott or divest from Israel, then there has to be a First Amendment right to boycott or divest from those companies.

If you oppose this bill, then you are in favor of shielding from counter-boycotters who are those people who agree to take these actions. That is what you are for, which is de facto support for BDS, because what you are basically saying is no one has a right to get you to do it. If you are a divestor, people can divest from you. I am talking about the elected representatives of our cities and counties. If the members of that community do not agree with that decision, they can vote them out of office.

Why does a city or a county have to be forced to buy products from companies that are undertaking a foreign policy action, which is what this is? This is not an effort to influence domestic policy; this is an effort to influence the policies of a foreign country. Why should a city or a county be forced by law to have to do business with those cities, counties or a State that disagrees? That is all this bill is.

When people go around talking about how something infringes on the First Amendment rights of individuals, I just don’t know what bill does that, but it isn’t this one.

As they continue to say that, just know that this bill only applies to cities, counties, and States being able to not buy things from companies. This doesn’t give you the right to fire an employee who posts a BDS thing on Facebook. This doesn’t give you the right to refuse to sell a home to or provide housing for or discriminate in any way against individuals who support BDS. This doesn’t give anyone the right to put you in jail for supporting BDS. It doesn’t do anything to infringe on anyone’s First Amendment right. Any amendment right is protected by this amendment to be against BDS and to do to the boycotters what the boycotters are doing to Israel. It is a two-way street. Those are the facts. If you are hiding behind that in order to oppose the bill, you are not being frank about what the bill does.

The second part of this bill that I wanted to talk about today shouldn’t be controversial at all because we are all in favor of no painful consequence of the grave humanitarian crisis we have seen in Syria. I would say and most would agree that what we have seen over the last 8 years of this conflict is the worst humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War. It began as anti-government protests, but it led to the fighting for political freedoms that has now escalated into a bloody civil war with a bunch of foreign fighters flying in. It is a mess of all kinds of different groups from foreign countries and of radical jihadists.

Caught in the middle are innocent people who have been bombed and gassed. In fact, this administration has had to take action to punish militarily the Assad regime for using bombs and chemical weapons on civilian populations. We have seen these images of children, babies, and everyday people—bakers and plumbers and small business owners and professionals—who 1 minute were walking around and the next minute were choking to death because their own government, with the support of Russia and Iran, dropped chemical weapons on their communities and killed countless people.

Not only is this sort of activity horrifying, it is a war crime. It is a war crime to deliberately target civilian populations, and it is particularly cruel to do it with a form of death—that is, death by chemical weapon. That is what we have seen.

That is what we have seen supported, by the way, by Vladimir Putin. He knows for a fact what they are doing and doesn’t care. He gives them cover, and he makes up these ridiculous stories about how it is the opposition that has done it. Everyone knows who has done it. There is zero doubt about it. That is why they don’t allow inspectors to get in there and find evidence and point it out. But it is abundantly clear who is doing it, and they have done it.

Even as this administration is deciding to pull out, the prospects grow and trends continue the way they are going. This bill tries to address that.

The now chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Senator from
Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the clerk will call the roll.

By the way, this bill also requires the administration the new legal authority to bring some accountability, which I believe everybody here was outraged by, how does stopping a bill or refusing to move a bill that deals with those things help end the shutdown? It doesn’t. It makes no sense, but, apparently, that is what some are willing to do.

They probably aren’t watching at this point. They are probably off at their caucus lunches or doing something else, but I hope that over the last 48 hours, some of my colleagues on the Democratic side have thought about it and have said to themselves that it is essentially a waste of time to deal with the government shutdown by shutting down the Senate.

I hope they will reconsider and vote differently this time. If they don’t, then, I am just not sure how we can explain to people why it is that we will not agree to even begin debate on something almost all of us agree on for reasons completely unrelated to it. In essence, that is what happened earlier this week and what could potentially happen here again.

I actually, oftentimes, wonder what must go through the minds of visitors to the Capitol. I understand most people in America aren’t watching this. Very few people probably are. I wonder. You come up here, and these groups from Close Up were here. It is a great organization. It brings high school kids up here. You try to explain to normal, regular human beings that there is a bill that 90 of the 100 Senators support, but we need to be able to debate it because they are voting against debating it. They would look at you like you have three heads and say: What are you talking about? They support the bill, but they don’t want to have a debate on the bill yet? Why? Because of the government shutdown. Well, what does that have to do with it?

There are no other aspects in our lives where we would do that. I have never heard that in my life. I have never heard someone say: I am not going to work today because I am upset that my favorite team lost the game yesterday, or I am not paying my bills this month because I don’t like the fact that they charged me too much for changing my tires. If you did that in any part of your life, people would think you were crazy. Yet that is what is happening here.

I don’t know how to explain that. Certainly don’t know how to explain it to high school students up here visiting from Close Up or to anyone else, for that matter, but that is what happened earlier this week, and that is what might happen today here in a few minutes.

I hope I am wrong. I hope people have reconsidered because, honestly, this is an issue that deserves our earnest attention.

I will close with this. Please do not go around saying that Congress needs to do more to hold the administration accountable or to conduct oversight of our administration policy, when we started this Congress trying to do that and you decided to keep us from doing it for some other reason. Don’t say that Congress needs to be more involved in the foreign policy of the United States, when this is exactly what we are trying to do here today and you will not let us for reasons unrelated to it.

This country needs a strong Senate more than ever before, not one that is shut down. I hope people will change their minds so we can get to work on this right now.

The Senate should be able to walk, chew gum, write, and read at the same time for a lot of us. There are 100 people here. We should be able to do multiple things at the same time. We do it all the time.

You don’t need to shut down the Senate, and you don’t need to stop debate on this bill to solve the government shutdown. One has nothing to do with the other. Everyone knows that. Americans understand that. Normal people recognize that.

Let’s act normal. Let’s stop being weird about these things, and let’s move on something like this and get the debate going, even as we work on the government shutdown and on border security.

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. RISCH. 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. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today, again, to discuss S. 1 and to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this.

Mr. President, some of those on the other side of the aisle have not been forthcoming with this, and it has been reconsidered. All Republicans voted for it. Four of our friends on the other side of the aisle also voted with us on this, and I would urge a few more to do so. If that happens, we will actually pass this package of bills, which is so important.

These have been kicked around for some time. The substance of these bills have near—although not completely—unanimous approval of this body. Indeed, Members of this body have voted for these, both in committee and on the floor, individually in the past, but they have not gotten across the finish line because we ran out of time in the last Congress.

Essentially, it is a package of three bills that support our friends. One, of course, supports Israel. One supports Jordan, one of our best friends in the Middle East. And, lastly, one of the bills refrains from sanctions against the sanctioned, against Bashar al-Assad and his government in Syria.

These should pass. You might ask yourself: Why are we having these party-line votes on this? Well, my friends on the other side of the aisle have said: We are not going to vote on anything while the government is shut down, and we should be focused on this. I would remind my friends that there are a lot of us here, and those who are veterans of the 2013 Obama-Harry Reid shutdown.

During that shutdown, the U.S. Senate continued to do its job, continued to consider resolutions, continued to pass bills, and continued to do confirmations, as it was required to do.

That is what we have here today—something that we should be doing that reinforces our friends in the Middle East. Particularly with times being somewhat tumultuous there, it is important that we support our friends in the Middle East, and it is important that we put these sanctions on the people of Syria.

I would also remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that they are forcing a vote on the Treasury regulations surrounding Mr. Deripaska, the Russian person who has had sanctions placed on him and who has gone through the process of getting them removed in the other side are requiring that we debate and then vote on those, which is a good thing to do. First of all, there are some issues that need to be aired there, and, secondly, it is important that we have the processes for reviewing regulations by the Treasury Department under the sanctions legislation in the past. It is good that we do that. But to say: “We can’t do this, but we can do that because they want to do it really doesn’t make sense. They also want to do this. I think if we had a straight-up vote on this, I would suspect the Democrats would vote unanimously to do this.

This is just the wrong way to do business. We are the U.S. Senate. We are open for business. We are doing business. In the last shutdown, we did business, and there is no reason we can’t do this.

Mr. President, fellow Senators, for all of the reasons I have just said, I urge an affirmative vote on this good legislation. Get it on its way, and get it doing the things that we want to see done.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant 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. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2013, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes,


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 S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2013, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PEROZ). Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “yea.”

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43.

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Leg.]

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2013, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes,

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

CIVILITY, FAIRNESS, AND OPPORTUNITY

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, each new year brings with it a range of different emotions. We look back on what we have accomplished in the last year, what we hope to achieve in the year to come, and think of ways we can better ourselves.

Some of our objectives may include eating just a little less. For me, that...
means eating a little less sour cream pound cake or sweet potato pie, which is something I can completely control, and I am trying.

As a nation, though, we need to look at some goals for the new year that will take us forward together—goals that may be a little tougher and require all of us to work together. While we may have some uncomfortable conversations—and we will—we must recognize that at the end of the day, we are family, both inside our homes and as Americans, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

As we look to 2019, I am hopeful we can take three lessons and carry them forward. Those who follow me know I have focused my time in the Senate on an opportunity agenda that focuses on helping people rise from poverty in distressed communities, helping folks who are living paycheck to paycheck to experience the greatness that is, in fact, the American dream, and I will continue to address those issues in 2019, but you will also hear from me in 2019 what I believe are some missing keys to American progress. Those keys are civility, fairness, and opportunity.

So when you are having dinner and a family member or friend wants to tell you that the reigning Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles—luckily, of course, to be in the playoffs at all—are in fact the best football team in America, we all know the truth: It is America’s team, the Dallas Cowboys, not the Philadelphia Eagles. You will have a discussion with your family member who believes otherwise, and I hope you will disagree strongly, that you will argue with facts, history—the history of Roger Staubach or Troy Aikman or Emmitt Smith or Tony Dorsett or “Too Tall” Jones—and you argue that with history and with passion, but you know, at the end of the day, your crazy uncle is still your crazy uncle. You will see each other next weekend. You will hug, and you will start the same fight all over again, but you see what you have done is you have agreed to disagree without being disagreeable. That, at its core, is the civility our Nation is sorely missing right now.

Too often too many seem too focused on saying whatever they want to say and saying it more loudly, without any concern for the actual content. We need to return to civility, where the other side isn't evil or a traitor or trying to destroy our country, but they simply have a different vision for how to achieve success.

Second, sometimes we struggle to make sure our loved ones, especially our kids around Christmastime, are treated fairly. So as they open their presents, we want to make sure everyone has a chance to play with everything. This is what we call trying to be fair. As a parent—or in my case as the giver of cool gifts—we want to make sure the kids are not being favored with our siblings as they play with the new toys. There is something in each and every one of us that yearns for fairness, but too often, when we leave the comfort of those mornings, we tend to want more for ourselves than we want for others. We want people to treat us in a way that gives us the benefit of the doubt, but sometimes we don’t want to give it in return. Being fair means first seeking to understand before being understood.

Finally, opportunity. I want to look back at a Christmas tradition in my hometown of North Charleston, a place where we see amazing things happen around the Christmas holidays. We see police officers, firefighters, and community volunteers coming together about 6 a.m. on Christmas morning to go knock on doors, where they know definitely there are kids without Christmas trees, much less Christmas presents. These police officers, firefighters, and community volunteers join hands and raise a ton of dollars and bring presents to the doors. Anyone who has experienced this, as I have, knows how the joy in a child’s face, the emotion and the tears of happiness for someone who didn’t expect a single thing for the holidays, because opportunity is just not about ourselves and our families. While we certainly strive to be successful, the true meaning of the Christmas and the holiday season lies in what we do for others.

For Congress, that means everything we do—everything we do—should be about engaging with all those who live, work, and play in this country with an eye toward improving the lives of all Americans. For folks at home, remember, there are folks in your community who are less fortunate. This became the greatest Nation on Earth because of our hearts and our minds, the hearts and minds of the American people, the power and endurance of the American dream, and the graciousness and strength of the American spirit; in other words, American exceptionalism. Civility, fairness, and opportunity are three words that can help our Nation heal and move us forward toward a better future.

My hope this year is that we will take some time to think about what each of us can do to further these goals. Resolutions are good. Being resolute in our mission to strengthen our Nation is great. Soon I will speak about my vision for the future, my America 2030 plan.

I want to say happy new year and ask everyone to be the true spirit of what makes America great.

RECOGNIZING THE CLEMSON TIGERS' 2018 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Mr. President, before I close, I would like to talk, just for a few minutes, about an epic celebration that shall upstate city in the great State of South Carolina—a celebration that is because of a game. Now, in South Carolina, we have real division. The divisions can be seen between those who support the Clemson Tigers and those who support the Gamecocks, who are our sister school.

After the Clemson national championship victory, both sides of the great State of South Carolina—at least most of us—are celebrating the absolute overwhelming success of the Clemson Tigers. You can’t help but appreciate and admire the amazing leadership at Clemson University, the leadership of Jim Clements, the President of Clemson University.

Clemson has been an amazing testament to the goodwill and good effort of programs focused on character first. As Coach Swinney has created an absolute powerhouse in Clemson, it is hard to doubt that he is not one of the best coaches in college football in America today. He has surrounded himself with amazing players such as Deshaun Watson, DeAndre Hopkins, Vic Beasley, and now Trevor Lawrence, Travis Etienne, and Christian Wilkins;

I want to extend my congratulations to Clemson University on their second national championship in just the last 4 years and their third overall national championship. I wish I could be in Clemson on Saturday night, at 9 a.m., as they—they don’t have to paint the streets orange because they are already orange—but as they blow out the great city they live in. I will say that next year as I listened and excited about the success of Clemson University on the field, I thought, listening to Dabo Swinney as he talked about success in life, it reminded me of my civility, fairness, and opportunity agenda for 2019.

He said something to this effect. When asked about his success and the greatness of his football team and the wonders of winning a national championship, what did he celebrate the most? He said it in totally this fashion. He said: When I think about being selfish, when I think about real success, it is in this. First, it is about honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior; second, it is about honoring Congress; and third, it comes down to self. There is something to learn about putting others before ourselves as we look toward a more civil society, filled with fairness, brimming with opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Senator, and if I may congratulate the junior Senator from South Carolina on the spectacular win that Clemson had and also congratulate him about being so true to the spirit of civility he discussed and not trash-talking the other team involved.

It was a truly splendid victory between two extraordinarily talented and capable teams, and I congratulate the Senator.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Would the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Gladly.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. I will conclude that while I am exuberant and excited for the enthusiasm for Clemson’s success this year, I am aware that next year Clemson and Alabama may meet again. So the more you celebrate this year, perhaps the more you will regret it next year.
Thank you, Senator.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Mr. President, and happy new year. The new 116th Congress opened last hour for the Senate side up to the clear and present danger of climate change. The House of Representatives being in Democratic hands augments that hope. The Senate Republican majority has failed to act—climate change—this is no accident. This is the Senate in the Citizens United era. I was here before Citizens United, and for years we saw Senate climate bipartisanship, before Citizens United. After Citizens United, what we see is immensely powerful climate-denying, dark-money front groups for the fossil fuel industry, all likely funded by fossil fuel interests, and we see no Republican Senator willing to cross them. The spending they do in politics—and the more silent threat of spending—is a black- ade. It reeks.

Here is a case study on how dark and unlimited money play in Senate elections. In 2016, in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin, three Democratic Senate candidates faced early challenges—and all won. A $70 million barrage against three specific candidates, that majority of a $70 million barrage that kind of political artillery, the vast majority of $70 million was fossil fuel dollars. I strongly suspect all of it was. In any event, when one industry can deliver that kind of political artillery, the vast majority of a $70 million barrage against three specific candidates, that gives that industry remarkable political power with the side that is advantaged—climate action. Stopping political power, it would seem.

As the mounting effects of climate change have grown ever more dire and the scientific understanding has grown ever more clear, what has the Senate done? Nothing. Let’s look at what we learned and what we witnessed and what we failed to do in 2018.

Mr. President, 2018 saw the release of two major Senate reports—one from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the effects of warming 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, and the second, the Trump administration’s own “National Climate Assessment.” Together, these reports delivered the starkest warning on climate change to date. Damage from climate change is already occurring. Economies are now at risk, and we are almost out of time to prevent the worst consequences.

The IPCC report told us that accounting for the costs of carbon pollution by charging a price for carbon emissions is the “central” policy that will allow us to hold the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius c. The Trump administration delivered the starkest warning on climate change to date. Damage from climate change is already occurring. Economies are now at risk, and we are almost out of time to prevent the worst consequences. The IPCC report told us that accounting for the costs of carbon pollution by charging a price for carbon emissions is the “central” policy that will allow us to hold the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius c. The Trump administration delivered the starkest warning on climate change to date. Damage from climate change is already occurring. Economies are now at risk, and we are almost out of time to prevent the worst consequences.

More telling was the spectacle of the Trump administration’s “National Climate Assessment.” This report, written by 13 Federal Agencies, described the monumental damage the United States is facing from climate change, flatly contradicting the climate denial assertions of the President and his fos-sil fuel allies. The administration tried to bury the report by releasing it on Black Friday during the Thanksgiving holiday. That cynical move happily backfired, with more than 140 newspapers around the country featuring the report’s stark findings on front pages and Google searches for “climate change” hitting their highest level for the year.

Tellingly, the fossil fuel industry and its bevy of stooges in the Trump administration celebrate the report’s release. The science in the report—an admission by the Trump administration that they know their science is phoney. They know the real science is irrefutable. It is better to hide from it.

Unfortunately, we witnessed the irrefutable contribution of climate change to the most devastating natural disasters of 2018.

“Irrefutable,” by the way, is one way to describe climate science. Another way the Trump administration describes climate science as “irrefutable.” The description of climate science as “irrefutable” was published in a New York Times full-page advertisement in 2009 that was signed by, among others, Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, Eric Trump, and the Trump Organization. How things change.

Anyway, out West, wildfires in Cali- fornia broke records. The Mendocino Complex Fire in July and August was the largest in the State’s recorded history. The Camp Fire, this photo- graph—was the deadliest and most de- structive wildfire in California history, killing 86 people. Scientists linked California’s increasing wildfires to cli- mate change, estimating the area burned by wildfires across the Western United States since 1984 at twice what would have burned without the human-driven changes.

When Hurricane Michael hit Florida, it passed over water 2 to 3 degrees Celsius warmer than average. Passing over the warmest ocean waters for miles, it hit land at 130 miles per hour in just 48 hours, becoming the strongest storm ever to make an Octo- ber landfall in the United States and almost completely flattening the town of Mexico Beach, FL.

Scientists are increasingly able to identify the role of climate change in extreme weather. The American Meteorological Society reported in December that 15 extreme weather events in 2017 were made more likely due to human-caused climate change, including the strongest hurricane to make landfall on the east coast of the United States since 1984 at twice what would have been “virtually impossible” without human-induced warming. The report drew attention to the role of oceans in many of these extreme events. Jeff Rosenfield, the Meteorological Society’s editor-in-chief, said that “the ocean is actively playing a role in the extremes that we’re seeing” and that “we’re seeing the oceans as a link in a chain of causes that ultimately tie back to human actions.”

The changes occurring in the ocean are imposing an increasing threat to our coastal communities, from gulf communities in Louisiana to shoreline communities in Rhode Island.

The Union of Concerned Scientists released a report last year finding that over 300,000 coastal homes, with a collective market value of over $130 billion, are at risk of chronic flooding by 2045. By the end of the century, 2.4 million homes, worth more than $1 trillion, are expected to be at risk.

A 2018 report from Climate Central and Zillow found that thousands of

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homes continue to be built in risky coastal areas that are expected to suffer annual floods by 2050.

Freddie Mac, the big U.S. housing corporation, has taken a look at this and warned of a coastal property values crash as those houses become uninhabitable or unmortgageable to the next buyer.

A second economic crash we face is a “carbon bubble” in fossil fuel companies. The “carbon bubble” collapse happens when fossil fuel reserves prove on the books of fossil fuel companies turn out to be undevelopable “stranded assets.” Research published by economists in the journal Nature Climate Change estimated that in a world where we succeed in limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius, $12 trillion of financial value could vanish from balance sheets globally in the form of stranded fossil fuel assets. That is over 15 percent of global GDP, and that is why the Bank of England calls this a systemic risk, a risk to the entire global economy.

Financial managers are waking up to these risks. At the recent U.N. climate summit in December, a group of 415 global investors, managing $32 trillion of investments, said companies are misrepresenting and misleading people who have been trusted with managing $32 trillion worth of investments—came together to warn that the world faces a financial crisis worse than the 2008 crisis unless carbon emissions grow. They are people who call for the end of fossil fuel subsidies and the introduction of substantial prices on carbon emissions. They understand that to limit the worst climate risks, including economic catastrophes, we must cut carbon emissions immediately and substantially.

But back home, the Trump administration—clearly and completely corrupted by the fossil fuel industry—has now taken more than 90 actions to weaken climate policies. Regrettably, after years of decline, U.S. carbon emissions grew 3.4 percent in 2018. Global carbon emissions also grew by 2.7 percent to reach a new carbon emissions record.

If the Trump administration’s 2018 regulatory actions read like a fossil fuel industry wish list, it is because they are. Just one example is the fuel economy rollback for automobiles. It is a perfect example. The new, weaker standards—guess who—the largest oil refiner in the country, Marathon Petroleum. Marathon also distinguished itself as a top donor to ethically challenged EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during his time in political office in Oklahoma. Marathon worked with the other Koch Brothers network and oil industry lobby groups to run a stealth campaign, including a Facebook ad campaign using a phony front group called Energy4US that hid its oil industry origin.

Fossil fuel energy companies claim to be cleaning up their act. They issue statements voicing support for carbon pricing. Look at what they do when the prospect of getting a carbon price on the books becomes real, as it did in Washington State’s carbon fee ballot initiative. The campaign against the carbon fee spent the campaign supporting it by 2 to 1, dumping more money into the ballot fight than any other initiative in history. In the state’s history. And who funded the campaign against the initiative? Oil companies. BP, Phillips 66, and, of course, our friends Marathon Petroleum were the top spenders by far.

Oil companies support carbon pricing, but the giant trade associations they fund to go out and do their political work—the American Petroleum Institute, the so-called U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers—all oppose any proposals to reduce carbon pollution. The CEOs say one thing, and their political electioneering and lobbying apparatus is instructed to go out and do the exact opposite.

Another area of the Washington State ballot initiative is who did not show up. Conceivably absent are any of the good-guy corporations from the tech, financial, and food and beverage sectors that talk such a good game, or the good-guy CEOs who are telling because it matches what happens here in Congress. The good-guy corporations do not lift a political finger to advance climate legislation here in the Senate. In fact, these are the good guys that our fossil fuel pirates are and what they are all up to through their front groups and their dark money and all the nonsense that they drive. These are the supposed good guys. In fact, they have a net negative presence here in the Senate on climate legislation because they do virtually nothing, and the trade associations they help to fund, like the Chamber of Commerce, lobby against climate action.

So you have American corporations with good climate policies taking sustainability seriously within their corporate precincts. Then, those companies come to the Senate, and their positions, as they appear here in the Senate, are against the climate policies they claim to support because they work through these intermediary groups that have been co-opted by fossil fuel interests and because they don’t show up themselves. In 2019, let’s hope the good-guy American corporations get off the bench, clean up their act, and do the right thing.

To bear on our friends on the other side, and there has not been a single Republican Senator on a single serious carbon emissions bill since that moment. It shows what happens when you give a big special interest a massive, new piece of political weaponry. It doesn’t mean it has to be this way. The good guys could show up and counterbalance the political hydraulics here of the fossil fuel industry’s power. The good guys could address the problems, like, “Hey, we gave you a heck of a good run. For years, we did nothing, but it is time now. We have taken a look at where voters are. We have even taken a look at where Republican voters are. We have taken a look at where the science is, and we are going to do something.

There are a lot of ways that we can go back to the bipartisan legislation, the bipartisan hearings, and the bipartisan conversations that characterized this issue before Citizens United. It has been too long that big polluter donors have had their way around here. They pay the fee, but our Nation pays the price. We have a responsibility here to...
I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore of the Senate of the United States, Mr. Wyden, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore of the Senate of the United States, Mr. Wyden, Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about Larry Weinberg, who was beloved by many Oregonians, one of the original owners of our wonderful basketball team, the Portland Trail Blazers—the owner who won our franchise from the people of my State as he guided our Trail Blazers to their first title. He passed away last week at the age of 92. He was a soft-spoken man who was never one to drone on, so in that spirit, I am going to keep these remarks brief.

The Weinbergs really looked at our town and those Trail Blazers as part of their extended family. I can remember Larry telling everybody to know about Larry is that he was a wonderful family man. I met him for the first time in the early 1980s. I was a young Member of the other body, the House of Representatives, and Larry could have made it our first conversation in about politics. We were very interested, for example, in ways to promote a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. There were plenty of things we could have talked about with respect to politics, but he made the conversation about basketball, which was one of the great loves of his life, and I think people know around here that my great hope was to play in the NBA. Larry knew that.

Because Larry was a family man, that first conversation we had was about family, and he had an enormous family. If you look at the family photo on the holiday cards that Larry and his wife Barbi sent each year, you would think about half of the 320 million people in our country were actually Weinbergs. The cards were wonderful, and they just seemed to go on and on and on.

During that first conversation, Larry asked me about my family. I told him about my great-uncle Max, who was one of last Jews to be murdered in Auschwitz. I told him about my parents, who fled Nazi Germany as refugees and settled in America before they pitched in to the war effort during World War II.

That was one of the first bonds I had with Larry Weinberg, and I think that was true of many of his friends. We had family who were veterans themselves, loved ones who had wanted to make sure the United States prevailed in World War II, and that was Larry. He served in Europe during the war and sustained serious injuries in France.

Throughout his life, he carried that dedication to service that was so characteristic of so many of his generation.

Larry Weinberg applied the development of concrete scholarship on issues that face not only Israel but the entire Middle East, understanding that the difficulties affecting one’s neighbors are really part of a shared burden, demanding a shared solution.

Portlanders like myself know Larry for another reason. If you are a Portlander of my age and an ardent Blazer fan, you cheered on Bill Walton’s Trail Blazers because they won a championship for Rip City in 1977. If you are a young basketball fan in Portland today, you probably root for Dame—that is Lillard—or C.J. that is C.J. McCollum. All of us in Portland and in Oregon owe Larry Weinberg a debt of gratitude because he brought the NBA to our State, and had he not done that, all of us who root for the Trail Blazers today wouldn’t be able to turn out and see Dame and C.J. and all of our wonderful players who are really community leaders.

I remember back then seeing Larry and his wife Barbi cheering at our home games, and they were always wearing our colors. I particularly saw that bright-red blazer. Whether it was back in the seventies at the Memorial Coliseum or in those later years at the Moda Center, when you looked at Barbi and Larry Weinberg, you got a sense of what it meant not just to be a fan, but the Weinbergs really looked at our town and those Trail Blazers as part of their extended family.

With respect to sports and the intersection of sports and how sports fit into the world, I want to relate something that happened in the late 1980s when Larry approached me with a particular request, something he wanted me to do.

I was traveling to the Soviet Union with a group of Jewish community leaders from Portland. At that time, the Trail Blazers were very interested in bringing a wonderfully talented center, Arvydas Sabonis, to Portland.

There was a discussion. It was a period when the United States and the Soviet Union were still talking about the relationship being so ambiguous. Reagan and Gorbachev were trying to sort it out. There was a letter from Larry to the Soviet Sports Federation about Arvydas Sabonis. He had actually been drafted a few years before, and the idea was that the Trail Blazers hoped to bring Mr. Sabonis from the Soviet Union to the United States to play for the Trail Blazers in the NBA.

Now, as I mentioned, relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were still not that friendly, but they were improving. A lot of people believed that a Soviet-born player coming to play professional basketball in my hometown in Portland would help that along. So on this trip to the Soviet Union, Larry and I met with the Soviet Sports Federation. I was to, in effect, hand over a letter to the Soviet Sports Federation, making it clear—and this was a courtesy letter—that if Mr. Sabonis was permitted to come to Oregon to play basketball for the Trail Blazers—the letter indicated Mr. Sabonis would be well treated. He would have comfortable accommodations, good training facilities, and there would be people to advise him on nutrition and get him acclimated to our country.

Well, when I walked into this meeting in Moscow, I really felt like I was starring in Rocky IV. There I was—a young Congressman from the United States, a former basketball player myself—to make the case on behalf of my hometown and the Portland Trail Blazers to these men, all of whom were at least 20 or 30 years older than me. I was trying to make the case that if the Soviet Sports Federation were willing to allow Mr. Sabonis to come, he would be well treated.

What I got from these stern looking Soviet Sports Federation officials were essentially monosyllabic answers, much like you heard in the Rocky movies—maybe somebody would say “nyet.” I didn’t know everything about the language of my host, but I got the sense that wasn’t a good thing when they said that. I could get the sense about their skepticism as if they believed that this young American Congressman in front of them was pulling some sly trick of geopolitical strategy as we tried to bring Arvydas Sabonis to Portland.

I tried to make the point to these Soviet leaders that we were not exactly talking about arms control. We were talking about playing basketball, and we were talking about building bridges.

That, if anything, is what Larry Weinberg’s life was all about. He was about building bridges. And he did it in terms of housing, when he was trying to create housing opportunities for people of modest means, when he was creating opportunities for people to learn from each other. There he was with this young Congressman, just wanting to offer a guarantee that Mr. Sabonis, the best Soviet player of his time, would be well cared for. It took a few more years. Eventually he made it to Portland, where Larry and Trail Blazer fans got to watch him play and play well.

I cannot find the picture, but back then there was a picture that ensured that Oregonians across the State were
laughing at their breakfast tables. One day it came out that Mr. Sabonis and I were strolling along the waterfront in Portland. I am 6 feet 4 inches—not as tall as Senator Cotton, but 6 feet 4 inches—and I was standing next to Mr. Sabonis who was as tall as a typical building. I mean, we thought he might have been 7 feet 5 inches, which was much taller than was listed.

It was a wonderful experience for me, and it was a chance to see what Larry Weinberg must have been like. He was 7 feet tall, which was taller than me. It is a chance for you to learn a little bit more about the world, Rox, a chance for you to go to the Soviet Union—it was the Soviet Union at that time—and see the connection between reform and how people like Weinberg and Gorbachev were trying to do and the role of sports in terms of bringing people together.

I was so honored that Larry Weinberg would give me a window into that kind of opportunity and allow me in a really small way, as a young Congressman, to be part of what his life was always about, which is building bridges.

So I am going to close this way. I want to thank my colleagues, not only to speak about Larry as well. When the Jewish people really want to compliment somebody and say somebody is really special and has exceptional character, what we say is that person is a mensch. What I am here to tell the Senate today is my friend Larry Weinberg, whom we lost just a few days ago, was really a super mensch, a true mensch, a person of enormous integrity, decent at his core. I just want to say that Larry is an incredible husband, father, and the essence of Rip City pride. He was a soft spoken guy, but he was Portland’s loudest fan.

Tonight, I want to say to his family and friends—all, seemingly, 100 million of them—and to always remember Larry Weinberg with great fun and appreciation for his enormous contributions to our city and for all that he did during his lifetime to be in that bridge building business, for working the world—tikkun olam—a wonderful, wonderful man.

Our Larry Weinberg we Oregonians will always remember in our hearts.

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. 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.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in a few moments I am going to yield the floor to Senator Kaine to make a unanimous consent request that has been cleared by both sides, and I am very pleased about that. This is in regard to S. 24, legislation that I have filed with several of my colleagues.

I particularly thank Senator Kaine, but I also want to thank my colleagues Senator Van Hollen and Senator Mark Warner for their work, as well as Senator Collins and others in this body who cosponsored that legislation. It is legislation very similar to what we passed in the last hours of the 115th Congress. It does what I think all of us have said we want to make sure is done; that is, when we reopen government, those who have been working without pay and those who are on furlough without pay will get backpay. I think that is at least some assurance to our government workforce that when we finally reopen government, they know they will be getting their paychecks. I think it is a very important point to give them at least that comfort.

I don’t want to minimize the risk factors that we have for the 800,000 Federal workers who are not getting their paychecks. Just today, I found a letter from a constituent. I am going to read it very quickly.

“Dear Senator Cardin, as an Air Traffic Controller and Maryland constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me and my family. Today, I received my earnings and leave statement for $34. We cannot sustain our financial obligations on a total of $34 for our last two weeks of work! We recently were able to build a new house to try to start a family, and we still have increased financial obligations because of that and all that entails. In addition, my family, my brother and father, has minimal income now, and we are supporting them. My father is 69 years old and currently has an enlarged hernia that requires an operation, he has no health insurance, and no income. He lives in NH, and is on even more medication now. The side effects are greatly affecting him. He needs my help, and I don’t have the resources to help him. He is suffering so much, and I love him greatly. My brother recently had to weather a separation from his wife, and has been unable to find affordable housing in MD on a single income for him and my niece and nephew—Aydin, 10 years and Ava 7 years old. They have been living in our basement since August 2018, and we have been supporting them in every way we can, until he can get back on his feet. I love them so much, and now I can’t continue to help them. This hurts so much, we need your pay checks to support our family now!”

“Ends by saying: Please help in any way you can to end this shutdown now!”

I couldn’t agree more. I urge our colleagues, hopefully in the next couple of days—even before that—to end the shutdown. But at least, as a result of the unanimous consent request that will be made very shortly, which has cleared both sides, we can tell them that the pay is coming.

I see the distinguished majority leader is here. We had some words earlier. I want to thank the majority leader for accommodating this unanimous consent. It is consistent with what the leader has said in the past, that we will make sure our workers get paid when the government is open.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McConnell. Mr. President, I had an opportunity to talk to President Trump a few moments ago and wanted to indicate to our colleagues that he will sign the bill that we have been discussing here to guarantee that government workers who have been displaced as a result of the shutdown will ultimately be compensated. So I want to ease their anxiety about that particular possibility.

With that in mind, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 3, S. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Young). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 24) to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 24) was passed, as follows: S. 24

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 “Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “An officer” and inserting “Except as specified in this subchapter or any other provision of law, an officer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) In this subchapter—

“(A) the term ‘covered lapse in appropriations’ means any lapse in appropriations that begins on or after December 22, 2018; and

“(B) the term ‘District of Columbia public employer’ means—
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Virginia.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, just briefly, I also want to extend my gratitude to the majority leader for working with us on this matter. I alerted both caucuses yesterday that I planned to object to adjourning for the weekend on the grounds that tomorrow more than 800,000 Federal employees will stop receiving their paychecks. This has already started, according to the words of my colleague from Maryland.

Also, on Saturday the shutdown will achieve the dubious distinction of being the longest shutdown in the history of the United States. So yesterday I alerted both caucuses that my plan was to object to an adjournment. I filed that objection. The majority leader then engaged in discussion, together with the minority leader and others, about whether there is something we can do to send a message to these people, many of whom are under very dire circumstances. They have written me, too, about postponing medical procedures and not buying medication for their kids. Is there something we can do that can send them some message of comfort that they will receive their paychecks, if not tomorrow, but they will be made whole?

Over the course of the afternoon, as we have talked about it, we thought the best message we could send—and I am glad I had the opportunity to vote with my colleagues, the majority leader, and my colleagues from Virginia and Maryland on the bill we just passed here on the Senate floor to ensure the backpay for Federal workers who will be without pay today can get to a resolution soon on this partial government shutdown that gets all elements of the government open and fully funds the border and the significant amounts requested by the White House that I think most Americans and most Alaska need and want.

TRIBUTE TO URBAN RAHOI

Mr. President, I hope that you and all the pages here—we have some new pages in the staff here—had a great holiday season and that everybody listening back home and watching back home in Alaska around the country also had a wonderful holiday. I certainly did. It is always great to be home in my State—spending time with family and my wife, my daughters, and with friends, which to me is the greatest State in the greatest country in the world.

Winter is a special time in Alaska. The sun may be low or in some places it may not rise above the horizon at all, but there is a certain glow that comes with the snow. With that glow and the Northern Lights dancing in the sky, particularly in the interior— the place I am going to talk about in a minute—it is magical. We want to assure anyone watching to come to Alaska and you are going to have the trip of a lifetime.

As I have said so many times on the floor of the Senate, it is the people who make my State so special—tough, hearty, resilient people who have lived through the most amazing, meaningful, purposeful lives and who have the wisdom, the character, the toughness, and, yes, even the scars to prove it. Stories of character, stories of lives well-traveled, and stories of lives well-lived abound for the State. And I say to the American people that it is the greatest generation, which saved America and saved this institution, among others, the U.S. Senate.
Eventually, as it does with a certain kind of an adventurous person, Urban heard the call of Alaska, and he flew to the State in a PA–12 Cub. He and Vi homesteaded on the Tanana River, near the Richardson Highway, and began to make a life for themselves in Alaska.

What a rich life it was. They began a family, eventually having three children—Rick, Eugene, and Holly. Urban also stayed active in the military, as a member of the Air Force Reserve 47th Fighter Squadron, in Alaska. He commanded the C–47 squadron and co-piloted several historic military aircraft, including the North American F–82 Twin Mustang, the Lockheed F–94 Starfire, and the Northrup F–89 Scorpion.

This is a great pilot for America. He began offering private flying services, and he also built two areas in terms of developments. Together, they made up these trailer parks with 172 lots. Urban designed the development of these areas and installed all of the electrical lines, the water lines, and the septic system—all himself.

Think about that. What American can do that today? He also built a lodge in an inholding in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. If that were not enough, he became a big game guide in Alaska, running a successful big game guiding business, and he built Flattopgan Lake Lodge and an inholding in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

When Alaska became a State, guides were required to be registered, and they had registration numbers. Urban Rahoi was issued big game Alaska’s State license No. 1—No. 1, the first.

All told, during his career as a pilot, he racked up an incredible 20,000 hours of flying—20,000 hours of flying. That is a regular basis. Despite 30–below temperatures, hundreds of people from the interior of Alaska and beyond, from all walks of life, were there at the Pioneer Parks’ Centennial Center to honor this legend, this great Alaskan, and this great American.

There were family and friends. We even had a special guest—the football fans watching knew him very well—former Miami Dolphins football player and Hall of Famer Larry Csonka was there to celebrate Urban’s 100th birthday. Csonka had been sheep hunting at Urban’s lodge, and the two remained very, very close friends ever since.

One of Urban’s goals is to be the first 100-year-old to participate in a snowmachine race in Fairbanks—a race that Urban rides in every year. Larry Csonka gave him an autographed Miami Dolphins football helmet to wear as the helmet when Urban participates in this race this year.

There was a life-sized cake with 100 candles, a slide show of pictures of Urban and Vi at different phases of their lives—so many different adventures, World War II, Alaska as a State, so much love, so much life, so many people celebrating this great American.

I had the opportunity to talk a little bit about Urban at the birthday party last Saturday in Fairbanks, and I mentioned that here was a man who had so many qualities—patriotism, service, sacrifice, perseverance, and, yes, even tougher than Larry Csonka. The football fans watching know there are not many people in America who are tougher than Csonka. Urban is, and Csonka acknowledged this.

The one person missing from this great celebration was his beloved wife, who passed in Urban’s arms on January 3, 2010, 3 days before their 70th wedding anniversary.

She was 92 years old. Vi’s memories live on in their three children, 7 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild, and her memory lives on in Urban’s heart.

At the ceremony, my good friend who put it together, Craig Compeau, was the emcee of this wonderful birthday party, and he interviewed Urban. Toward the end of it, he asked him what the secret for such a long life was—100 years old.

Urban said it could be summed up in two words: My wife.

Now, isn’t that beautiful, America? Isn’t that beautiful?

What a great man. What a great life. So, Urban, here is to flying free, living well. Here is to the State and the country we all—love so much. Here is to being part of the “greatest generation” that saved America and built Alaska, and here is to the example you have set for all of us, whether U.S. Senators, whether pages, 100 years old, service to your country, dedication, and you did it all with love you have done. Thanks for all you have done to protect and defend this great Nation, to build our great State, and thank you, Urban, for being our Alaskan of the Week from the floor of the U.S. Senate. Happy 100th birthday.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted therein to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for January 2019. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, BBA18. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budgetary points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

This is my first scorekeeping report this year. My last filing can be found in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for November 15, 2018. That report included final budgetary levels for fiscal year 2018. The information included in this report is current through January 7, 2019.

Several bills have cleared Congress since my last filing. The three with the largest direct spending and revenue effects were the Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018, P.L. 115–222; the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, P.L. 115–334; and the First Step Act, P.L. 115–391.

Budget Committee Republican staff prepared Tables 1–4. Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the most recently adopted budget resolution and the fiscal year 2019 enforceable levels filing. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. For this reporting period, 8 of the 16 authorizing committees are not in compliance with their allocations. Over the current 10-year enforceable window, authorizing committees have increased outlays by a combined $3.4 billion.

Table 2 provides the amount by which the Senate Committee on Appropriations is below or exceeds the statutory spending limits. This information is used to determine points of order related to the spending caps found in sections 312 and 314 of the CBA. Appropriations are calculated a year or fiscal year in advance of the expenditure. In this table, show that the Appropriations Committee is currently compliant with spending limits for fiscal year
2019. As of this filing, 7 of the 12 annual appropriations bills have not been enacted with full-year spending.

The fiscal year 2018 budget resolution contained points of order limiting the use of changes in mandatory programs in appropriations bills. CHIMPS. Table 3, which tracks the CHIMP limit of $15 billion for fiscal year 2019, shows the Appropriations Committee has enacted $7.7 billion worth of full-year CHIMPS for fiscal year 2019. The fiscal year 2019 CHIMPS were contained in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies division of P.L. 115–245. This information is used for determining the point of order under section 4102, overall limit, of H. Con. Res. 71, 115th Congress.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by Congress.

For fiscal year 2019, CBO annualizes the effects of the last continuing resolution, P.L. 115245, which provided funding through December 21, 2018. For the enforcement of budgetary aggregates, the Budget Committee historically excludes temporary funding. As such, the current-law levels are $305.5 billion and $196.7 billion below enforceable levels for budget authority and outlays, respectively. Revenues are $302 million below the level assumed in the budget resolution. Further, Social Security revenues are at the levels assumed for fiscal year 2019, while Social Security outlays are $4 million above assumed levels for the budget year.

CBO’s report also provides information needed to enforce the Senate pay-as-you-go, PAYGO, rule. The PAYGO scorecard shows deficit increases in FY 2019 of $1,797 million—$302 million revenue loss, $1,495 million outlay increase—over the fiscal year 2018–2023 period of $416 million—$655 million revenue loss, $2,380 million outlay increase—and over the fiscal year 2018–2028 period of $416 million—$625 million revenue loss, $2,380 million outlay increase. The Senate’s PAYGO rule is enforced by section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71, 115th Congress.

This submission also includes a table tracking the Senate’s budget enforcement activity on the floor since the May 7, 2018, enforcement filing. Since my last report, no new budgetary points of order were raised.

All years in the accompanying tables are fiscal years. I ask unanimous consent that the accompanying tables be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### Table 1—Senate Authorizing Committees—Enacted Direct Spending Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019–2023</th>
<th>2019–2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Budget Authority</td>
<td>2,141</td>
<td>2,429</td>
<td>3,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>1,406</td>
<td>1,820</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armed Services Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Budget Authority</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce, Science, and Transportation Budget Authority</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Natural Resources Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Public Works Budget Authority</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance Budget Authority</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>991</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Relations Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judiciary Budget Authority</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules and Administration Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligence Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Affairs Budget Authority</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>4,402</td>
<td>4,400</td>
<td>3,668</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Affairs Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget Authority</td>
<td>2,609</td>
<td>7,564</td>
<td>1,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>6,014</td>
<td>7,768</td>
<td>3,351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2—Senate Appropriations Committee—Enacted Regular Discretionary Appropriations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>2,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>5,764</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Level Total</td>
<td>3,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>4,249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>2,590.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CHIMPS Above (+) or Below (–) Budget Resolution</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Budget authority, in millions of dollars)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3—Senate Appropriations Committee—Enacted Changes in Mandatory Spending Programs (CHIMPS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2019</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4—Senate Current Level Report for Spending and Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019, as of January 7, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>3,619.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>3,546.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>2,550.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2019</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** These tables exclude spending pursuant to adjustments to the discretionary spending limits. These adjustments are allowed for certain purposes in section 251(b)(3) of BBA17.

**Source:** Congressional Budget Office.
TABLE 2.—SUPPORTING DETAIL FOR THE SENATE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT FOR ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, AS OF JANUARY 7, 2019
(In millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revolving</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earmarked</td>
<td>2,133,069</td>
<td>2,219,223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation</td>
<td>573,950</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total, Previously Enacted</td>
<td>2,133,069</td>
<td>2,219,223</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total, Enacted Legislation

| Appropriation Legislation | Revised Senate Resolution | \[2,133,069\] | 2,219,223 | 0 |

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF JANUARY 7, 2019
(In millions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Authority</th>
<th>Outlays</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Original Aggregated Printed on May 7, 2018.</td>
<td>3,547,094</td>
<td>3,508,052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revisions:

| Pursuant to section 320(b) of H.R. Res. 250 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve’s surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $655 million in fiscal year 2019, $270 million over the 2019-2023 period, and $548 million over the 2019-2028 period. |
|---|---|---|
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays. As a result, the current level does not reflect the full level of budget authority and outlays. |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays. As a result, the current level does not reflect the full level of budget authority and outlays. |
| Pursuant to section 320(b) of H.R. Res. 250 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve’s surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $655 million in fiscal year 2019, $270 million over the 2019-2023 period, and $548 million over the 2019-2028 period. |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays. As a result, the current level does not reflect the full level of budget authority and outlays. |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays. As a result, the current level does not reflect the full level of budget authority and outlays. |
| Pursuant to section 320(b) of H.R. Res. 250 (106th Congress), the Concurrent Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2001, the budgetary effects related to the Federal Reserve’s surplus funds are excluded. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of $655 million in fiscal year 2019, $270 million over the 2019-2023 period, and $548 million over the 2019-2028 period. |

TABLE 3.—SUMMARY OF THE SENATE PAY-AS-YOU-GO SCORECARD AS OF JANUARY 7, 2019
(In millions of dollars)

| Beginning Balance| 0 | 0 | 0 |

Revised Senate Resolution

| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 | 691,640 | 38,553 | 0 |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 | 0 | 214 | 0 |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 | 1,680 | 0 | 0 |

Revised Senate Resolution

| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 | 691,640 | 38,553 | 0 |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 | 0 | 214 | 0 |
| Pursuant to sections 311 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 | 1,680 | 0 | 0 |
TRIBUTE TO MAE STEVENS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mae Stevens, a member of my legislative staff, for her service on my behalf to the people of Maryland and the Nation. Mae Stevens has served as my environmental policy adviser since 2015. In this role, she has advanced my priorities as the ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. She has dedicated much of her time as a member of my staff to formulating and advancing sound policies at the intersection of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure, equity, and affordability. I very much appreciate all that we achieved during her tenure in my office. Mae has spent more than 7 years on Capitol Hill and, 9 years prior to that, at various nonprofit environmental organizations.

Mae enrolled at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs to earn a master of public administration from Columbia’s Earth Institute. After Mae received her MPA, she worked as a policy adviser in the clean energy program at Third Way. From there, she joined the office of Representative Russ Carnahan, who represented Missouri’s Third Congressional District. Later, she worked for Representative MATT CARTWRIGHT of Pennsylvania, who represented the 17th Congressional District at the time.

Mae learned about hard work from her parents. Her father Raymond “Art” Stevens owned an ice cream parlor in Royal Oak, MI, and her mother, Van Dox dressed mannequins in clothing stores in the metro Detroit area. She was known for her passion and dedication to improving the lives of others, teaching her the grit, dedication, and perseverance she uses every day in my office. I know they are extremely proud of the good work she has done in my office and will continue to do in private sector.

Mae believes that people in every community across America—urban, rural, and suburban—have a right to expect that the water coming from their tap is safe to drink and that Congress will do everything within its power to ensure that happens. Mae helped me to ensure that, for the first time, the Water Resources Development Act—WRDA—in a row, Congress included updates to our Nation’s drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure to meet our water infrastructure backlog demands, while addressing the needs of our communities and our environment.
In addition to his successful career as a trusted accountant in northwest Arkansas, Dick put his belief in community service into practice throughout his entire life. He served in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1976 to 1999. Dick was proud to attend services there to lead services at Fellowship Bible Church in Rogers. One of his sons went on to lead services at Fellowship Church, and Dick, along with his wife, was proud to attend services there to show his support. He has already been remembered by others as being a devoted family man and a person of principle and integrity with the highest ethics. He was all these things and more, including a talented musician who played in a bluegrass band with friends and performed with a barbershop quartet.

As a former colleague described him, Dick Barclay was a “quintessential public servant.” He had a tremendous impact across northwest Arkansas. His leadership and dedication are truly worthy of emulation by anyone who wishes to do the important work required to better their own town, community, and entire state.

I greatly admired and respected Dick and will feel his loss keenly, as will so many others in Rogers and throughout Benton County and northwest Arkansas. My thoughts and prayers are with Jan and the entire Barclay family at this difficult time. Dick’s legacy of service, his ever-present positivity, and the difference he made in countless lives will be remembered for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL WILLIAMS

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Marshall Williams of Powder River County for his impact on the community of Broadus.

Marshall has spent the last 39 years educating students in the small southern Montana community and ensuring their future success. Mr. Williams recently received the 2018 Montana Career and Technical Education Lifetime Achievement Award. The Association for Career and Technical Education is a nationwide organization that recognizes career and technical educators for their professionalism and leadership in their field. They are one of the largest national education associations dedicated to the advancement of education.

Mr. Williams has selflessly given to each of his students, dedicating his time and efforts to ensure their success. Marshall is currently a teacher at Broadus High School, where he teaches ag education and shop. Mr. Williams is constantly looking for ways to improve student’s education, as he works closely with teachers and on his own to find effective ways to support students and even local businesses as a means of open communication on how to progress their communities’ education system.

I congratulate Marshall on being a selfless educator to the Broadus community. I look forward to seeing his success continue to grow as each of his students goes on to achieve their own success.

TRIBUTE TO HOLLY GATLING

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Holly Gatling’s dedicated service as the executive director of South Carolina Citizens for Life. Holly earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina in 1972. While at the University of South Carolina, she served as a copy editor for “The State” newspaper. She went on to work for several newspapers across South Carolina, including as a feature writer from 1976 to 1990 for “The State.”

As a stalwart champion for the unborn, Holly has effectively lobbied the South Carolina General Assembly in support of pro-life laws. Some of these laws included Woman’s Right to Know, Partial Birth Abortion Ban, and Safe Haven for Abandoned Newborns. She was also instrumental in ushering Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection to Governor Nikki Haley’s desk for signature in 2016.

I am extremely proud of her work for the unborn and know she has made a difference in the lives of thousands of South Carolinians. She is a model for public servants, and I am honored to congratulate my friend Holly Gatling on her 25 years of service to others in South Carolina, across the United States of America, and around the world.
TRIBUTE TO ROBERT KRAFT
- Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today I recognize Robert Kraft of Massachusetts, the 2019 Genesis prize laureate. Recognized as the “Jewish Nobel” prize, organizers grant the award each year to an extraordinary person recognized for their outstanding professional achievement and making a significant contribution to improving the world and inspiring young Jews through their dedication to social justice and philanthropy. I believe the Genesis prize committee made an excellent choice in selecting Mr. Kraft.

While known to most as the owner of the New England Patriots, Mr. Kraft, along with his late wife Myra, has for decades spoke out and donated generously to organizations combating prejudices, including anti-Semitism. Most recently, Mr. Kraft announced that all proceeds of the match between his Major League Soccer team, the New England Revolution, and the Chelsea Football Club will benefit initiatives to combat the disturbing trend of rising anti-Semitism and hate crimes in the United States and around the world. Upon receiving the Genesis prize, Mr. Kraft announced he would donate the $1 million monetary award to efforts to combat anti-Semitism.

Mr. Kraft is a true “patriot” in all senses of the word. The Commonwealth, country, and global community owe much gratitude to Mr. Kraft. I congratulate my dear friend Robert Kraft on his lifelong efforts to further the Jewish value of tikkun olam, to heal the world.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLINE HUSEBO
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Caroline Husebo, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Caroline is a graduate from Circle Christian School and interned during her gap year. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Caroline for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MARY PARK
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Mary Park, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Mary is a graduate of the University of Florida, where she is majoring in political science and African-American studies. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Mary for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE GRAY
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Charlie Gray, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Charlie is a student at Rollins College, where he is majoring in environmental studies with a minor in political science. He is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Charlie for all the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TATUM ASHBY
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Tatum Ashby, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Tatum is a student at Southeastern University, where she is majoring in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tatum for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA SCOTT
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Victoria Scott, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Victoria is a student at Rollins College, where she is majoring in political science and international relations. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Victoria for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RYLEIGH WOGOMAN
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Ryleigh Wogoman, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the people of the State of Florida.

Ryleigh is a student at the University of Central Florida, where she is majoring in political science. She is a dedicated and diligent worker who has been devoted to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Ryleigh for all the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

RECOGNIZING OCEANA COFFEE ROASTERS
- Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the first Small Business of the Week of the 116th Congress. Each week this Congress, I will honor a small business that exemplifies the hard work and perseverance of the American entrepreneur. The great State of Florida is home to businesses of all types, from family-run farms in Ocala to aerospace machinists in Cape Canaveral. Today, it is my distinct pleasure to honor a small business with a strong commitment to the quality of its products and a desire to give back to its community. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my pleasure to recognize Oceana Coffee Roasters as this year’s first Small Business of the Week.

Amy and Scott Angelo founded Oceana Coffee Roasters in 2009 with only a $35 coffee roaster, converted from a popcorn machine, and the goal of bringing fresh coffee to their area. Located in Tequesta, FL, Amy and Scott founded the company after they were unable to find a local coffee Roaster that produced fresh, small-batch coffee. Seeing an opportunity, the Angelos began by roasting just a quarter-cup of coffee at a time, experimenting with different types of beans and roasting techniques.

From a popcorn popper in their kitchen, to roasting 50,000 pounds of beans a year, the Angelos have remained focused on the details of producing high-quality, small-batch, whole bean and ground coffee. In order to meet their high standards, Scott and Amy learned all they could about how coffee beans are grown, where the best beans originate, and how to bring out the best flavor in each type of bean. They also researched the fair trade coffee process, how coffee is harvested and transported, and the logistics of importing beans to their Florida small business. Throughout their diligent study and a trial and error process, the Angelos harnessed their entrepreneurial spirit to understand their customers’ desires and make a product they are proud of. In 2016, the Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce recognized Oceana Coffee as Small Business of the Year and SCORE of Palm Beach County recognized them for entrepreneurial excellence. Also in 2016, they were the overall winner for the Golden Bean North America Roasting competition and the world’s largest coffee roasted competition.

As the business has grown, the company has periodically added new coffee...
varieties from around the world to its product line. Instead of focusing on large production runs of one type of coffee, Oceana produces small batches of shade-grown, Guatemalan, Ethiopian, and Costa Rican coffee for all types of coffee consumers. Their success allowed them to expand, with Amy and Scott adding a second location in Palm Beach County while increasing e-commerce sales and direct shipments to reach approximately 100 wholesale customers.

The Angelos are committed to their community and doing right by the people they do business with. Every quarter, Oceana makes a donation to a charitable organization voted on by its customers under an initiative they call Cup of Kindness. Oceana Coffee also gives back by offering internships to adults with autism by partnering with Jupiter, FL-based Els for Autism so that affected individuals can gain workforce experience. Additionally, the Angelos provide a platform to local artists for being featured in other small businesses in the area. Each month, the shop hosts a showcase to help these entrepreneurs gain exposure.

The Angelos care about the community of growers they work with, as they purchase their coffee beans from small, fair-trade farmers that they interact with directly and visit regularly. They have also made a commitment to reduce waste through the use of reusable straws and recyclable cutlery and containers.

Oceana Coffee Roasters has found its niche and expanded as a company, while keeping its commitment to quality and principles. The Angelos’ love of quality coffee, commitment to their community, and painstaking review of the coffee making process has made the company a leader in its community and created a loyal customer base.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 226. An act to amend the Small Business Act, as included in class designations in the annual report on small business goals prepared by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 251. An act to extend by two years the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

H.R. 284. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

H.R. 299. An act to reauthorize certain programs under the Public Health Service Act and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, to clarify the regulatory framework with respect to certain nonprescription drugs that are marketed without an approved drug application, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 109. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying documents, and referred as indicated:

EC–58. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress Section 889 of the Fiscal Year 2018 NDAA Report on Defense Contracting Fraud"; to the Committees on Armed Services; and Appropriations.

EC–59. A communication from the Director of Congressional Relations, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of the Comptroller’s 2018 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–60. A communication from the Program Specialist (Paperwork Reduction Act), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act Regulations” (RIN1557–AE54) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–61. A communication from the Program Specialist (Paperwork Reduction Act), Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Expanded Examination Cycle for Cerain Small Insured Depository Institutions and US Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks” (RIN1557–AE73) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–62. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Control of Military Electronic Equipment and Other Items the President Determines No Longer Warrant Control Under the United States Munitions List (USML); Correction” (RIN0894–AH64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–63. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Strategic Petroleum Reserve Annual Report for Calendar Year 2017”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–64. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Regulation, Office of the Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “DIA–ISG–06, Licensing Process, Interim Staff Guidance, Revision 2” (10 CFR Part 50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–65. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Status of FY 2019 Adjustment in Medicare Advantage 2018”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–66. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards for Fiscal Year 2018 Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.


EC–68. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of FERPA Enforcement” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–69. A communication from the Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for USAID’s Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–70. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Report to Congress on the Social and Economic Conditions of Native Americans: Fiscal Year 2015”; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–71. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to eleven (11) legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.
S. 85. A bill to reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 86. A bill to designate certain land administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service in the State of Oregon as wilderness and national recreation areas and to make additional wild and scenic river designations in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 87. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park to include the Walls House and Harriston Hill, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 89. A bill to expand the boundary of Fort Frederica National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY):

S. 90. A bill to limit the establishment or extension of national monuments in the State of Utah; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself and Mrs. MURAY):

S. 91. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize per diem payments under comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans to furnish care to dependents of homeless veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Ms. GRASSLEY, Ms. YOUNG, Mr. CAPITO, Mr. ERNST, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. Cramer, Mr. COTTON, Mr. Risch, Mr. Daines, Ms. Moran, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. JOHN-

S. 92. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 93. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. BEN-

S. 94. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 95. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities to the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PETERS, and Mrs. GILL- BRAND):

S. 96. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northern Minnesota and to extend the trail into Vermont to connect with the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CANTWELL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINCKE, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 97. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to allow for the importation of affordable and safe drugs by wholesale distributors, pharmacies, and individuals; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CORNING):

S. 98. A bill to direct the President to award the Medal of Honor to James Megellas, formerly of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and currently of Colleyville, Texas, for acts of valor on January 28, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 99. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve negotia-

S. 100. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to Custer County, South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. COL- LINS):

S. 101. A bill to clarify the boundary of Acadia National Park, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARRIS, and Ms. SMITH):
S. 103. A bill to authorize an additional district judgeship for the district of Idaho; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. LEKE, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. ISAKSON, and Ms. MURKOWSKI);

S. 104. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. Sasse, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUHRO, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. Ernst, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. THUNE);

S. 105. A bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASON, Mr. MOYER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. JONES);

S. 106. A bill to reauthorize and extend funding for community health centers and the National Health Service Corps; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN);

S. 107. A bill to provide any State with a child welfare demonstration project that is scheduled to terminate at the end of fiscal year 2018 to extend the project for up to 2 additional years; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. MOLAN);

S. 108. A bill to provide deferred action for certain individuals brought to the United States and to establish a border security trust fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. WICKER;

S. 109. A bill to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions; read the first time.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL);

S. 110. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a permanent extension of the lower income threshold for the medical expense deduction; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. MCSALLY;

S. 111. A bill to make continuing appropriations for certain employees of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice in the event of a shutdown of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, considered and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO);

S. Res. 14. A resolution affirming that the Government of Cuba’s foreign medical missions constitute human trafficking; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina);

S. Res. 15. A resolution commending the Clemson University Tigers football team for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURKS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAHIS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAYLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Ms. Kaine, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORA, Mrs. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELY, Ms. SENGDA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLE, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG);

S. Res. 16. A resolution relative to the death of John C. Clapp, Former United States Senator for the State of Iowa; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a co-sponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance programs to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 31

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 24, a bill to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURKS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. HINCH) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) were also added as cosponsors of S. 39, a bill to provide that Members of Congress may not receive pay after October 1 of any fiscal year in which Congress has not approved a concurrent resolution on the budget and passed the regular appropriations bills.

S. 71

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 71, a bill to ensure independent investigations and judicial review of the removal of a special counsel, and for other purposes.

S. 72

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCAR), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 72, a bill to suspend the enforcement of certain civil liabilities of Federal employees and contractors during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. J. RES. 1

At the request of Mr. DAINES, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. J. Res. 1, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve.

S. J. RES. 3

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) and the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) were also added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS);

S. 93. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce the Contra Costa Canal Transfer Act, a bill that will assure the health and safety of the residents of Contra Costa County while also providing for the efficient delivery of water from the Bay Delta to the customers of the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). Senator Harris is joining me in cosponsoring the bill, and I understand that Representatives Marc DeSaulnier, Jerry McNerney, and Mike Thompson are introducing a House companion measure today as well.

I will be brief in explaining the reasons I support the bill, which I introduced with Senator Harris. The bill transfers the Contra Costa Canal from the United States to Contra Costa Water District ("District"). The District has fully paid off
the capital debt for constructing the canal, so it is financially reasonable to transfer the 48-mile long canal to it. There is no known opposition to the bill, and several good reasons to support it.

The District would like to convert the existing open earthen canal to a closed pipe at an estimated cost to the district ratepayers of $650 million. The District understandably wants to take title to the facilities to have collateral for issuing bonds to cover the expense of the conversion.

There are a number of good reasons to convert the existing canal to a pipe:

First, 82 people have drowned in the earthen canal since 70 years ago, much of the surrounding land was farming country, but more recently homes have been built around the canal. These homes are at risk from the types of floods that earthen canals periodically experience.

Finally, the 70-year-old canal is nearing the end of its lifespan and needs a major facility upgrade or replacement. Replacement with a pipeline is the best option, for all the reasons set forth above.

Besides the advantages of the bill, there is no known opposition to it. The District has reached an MOU with East Bay Regional Parks District to continue the existing recreational uses of the adjoining parks it manages. In addition, the District has received letters of concurrence from the City Managers of Walnut Creek and Antioch regarding the smaller parks managed by the cities along the route of the existing canal. Like East Bay Regional Parks, these cities agree the bill would preserve the existing recreational uses of the adjoining lands.

The bill, if passed, will just transfer title to Contra Costa Canal, but would also authorize the transfer of the Rock Slough intake and fish screen, one of Contra Costa’s diversion points from the Delta. This transfer will not affect the applicability of the various biological opinions that apply to the facility. As I understand it, because the bill will not affect the environmental management of the canal, and because the District has paid off its capital debt, the environmental groups NRDC and the Defenders of Wildlife will not oppose the bill.

In summary, this bill has no known opposition and good reasons to support.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Thank you, Mr. President, and I yield the floor.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROY)
S. 100. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain National Forest System land to Custer County, South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 100

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 “Custer County Airport Conveyance Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
In this Act:
(1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Custer County, South Dakota.
(2) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land” means all land, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 65.7 acres of National Forest System land, as generally depicted on the map.

(3) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Custer County Airport Conveyance” and dated October 19, 2017.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

SEC. 3. LAND CONVEYANCE.
(a) In General.—Subject to the terms and conditions described in subsection (b), if the County submits to the Secretary an offer to acquire the Federal land for the market value, as determined by the appraisal under subsection (c), the Secretary shall convey the Federal land to the County.

(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—
(1) subject to valid existing rights;
(2) made by quitclaim deed; and
(3) subject to any other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

(c) APPRAISAL.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an appraisal to determine the market value of the Federal land.

(2) STANDARDS.—The appraisal under paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with—
(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and
(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(d) MAP.—
(1) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate office of the Forest Service.

(2) CORRECTION OF ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any errors in the map.

(e) CONSIDERATION.—As consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall pay to the Secretary an amount equal to the market value of the Federal land, as determined by the appraisal under subsection (c).

(f) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal description of the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary.

(g) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—As a condition on the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall pay to the Secretary all costs associated with the conveyance, including the cost of—
(1) the appraisal under subsection (c); and
(2) the survey under subsection (f).

(h) PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.—Any proceeds received by the Secretary from the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be—
(1) deposited in the fund established under Public Law 90–171 (commonly known as the “Sisk Act”); and
(2) made available to the County until expended, without further appropriation, for the acquisition of inholdings in units of the National Forest System in the State of South Dakota.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS
SENNATE RESOLUTION 14—AFFIRMING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA'S FOREIGN MEDICAL MISSIONS CONSTITUTE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. ROY): Submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 14

Whereas, in 2015, the Government of Cuba maintained more than 50,000 Cuban doctors and medical personnel in foreign medical missions in 67 countries under conditions that represent forced labor;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report noted that Cuban authorities coerced some participants to remain in the foreign medical missions, including by—
(1) “withholding their passports and restricting their movement”;
(2) “using ‘minders’ to monitor participants outside of work”;
(3) “threatening to revoke their medical licenses”;
(4) “imposing exile if participants didn’t return to Cuba as directed by government supervisors”;
(5) “inflicting punishment outside of work’’;

Whereas, between 2013 and 2018, more than 20,000 Cuban medical professionals served in Brazil and had their salaries garnished, movement restricted, and family visits limited by the Government of Cuba;

Whereas investigative reporting by the digital platform Diario de Cuba, through an access to information request, revealed that Brazilian diplomatic cables detailed the terms of the Government of Cuba’s medical missions to Brazil;

Whereas, in early 2012, the Government of Cuba proposed to the Government of Brazil the establishment of a program to send Cuban doctors to geographic regions of Brazil that had an insufficient number of medical personnel;

Whereas, during subsequent negotiations, the administration of former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff proposed an agreement between the two governments to be implemented through coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in order to avoid oversight by the National Congress of Brazil;

Whereas the Government of Cuba stated that implementing the agreement through
the United States headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization would present risks for potential violations of United States sanctions;

Whereas in July 2013, the Government of Cuba, acting through the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (Comercializadora de Servicios Médicos Cubanos, or CMS), signed an agreement with the Brazilian Ministry of Health to formalize a commercial arrangement for Cuban doctors to provide medical services in Brazil;

Whereas the agreement between the Government of Cuba and the Government of Brazil established—

(1) that the administration of former Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff would pay the Pan American Health Organization a monthly fee, which would then pay the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) for the medical services provided by each Cuban doctor serving in Brazil; (2) that the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) would pay each Cuban doctor approximately 25 percent of the monthly payment received from the Pan American Health Organization; (3) that the Government of Cuba, acting through the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) commenced contracting Cuban doctors for the Mais Medicos program, and the first Cuban medical professionals arrived in Brazil in August 2013; (4) that Cuban doctors were the only medical professionals participating in the Mais Medicos program to have their salaries directly garnished by their government, and doctors of other nationalities serving in Brazil received the full amount of their salary; (5) that the United States Department of State must reevaluate and downgrade Cuba to Tier 3 in its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, given new evidence on Cuba’s foreign medical missions and the Government of Cuba’s longstanding failure to criminalize most forms of forced labor; and

That the Senate—

(1) commends the Clemson University Tigers for winning the 2018 collegiate football season in achieving the highest honor in college football; and

(2) recognizes the on-field and off-field achievements of the players, coaches, and staff of the Clemson football team; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the President of Clemson University, James P. Clements; and

(B) the head coach of the Clemson University football team, Dabo Swinney.

SENATE RESOLUTION 15—COMMEMDING THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOR WINNING THE 2019 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. GRAASSLEY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOHER, Mr. BOOKMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTÉZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAZIER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRITZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. GENETRICH, Mr. HIRONO, Mr. HUNTS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. McCONNELL, Ms. McSALLY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURkowski, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms.
Relative to the death of John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa.
Whereas John Chester Culver was born in Rochester, Minnesota and grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa;
Whereas John Chester Culver graduated from Harvard University and Harvard Law School;
Whereas John Chester Culver served his country in the United States Marine Corps from 1955-1958;
Whereas John Chester Culver was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1964 and served 5 terms as a Representative from the State of Iowa;
Whereas John Chester Culver was elected to the United States Senate in 1974 and served 6 people of Iowa in the Senate with honor and distinction for 1 term;
Whereas as a Senator, John Chester Culver spearheaded a commission to modernize the floor status up-dates and committee schedules;
Whereas John Chester Culver graduated for his hard work and independence; Now, therefore, be it.
Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John Chester Culver, former member of the United States Senate.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable John Chester Culver.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.
Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Ryan Edwards and Kim Binsted, AAAS fellows in my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of this Congress.

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

COMMENDING THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2019 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 15 submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 15) commending the Clemson University Tigers football team for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion 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. 15) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 15) was considered and agreed to:

That the Secretary of the Senate will report the resolution by title.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolution (S. Res. 15) was agreed to.

The bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 109

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 109) to prohibit taxpayer funded abortions.

Mr. McCONNELL. I now ask for its second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive a second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, January 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; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

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 provisions of S. Res. 16 and do so as a further mark of respect to the late John Culver, former Senator from the State of Iowa.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order and pursuant to S. Res. 16, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 11, 2019, and does so as a further mark of respect for the late John Chester Culver, former Senator from Iowa.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:59 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 11, 2019, at 10 a.m.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WELLSPACE HEALTH

HON. AMI BERA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize WellSpace Health for their commitment to high quality comprehensive health care in the Sacramento region and congratulate them as they celebrate over 65 years of service in 2019.

WellSpace Health’s development has focused on serving our region’s low income populations alongside integration of services to provide comprehensive health care for its patients. Between 2009 and 2017, WellSpace increased its primary care service population from 3,000 to 70,000 patients through 15 Community Health Centers in the Sacramento region. Along with primary care for all ages, WellSpace also provides adolescent dental care, women’s health and prenatal care, and behavioral health treatment.

I’ve known the great work WellSpace has done for the region for many years as I had the privilege to work with WellSpace back when it was the Aquarian Effort Clinic. WellSpace’s work is critical to achieving first rate regional health care in Sacramento. I extend my sincere congratulations to the front-line employees, staff, and all the nurses and doctors at WellSpace. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this organization and all it has done to provide access to health care for all in the Sacramento region.

RECOGNIZING JAY KOHN OF BILLINGS

HON. GREG GIANFORTE
OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. GIANFORTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jay Kohn of Billings for serving as a reliable resource for Montanans as a journalist and anchor for nearly four decades.

Kohn recently signed off the air after more than 20 years as a news anchor with KTVQ in Billings and the Montana Television Network (MTN). Kohn began his broadcast career in Helena in 1978 and worked as MTN’s Capitol Bureau chief and news director in Butte. In 1998, Kohn assumed the anchor seat at KTVQ in Billings, the city where he was born and raised. Over the last two decades he has been the face of Q2 news, anchoring the 5:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts. He has covered countless news events, keeping the community informed about local stories and others that span the globe.

Kohn’s exceptional reporting earned him the Montana Broadcasters Association’s Broadcast of the Year award in 2005.

Though Kohn has retired from his full-time role at the anchor desk, Montanans will continue to enjoy his steady presence in his new role as Anchor Emeritus for KTVQ.

Madam Speaker, for his outstanding professionalism, unwavering journalistic integrity, and his decades of trusted service to the people of Montana, I recognize Jay Kohn for his spirit of Montana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EVERGLADES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everglades for the Next Generation Act.

Protection and restoration of the Everglades is vital to the overall health of both South Florida’s ecosystem and economy. As America’s last great tropical wilderness, it is the source of much of Florida’s drinking water, an important flood barrier and a home for wildlife, including a number of endangered species.

As we know all too well, this vital ecosystem is facing a number of threats, and while much progress has been made, including the recent authorization of the Central Everglades Planning Project, there is still much work left to be done. Congressional inaction has persevered for far too long despite bi-partisan support for restoration.

Regardless of any progress, it is clear that restoration efforts will not succeed without the next generation of projects, which cannot begin without further Congressional authorizations. That is exactly what this bill does: authorizes the shovel-ready projects which have been awaiting another Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). Additionally, this legislation will make it easier for the Army Corps of Engineers to move on many of the remaining projects in order to prevent future Congressional bottlenecks.

Restoration is not a theoretical exercise. The Central Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) has demonstrable successes and biennial reports from the National Academy of Sciences. We know that the federal and state governments can successfully work together with private businesses and landowners to reach mutually beneficial agreements that restore the health of this unique, beautiful, wild, and wonderful resource that is absolutely essential for Florida.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this critically important legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE REVIEREND DOCTOR CAMERON MADISON ALEXANDER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Everglades for the Next Generation Act.
spiritual leader, and true man of God, Reverend Doctor Cameron Madison Alexander, the beloved Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church North in Atlanta, Georgia. Sadly, Reverend Alexander transitioned from labor to reward on Sunday, December 30, 2018. He leaves in his wake a legacy, among his church family, community, and across the world. His funeral service was held on January 7, 2019, at 11 am at Antioch Baptist Church North located at 540 Cameron M. Alexander Blvd NW, Atlanta, GA, 30318. What a celebration of life it was.

Rev. Cameron Madison Alexander was born to the union of Reverend Homer M. and Augusta (Hutchins) Alexander on February 12, 1932. A product of the Atlanta Public School System, he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1948, where he played basketball, ran track, and played saxophone in the band. After high school, he attended Florida A&M University, was in the Marching 100 band, and served his country in the United States Air Force. He then attended Morehouse College under President Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, and, in 1963, he received his Master of Divinity degree from the Morehouse School of Religion, served there as the President and Treasurer as well as Trustee of the Morehouse School of Medicine.

In recognition of his numerous contributions to society, he was awarded Honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from the United Theological Seminary (1978), the Interdenominational Theological Center (1991), and Carver Bible College (2007).

His pastoral ministry began at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Cartersville, Georgia. From there he was called to the Flag Chapel Baptist Church in Milledgeville, Georgia, then in 1958 to New Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Macon where he became an activist leader against injustice, resulting in desegregation of the city buses, lunch counters, the Bowden Golf Course, and Mercer University. In 1965, Rev. Alexander was called to St. John Baptist Church in Savannah where he took his ministry beyond the church walls and formed a partnership with C&S Bank to improve 109 blocks of real estate in Savannah and provide affordable housing and jobs.

In 1969, while visiting Antioch as a guest, Reverend Alexander delivered a sermon so powerful that the church voted by write-in the next day to call him as Pastor. For almost 50 years, he was the driving force behind Antioch Baptist Church North. Under his leadership, the church grew from 600 members with an annual budget of less than $40,000 to 14,000 members and a multi-million dollar annual budget. He established over 75 ministries and outreach programs touching communities in Atlanta and across the world.

Rev. Alexander’s extraordinary servant leadership was prolific. For 29 years, he served as President of the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia which claims a membership of more than 800 churches; Vice President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.; and Dean for the Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress. He trained, licensed, and ordained 600 ministers, 150 of whom went on to pastor other churches. He was a driving force in the Antioch International Macedonia Missionaries (AIMM) ministry, which touched “the least of these” beyond our nation’s borders, addressing issues of inadequate safe drinking water, food, and medical care in Haiti, South Africa, Turkey, and Columbia, and Brazil where AIMM facilitated opening the first university for black Brazilians known as Afrobras.

The City of Atlanta honored Dr. Alexander by naming a street for him. He was inducted into the Atlanta Business League’s Legends Hall of Fame and the International Civil Rights Hall of Fame at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. He was invited to submit one of his inaugural sermons to the American Folk Life Center at the Library of Congress which became part of the oral history and spoken word collections that preserve Americans’ accounts of past and reactions to present day events.

On a personal note, I met Dr. Alexander 40 years ago through my Pastor and his good friend, Dr. J.H. Flakes, Jr. of the Fourth Street Baptist Church of Columbus. His friendship, advice, and counsel were pivotal in my political career in The Georgia General Assembly and in Congress. I am better for having known him.

Dr. Alexander accomplished much in his life; yet, none of it would have been possible but for the Grace of God and the love and support of his family—including his beloved wife, Barbara; their four children, Gregory (deceased), Cameron, Kenneth, and Barbara; and his nine grandchildren, all of whom will miss him deeply.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with countless others throughout Georgia and the nation salute Reverend Doctor Cameron Madison Alexander for his outstanding accomplishments in the ministry and his service to humankind. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Reverend Alexander’s family, friends, loved ones, and all who grieve during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MR. ROBERT HAND

HON. SUSAN K. DELBENE
OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Hand who was named Teacher of the Year in Washington State. Mr. Hand is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Mount Vernon High School, in my district. This award goes to teachers who display an unwavering commitment to the success of their students.

Mr. Hand has been teaching at Mount Vernon since 2013. He has taught Beginning Foods, Life After High School, and Careers in Education, Nutrition, and Leadership. Along with being an outstanding teacher, he has also held important roles throughout our community, including as an adviser for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America and for the Social Justice Club.

Mr. Hand’s outreach to students extends beyond the classroom. His teachings often relate back to his students, in uplifting ways. Mr. Hand is a champion for diversity, and he recognized the diversity of his students by displaying eleven flags in his classroom to celebrate their heritage.

He is working to continue critical investments in our teachers by helping to develop the Recruiting Washington Teachers program for the Professional Educator Standards Board. Because of his work, Washington students will have quality teachers and mentors for years to come.

I want to thank Robert Hand for his commitment to serving his students and enriching the teaching profession in Washington State. Congratulations, Mr. Hand.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR AZALEE C. BISHOP

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Rev. Dr. Azalee C. Bishop, a faithful Christian servant and a trailblazing humanitarian. Dr. Bishop and I are of the same generation, and I am honored to extend her wishes on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

Dr. Bishop is an honors graduate of Gallman High School, Class of 1956. She went on to pursue her undergraduate degree at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. Upon graduation, she completed graduate studies at Cornell University, Canius College, State University of New York in Buffalo, and Pentecostal Overcoming Outreach School of Religion in Columbia, South Carolina. She spent years as a dedicated wife and mother, and then earned her doctorate degree at Spirit and Truth Seminary in Richmond, Virginia.

Her legacy is Grace Christian Church in Columbia, South Carolina, which was established under the vision and leadership of Rev. Dr. Bishop and her husband, Bishop Robert L. Bishop. The initial worship service was held on May 12, 1982 with seventy-seven faithful in attendance. The Bishops grew the congregation from its original location in a small daycare facility and moved to a site at the Columbia Housing Authority’s Latimore Manor Housing Complex in 1984. It continued to thrive, and seven years later moved to 627 Devine Avenue in Grace Christian Church established its current home on October 17, 1995 when it purchased property at 5010 Monticello Road.

Under the vision of Dr. Azalee C. Bishop, the church expanded its mission and in 1998 launched the Grace Divinity College of Biblical Studies. This divinity school is accredited both by the Accrediting Commission International and International Biblical Association. She is also the founder and producer of Morning Break with Jesus, a daily devotional broadcast that reached thousands of South Carolina listeners.

Dr. Bishop has also sought to improve the quality of life in her community by establishing Grandma’s House, an afterschool program for low-income, academically-challenged youth, and The Wisdom Center which is dedicated to embracing wisdom and changing lives. In addition to her work as a pastor and civic leader, Dr. Bishop spent 33-years as a Program Administrator with the Department of Social Services.

Her many memberships and accomplishments include The Greater Columbia Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance (Board
HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM G. FLANGAS

HON. DINA TITUS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to include in the Record the following excerpt in remembrance of my longtime friend, Bill Flangas. As you can tell from the following excerpt, he was a man of vision and leadership. The Las Vegas Sun Review Journal on December 30, 2018, Bill was a legend in Nevada. His courageous work at NTS, his generous philanthropy, and his contributions to the local Greek community and church leave a powerful legacy that will long be remembered.

William G. “Bill” Flangas, 91, reposed in the Lord December 23, 2018, surrounded by his family. Bill was born June 4, 1927, in Ely, to Gust William and Poloxene Flangas, both of whom were Greek immigrants from the area of Thermopylae. Poloxene passed away when Bill was just six months old, and Gust was killed about a year later in a tragic accident between his train and the heart of Ely. Bill was raised by his Aunt and Uncle, Alexander J. and Potene Flangas in Ely, along with their three sons, John Gue and Ernest Flangas. Bill was a lifetime resident of Nevada, having moved to Las Vegas in 1958 from Ely. Bill proudly served in the U.S. Navy in World War II, and was part of the initial occupation force in Tokyo. Bill graduated in 1951 from the University of Nevada at Reno with a degree in Metallurgical Engineering, and went to work for the Kennecott Copper Corporation in South America and later in White Pine County. In 1958, Bill completed his Engineer of Mines Degree (E.M.), and was hired as a Mining Engineer with the Electric & Engineering Company (“Reeco”), the prime contractor at the Nevada Test Site in Mercury. After joining Reeco, Bill led the initial efforts to move the atmospheric nuclear weapons testing program at the Nevada Test Site underground. He led the first entry teams into the tunnels after detonating an underground test and nearly cost him his life. Bill also led the first ever underground recovery of a ground zero after an atomic blast. Many of Bill’s efforts to move the weapons program underground are memorialized in a book entitled: “Caging the Dragon.” Bill stayed at the Nevada Test Site for 37 years, serving as Tunnel Boring System Superintendent, Department Manager, Division Manager, and Vice President. After leaving the Test Site in 1995, Bill became an Underground Mining, Construction, & Management Consultant primarily working in Nevada. Bill also served as an underground expert on the Treaty Monitoring Teams for the Threshold Test Ban Treaty (TTBT) and Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty (PNET), and traveled to Russia in that capacity on the U.S. Treaty Teams. He was also involved with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) efforts. Bill was also very active in the Community. He was instrumental in youth athletics and in developing baseball and basketball leagues that allowed children to play ball. In conjunction with these efforts, Bill led the way in having 11 desperately needed baseball fields lit up by putting the process in motion, putting together a labor force, and getting all the equipment donated that was necessary to dig power lines and set the power poles. Bill also led the way in the construction of a new gym facility, which was completed in 1976. Through his efforts, the gym was constructed using only volunteer labor. In addition, through his efforts all the equipment for construction was donated as well as a vast amount of the construction supplies.

The gym was sold to the Boys and Girls Club in 1984 for one dollar, and is known today as the Lied Boys and Girls Club, located on Lindell and Edna in Las Vegas. Bill served as a member, and as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the State Public Works Board from 1964 to 1985. He served on the Mackay School of Mines Advisory Council, whose efforts saved the school’s academic standing in Nevada’s only mining school as one of the best in the Country. He served on the UNLV Athletic Commission, and on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Las Vegas. He was a Trustee for the University Medical Center Foundation which raised over six million dollars for the Medical Center. Foundation Projects included Southern Nevada’s sponsorship of the Children’s Miracle Network. He was also instrumental in establishing a monument in Ely to honor those from White Pine County who perished while serving their Country in the Armed Forces going back to 1988. He was appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn to serve as a member of the State Ethics Commission and served as its Vice Chairman. He was the Nevada Engineer of the Year in 1976. He received the Las Vegas Exchange Club Book of Great Deeds Award in 1984. He received the TV-3 Spirit Award in 1983. He was honored as the 1984 Distinguished Nevadan by the University of Nevada Board of Regents. He received the Award of Excellence in Support of Nuclear Weapons Testing Program in 1992. He received an Honorary Associate of Arts Degree in Human Letters from the Community College of Southern Nevada in 1999, and was honored as the Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering Alumnus of the Year in 2007. Bill was a member of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for almost 60 years, serving over the years on the Church Parish Council, Building Committee and Audit Committee, and working on many other projects. Bill was an intensely devoted and loving family man. He was preceded in death by son, Albert (Trudi) Flangas. Bill is survived by his wonderful wife, of over 62 years, Marilyn Flangas; his sons, Gus “Billy” (Tamara) Flangas and Gary (Amanda) Flangas; his 10 grandchildren; his brothers, John (Carmen) Flangas and Ernest Flangas; nieces and nephews, along with their families. A Memorial Mass will be held Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 11 a.m. in the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church for all of Bill’s family and friends. A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Jan. 11, at 11 a.m. in the Ely Community Center with Colleague speakers. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church Parish, Building Committee or the Ely Community Center. May his memory be eternal.

HONORING BEN FALKOWSKI FOR HIS SERVICE TO INDIANA’S 2ND DISTRICT

HON. JACKIE WALORSKI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mrs. WALORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben Falkowski for his service to Indiana’s 2nd District as Chief of Staff in my office. As Ben begins the next chapter in his career, I want to take a moment to reflect on his many achievements and to express my sincerest appreciation for all he has done over the last six years. Ben started working on my team in 2012, with sight set on Washington, D.C. Those who know him would agree that, when Ben sets a goal, he has a knack for achieving it.

In my congressional office here in D.C., he worked his way up from Legislative Correspondent to Legislative Assistant, and he never stopped looking to the future. Ben’s hard work, determination, and keen knowledge of public policy and constituent services earned him a trip back to northern Indiana to become my District Director. After two years of steadfastly serving our constituents and leading our district operations, Ben returned to our nation’s capital as my Chief of Staff.

In this role, Ben oversaw our team with outstanding leadership that motivated, inspired, and guided everyone to the finish line each and every day.

I could always count on Ben. No matter the time of day or the issue at hand, he was wholeheartedly present and fully prepared to get it done.

I thank Ben for always being my first call. I thank him for never shying away from a challenge. I thank him for helping me fight for hardworking Hoosiers. And I thank him for building up a team of rock stars who share our vision of a brighter future and his passion for making a difference.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Ben and thanking him for the part he has played in the historic things we have accomplished for the 2nd District and for the United States of America.

HONORING CENTRALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE STEVE HARRIS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I would like to take some time today to honor Steve Harris, an elected Trustee for the Centralla School District, who is retiring with honor and distinction, having been changing the lives of students and teachers for over 30 years.

After graduating from California State University Long Beach, Steve brought his talents to teach some of the most academically and
socially challenged students in the region, he began his education career as a learning disability aid eventually becoming an elementary school teacher. When Steve saw a need, he acted, which is why he went back to school himself, where he earned a master’s degree with Second Language acquisition so that he could bring a diverse language program to English language learners. Steve Harris went beyond the classroom and began teaching teachers and developed the prototype for standard-based evaluations, including having served as Chair of the Los Angeles County Consortium for Peer Assistance and Review. Steve went on to become a program specialist for Title I schools and a teachers’ union official, where he lobbied countless members of Congress and the California State Legislature on issues relating to advancing student achievement, including for meaningful changes to No Child Left Behind. Steve has been recognized by the President of the United States, legislators, and the countless students whose lives he has impacted.

After retiring as a teacher, Steve first ran for the Centralla School District board of trustees in 2014 on a platform focused on serving the entire child and their family, and won in one of the largest margins of victory in the District’s history. As a Trustee, Steve championed serving children more meals after school and during the summer, expanding a local resource center, ensuring adequate raises to employees, bringing improvements to special education, and implementing a local hire agreement on bond construction projects.

Steve retires from the Board of Trustees ready having made a difference in his synagogue, neighborhood watch, and most importantly, with his three children. Steve’s service will be missed, but his impact will continue.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE DAVID O’SULLIVAN, AMBASSADOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. GREGORY W. MECKS OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor European Union Ambassador to the United States David O’Sullivan, whose invaluable commitment to the bonds of friendship between Europe and the American people has left an indelible mark on the transatlantic alliance. As Co-Chair of the Congressional EU Caucus, I have worked on numerous occasions with Ambassador O’Sullivan to strengthen that alliance, and build upon the great history of partnership between Europe and America.

In November 2014, David O’Sullivan was appointed Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC. Since then, Ambassador O’Sullivan has worked tirelessly to promote transatlantic unity, emphasizing people to people contacts during his travels to all 50 of our states in furtherance of his mission to spread the European Union’s message of peace and prosperity for all people. In February of this year, when he retires from his ambassadorial role, he will conclude nearly 40 years of service to the European Union. His time as EU Ambassador is thus an appropriate capstone to his long and distinguished career.

Born in Dublin, Ireland, and as a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin and the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium, Ambassador O’Sullivan has served in a number of senior official posts in the European public service over five decades that saw monumental changes on the European continent. Prior to his appointment as EU Ambassador to the U.S., he was the Chief Operating Officer of the ‘European External Action Service’, responsible for establishing this new EU diplomatic corps. His other notable positions within the European Commission include Director General for Trade, Secretary General of the European Commission, and Head of European Commission President Prodi’s Cabinet.

The transatlantic community has always been a community of values, and this is more important now than ever before. Ambassador O’Sullivan has continuously reminded us that we cannot take the transatlantic alliance for granted. We must build upon the common beliefs that have connected the peoples of Europe and America over the past century: our commitment to democracy, our commitment to the rule of law, and our commitment to the dignity of all people in our own countries and around the world. Today, I thank Ambassador O’Sullivan and his wife Agnes O’Hare, for their service to these ideals, and wish him a long and happy retirement.

HONORING THE SELFLESS SERVICE OF EVERETT FIREFIGHTERS

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. DelBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize two brave firefighters from Washington State. Earlier this year Firefighter Brent Duckworth from South Everett and Capt. Nick Adsero from Woodinville, in my district, rescued three children from their burning apartment building in Everett, Washington. On December 13, 2018, both gentlemen were recognized for their heroics by the American Red Cross Northwest Region with the Fire Rescue Award.

On January 29, 2018, on what had already been a grueling day, Engine 6 of the Everett Fire Department received their fifth call and third fire of the day to the south end of Everett at a 352-unit complex. The time first responders arrived, flames had already fanned up to the third floor of the complex. A babysitter who had briefly left the apartment desperately informed first responders that the two young girls were still inside the building. When the crew of Engine 6 raced inside, Firefighter Duckworth and Capt. Adsero knew where to go but the apartment was filled with smoke and visibility was zero. As the firefighters felt around the apartment they were able to find both young girls. Both were rushed to Harborview Medical Center for smoke inhalation and both survived.

Capt. Adsero has said he has seen a lot on his job in his 14 years in the fire service, but a rescue like this was a first for him. What is even more amazing is that this was Firefighter Duckworth’s first fire. Most firefighters will go their whole career without such a feat as saving a child but on his first fire, Duckworth helped save two. I thank Capt. Adsero and Brent Duckworth, and commend their bravery and service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM R. CARTEAUX

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life of William R. Carteaux (Bill), the president and CEO of the Plastics Industry Association and a renowned leader throughout the decades he spent in the U.S. plastics industry.

Carteaux passed away on December 10, 2018, losing a hard-fought battle with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at the age of 59. Bill was a tireless advocate for the U.S. plastics industry, which employs nearly one million Americans across the country.

In addition to being a champion for one of America’s largest and most important manufacturing industries, Bill was also a true son of the Midwest—he was born in Avilla, Indiana, was the son of an electrician, and spent high school working the night shift at a local metal-working plant. Eventually, he attended Purdue University and Indiana Wesleyan before entering the business world and achieving success in the plastics industry.

During his time leading the Plastics Industry Association, Bill made recycling and sustainability core priorities for his organization and industry. He presided over the foundation of his association’s Recycling Committee and Sustainability Advisory Board. He also played a role in the design and execution of several recycling projects which aimed to drive lasting market-driven solutions to the industry’s and the environment’s most serious waste management challenges.

Before he passed away he led the Washington-area Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and became one of its biggest supporters—raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for research to find a cure.

Madan Speaker, Bill’s contributions to the U.S. plastics industry, his tenacity, and his passion made an impact on the lives of thousands of Americans. He will be sorely missed.

I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Daniele Fresca; his daughter, Whitney Taveras; her husband, Fernando; their son, Liam; and his daughter, Mallory Carteaux.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. SCOTT M. ANDERSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN OF VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Scott Marvin Anderson, a compassionate man who will forever be remembered for his deep love of God and
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January 10, 2019

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on January 8 and 9, 2019, I missed the following votes due to a medical appointment. Had I been present I would have voted: on Roll Call Vote 13, on passage of H.R. 269, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 14, on passage of H.R. 251, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 15, on approving the Journal, I would have voted Aye; on Roll Call Vote 16, on Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 28, I would have voted Yes; on Roll Call Vote 17, on agreeing to H. Res. 28, I would have voted Aye; and on Roll Call Vote 18, on passage of H.R. 226, I would have voted Aye.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID ARIAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, on January 2, 2019, David Arian, a widely-respected community leader, passed away at the age of 72. I’m proud and honored to join so many others in celebrating his life. We all know about Dave’s union leader—a man carrying on in the footsteps of Harry Bridges. We also know Dave the port commissioner—a man who fought for workers as he was laying out a vision for the future of our ports.

I would like to add Dave the thinker and mentor—I knew Dave not only as a leader, but as someone who, to rekindle our passion, position, and lead them, and never give in when we know we are right.

Dave’s life, like the man himself, was built on determination and conviction.

Born December 4, 1946, Dave was 18 years old when he took a job at the Wilmington waterfront in 1965. He often joked that at just 130 pounds, union supervisors weren’t sure he’d be able to do the physically demanding work of a longshoreman. But like many aspects of his life, Dave proved his skepticism wrong. That first day unloading bananas into boxcars was just the first of many that he would spend working, organizing and leading union workers and causes important to the workers and the San Pedro Bay community.

A proud and fiercely loyal member of the International Longshoreman and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 13, Dave would eventually hold many leadership positions over the years, including three terms as local president. In 1991, at the age of 44, he was elected international president of the ILWU. After his service at the top of the union, Dave returned to the docks at the Port of Los Angeles, eventually retiring in 2009. Within a year, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Harbor Commission by then-Los Angeles Mayor Villaragosa and reappointed by Mayor Garcetti in 2013. During his tenure on the Board, the Port of Los Angeles broke all-time cargo volume records while reducing air emissions, two goals on which Dave was particularly focused.

Concern and support for the community, local workers, and residents were woven into everything Dave did. A tireless community activist from the start, Dave and his family helped found the San Pedro Community Action Center in 1966. Over the years, he was also an active supporter of many local service organizations, including the Tobberman Neighborhood Center, Harbor Interfaith Services and the San Pedro Boys & Girls Club, the latter where he played as a youth.

Dave founded the Harry Bridges Institute, an organization dedicated to educating younger workers about the labor movement’s rich history and community organizing. He had served as the organization’s president since its founding in 1993. Dave also captured the spirit of the Institute in his book “The Right to Get in the Fight,” which focused on the ILWU labor movement and culture that have kept it alive and relevant over the decades.

His involvement in non-labor-related port policy issues began even before his appointment to the Harbor Commission. In 2006, Dave was named to the joint Port of Los Angeles-Port of Long Beach advisory board for the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, which set the stage for the ports to make unprecedented strides in improving air quality in the San Pedro Bay. Dave also served on the governing board of the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) Joint Powers Authority.

A long-time resident of the Harbor area, Dave grew up on 8th Street in San Pedro, and attended Cabrillo Elementary, Dana Junior High School, and San Pedro High School. He is survived by his two children and five grandchildren: son Sean and son-in-law Council member Mike Bonin; daughter Justine and son-in-law Ethan Edwards; and grandchildren Jady Rose, Destan, Jacob, Aneka and Keira. I, like so many others whose lives he touched throughout his amazing life, will miss Dave dearly.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF NGUOI VIET DAILY NEWS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nguoi Viet Daily News, the first and largest daily newspaper published in Vietnamese in the United States, and its 40 years of success.

Nguoi Viet Daily News was initially established as a weekly four-page newspaper by Mr. Yen Ngoc Do in 1978. On December 15, 1978, the first issue was voted in Mr. Do’s garage. With his own savings, he was able to finance the press run of 2,000 copies and distributed them in San Diego, California. In 1985, the publication officially became “Nguoi Viet Daily News” and was relocated to Santa Ana. In 2004, Nguoi Viet Daily News became the only Vietnamese newspaper to be audited and certified by the Verified Audit Circulation.

Today, Nguoi Viet Daily News also publishes other editions including: Nguoi Viet North-East, Nguoi Viet Houston, Nguoi Viet San Francisco, and Nguoi Viet Utah. Having its headquarter located in Westminster, Orange County and two other locations in San Gabriel and Gardena, Los Angeles, where many Vietnamese Americans reside, Nguoi Viet Daily News produces an average of 13,736 copies per day and has 50–60 readers accessing its online news per day.

After four decades, Nguoi Viet Daily News remains the largest Vietnamese newspaper in the United States as it continues to make significant impacts on the Vietnamese American community. On Nguoi Viet Daily News’ 40th anniversary, it is with great pleasure that I commend Nguoi Viet Daily News for their devotion and contributions to the Vietnamese community.

HONORING THE WORK OF MR. BASELER

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Theodor Baseker, who will be retiring next month from Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. Mr. Baseler began his career over thirty-four years ago, serving as a marketing professional before becoming the president and CEO of Ste. Michelle in 2001. Mr. Baseker was a valuable leader for Ste. Michelle, and the industry in general, fueled the evolution of the Washington wine industry.

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, on April 15, 1975 in Minnesota but grew up traveling the country as a part of his parents’ Air Force careers. He graduated from Missouri’s Warrensburg High School before continuing to Central Missouri State University and Colorado Christian University. Scott spent much of his adult life pursuing one of his greatest passions, golf, by working at several golf courses in Virginia, in addition to others throughout the United States. He will be remembered in Woodbridge. He was an active reader of the Bible as well as novels, and truly appreciated God’s Word. Beyond his professional and community involvement, Scott will be remembered as a lively and animated man who loved to make other people laugh.

I can attest that Scott touched the lives of everyone he met. He was truly a man of God, and I am fortunate to have called Scott a friend. I extend my deepest condolences to his parents, Rich and Ruth; sisters, Brooke and Bria; and grandmother, Sue. Scott’s memory will most certainly be cherished by those who knew him. As it says in the book of James, “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me as we honor the memory of Mr. Scott Marvin Anderson.
Ste. Michelle was almost exclusively a Washington-focused company when Mr. Baseler was named president and CEO. Through his work, the company expanded to become the third-largest premium wine company in the U.S., propelling Washington to become the nation’s second-largest wine producing state.

Mr. Baseler also attracted some of the world’s greatest winemakers to come to Washington to make wine; including Marchese Piero Antinori of Italy, Ernst Loosen of Germany, and Michel Gassier and Philippe Cambie of France.

Mr. Baseler’s unwavering commitment to quality resulted in wines lauded by critics, including Wine Spectator magazine’s coveted “No. 1 Wine in the World” title for the Columbia Crest 2005 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon in 2009.

For all of his success, Mr. Baseler has received several awards including “Man of the Year” from Wine Enthusiast magazine in 2009, being named one of the “20 Most Admired People in the North American Wine Industry” by Vineyard & Winery Management magazine in 2013, the Seattle-King County First Citizen Award for community leadership in 2015, and the Executive Excellence Award by Seattle Business magazine in 2018.

Mr. Baseler is not only a business leader, but remains a community advocate for higher education. He spearheaded the establishment of the world-class Wine Science Center at Washington State University, which was later named the Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Wine Science Center, and is a member of the Washington University Board of Regents. He has also helped to generate more than $3 million in scholarship funds to students in need.

I want to congratulate Theodor Baseler on his well-deserved recognition, and I thank him for being a leader in the local community.

IN RECOGNITION OF WELLSPACE HEALTH’S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize WellSpace Health as they celebrate their 65th Anniversary. As the members of this community gather here today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring their exceptional health care services provided to the Sacramento region and its surrounding areas. Since it first became designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in 2009, WellSpace Health has built a network of clinics providing a broad range of services, including primary care, Well Child Care, dental care, and women’s services to the Sacramento region’s low-income and underserved families. With its Integrated Behavioral Health model, WellSpace Health is a true champion for parity, blending physical health services with addiction and mental health treatment. Its high level of service integration has allowed WellSpace Health to become one of very few FQHC’s that have accreditation with The Joint Commission, the gold standard of quality accreditation nationwide.

WellSpace Health’s commitment to providing comprehensive and integrated care is unparalleled in the Sacramento region. Through collaboration with non-profit organizations and community partnerships, WellSpace Health ensures that its services reflect the true diversity and needs of the communities they serve. With Immediate Care services operating 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, WellSpace Health continues to offer expanded access to care while, preventing unnecessary emergency room visits.

Madam Speaker, as staff members of WellSpace Health celebrate their momentous years of service, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring them for their dedication to excellence in health care in the Sacramento region and beyond.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed a floor vote on H.R. 264, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2019, on January 9, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted yes. I was proud to support an appropriations package that included similar provisions and strongly support the provision in H.R. 264 to ensure that federal workers are fully compensated once the partial government shutdown is over. I will continue to call for the passage of bipartisan spending bills like this one to reopen the government.


Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S111–S147

Measures Introduced: Thirty-nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 73–111, and S. Res. 14–16. Pages S141–43

Measures Passed:

Government Employee Fair Treatment Act: Senate passed S. 24, to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations. Pages S133–34

Commending the Clemson University Tigers Football Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 15, commending the Clemson University Tigers football team for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship.

Relative to the Death of Former Senator John Chester Culver: Senate agreed to S. Res. 16, relative to the death of John Chester Culver, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa.

Measures Considered:

Strengthening America’s Security In The Middle East Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1, to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people. Pages S115–35

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. 2), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. Page S128

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on closure will occur on Monday, January 14, 2019. Page S128

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, January 11, 2019.

Appointments:

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appointed the following individuals to serve as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control for the 116th Congress: Senators Cornyn (Chairman), Grassley, Risch, and Perdue.

Syria Study Group: The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of section 1501 of Public Law 115–254, on behalf of the Majority Leader of the Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, appointed the following individual as a member of the Syria Study Group: Chris Tuttle, of Virginia.

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Pages S111, S141

Measures Read the First Time: Pages S141, S146

Executive Communications:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Privileges of the Floor:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—2)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Senator John Chester Culver, in accordance with S. Res. 16, at 5:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 11, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S146.)
Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)

WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM SYRIA
Committee on Armed Services: Committee received a closed briefing on President Trump’s recent decision to withdraw United States forces from Syria from John C. Rood, Under Secretary for Policy, and Lieutenant General Richard D. Clarke, USA, Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy, J5, and Major General Michael S. Groen, USMC, Director of Intelligence, J2, both of the Joint Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 64 public bills, H.R. 424–487, and 3 resolutions; H.J. Res. 25, and H. Res. 35 and 36, were introduced. Pages H461–63

Additional Cosponsors: Page H465

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Swalwell (CA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H363

Recess: The House recessed at 11:18 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H371

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019: The House passed H.R. 267, making appropriations for the Department of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, by a yea-and-nay vote of 244 yeas to 180 nays, Roll No. 23. Page H438

Rejected the Diaz-Balart motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a yea-and-nay vote of 197 yeas to 229 nays, Roll No. 24. Page H439

H. Res. 28, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 264), (H.R. 265), (H.R. 266), and (H.R. 267) was agreed to yesterday, January 9th.

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act: H.R. 115, to require the Department of State to establish a policy regarding the use of location-tracking consumer devices by employees at diplomatic and consular facilities; Pages H429–30

United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Act: H.R. 133, to promote economic partnership and cooperation between the United States and Mexico; and Pages H430–32

Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act: H.R. 192, to establish an interagency program to assist countries in North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats. Pages H432–34

Joint Economic Committee—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee: Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY). Page H440

Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act: H.R. 221, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally. Pages H434–37

Senate Referral: S. 24 was held at the desk.

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H454.
Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H437–38, H438, H439, and H439–40. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2019
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Friday, January 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1, Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Friday, January 11

House Chamber


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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