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 summarily reject 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 35 days now pass into history as Democrats take control of the House and end any chance to fulfill the hopes of 2016. All that is left is Whitaker’s sad lament: “Of all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, ‘It might have been.’

END THE SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, there is a crisis in our country, but it is not at our southern border. There is a crisis that is hurting the lives of countless Americans whose food won’t be inspected, whose water may not be clean, whose flight may not be safe, and whose bills may not be paid. It is a crisis of the President’s own making.

Right now, we are on the verge of the longest government shutdown in our Nation’s history, a shameful display of what happens when the President governs solely to appeal to his political base, rather than on behalf of all Americans.

Why are we here, Mr. Speaker? Because the President has committed himself to a wall that many experts say is ineffective. It is expensive; it is downright absurd.

It has become a vanity project in the home of furloughed Federal employees and stop-work Federal contractors across this country, from Los Angeles through Kansas City to Baltimore. It is a crisis that is hurting the lives of countless Americans whose food won’t be inspected, whose water may not be clean, whose flight may not be safe, and whose bills may not be paid. It is a crisis of the President’s own making.

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

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EXpressing Support 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 Stockton, Joseph from Punxsutawney 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 enabled him to 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 who 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.

Nationally, small businesses make up 99.7 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 all across the country.

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

U.S. POLICY IN SYRIA

The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman 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 formal 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 employee, 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.

More Oregons 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 the southern border, a wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. In those 20 days, the American people have been held hostage over his ill-conceived border wall and reopened the Federal Government before more people are hurt.

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.

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 Syria. He concluded 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.

A 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 ignoble end.

We 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 force of 200 anchors that 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.

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.

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.

Mr. Speaker, you 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.

Mr. Speaker, with no plan and no strategy, and they will hang their heads as they did during President Obama's abandonment.

Mr. Speaker, this unfortunate chapter unfolding in the tragedy known as Syria foreshadows an unflattering 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 Attlee’s own unplanned precipitous withdrawal from the Holy Land, saying: “A time of innocence—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 then 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 cartels: “Hey, what the heck. We just lost a semi.” 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 wall. 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 Patrol—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 stifled a whole lot of people, and he is stifling 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, today I rise today to recognize 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 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 this House heartbroken.

This past weekend, tragedy struck our Dearborn community as we learned of the death of all five members of the Abbas family. They were killed by a drunk driver while driving back from a family vacation in Florida, and their loss has devastated our community in ways that you cannot imagine.

In every sense of the word, they were our community. The parents were born and raised there. Rima served many as a real estate agent. Their children—Ali, age 13; Isabelle, age 12; and Giselle, age 7—were beloved and the center of their parents’ lives, and so many other families in Dearborn.

Their family, their very extended community was devoted to everything that they did. Their absence stunned this community and is felt deeply and emotionally.

Thousands attended one of the memorial services this week and then the funeral. Many in attendance chose to remember the good memories—the smiles, the laughs, their careers, their deep connections to friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, and friends—but some came up to me and spoke very honestly. I was struck by the children and asked why they came up to me in tears, asking me why we hadn’t done something to stop drunk driving.

A young girl, a classmate, who will never see her friend again, had channeled her grief into research. She came up to me and asked why we hadn’t done anything to mandate interlock breathalyzers to prevent this kind of senseless accident from ever happening again.

She wasn’t alone.

Elders in the community had also researched this subject, and the senior man, their very dear friend, had asked me why nothing had been done, why weren’t we using and mandating technology that would save lives. And I had no good answer.

Too many lives across this country are taken because of drunk driving. In 2016, 10,497 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes. That is 28 percent of all traffic-related deaths.

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 breathalyzers devices. This will stop intoxicated drivers from ever starting a vehicle and keep them off the roads.

If we 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 tobacco 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 dedicated to 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 want to take a moment today 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 Southampton, the Sunshine Foundation, which seeks to help chronically ill, physically challenged, and abused children from underserved families, was founded by Bill working protectively duty at St. Christopher’s Children’s Hospital. To date, the Sunshine Foundation has answered over 40,000 dreams of deserving children.

Mr. Speaker, I speak on behalf of our entire team when I say that I am thankful and we are all thankful for our law enforcement community and for officers like Bill Sample. We want to thank him and all law enforcement officers for their service and applaud the work of the Sunshine Foundation.

Recognizing Caleb Byelich

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding young citizen in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who at only 8 years old is already making a substantial impact in the lives of the underserved in our community.

Caleb Byelich, a student at Neidig Elementary School in Quakertown, held a hot cocoa stand last month with the goal of raising $100 for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter, a program that advocates for the homeless in upper Bucks County.

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.

We applaud Caleb for his remarkable work, and we look forward to seeing his accomplishments in the years to come. We would also like to thank his parents, Loren and Alicia, for instilling in him the values of service and compassion.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to Pastor David Heckler of St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church for his coordination of the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter.

Recognizing Vincent Kabaso

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, who recently accomplished a major feat in his industry.

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 served as 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 Raised by the World Foundation, which assists students at the University of Zambia and provides used equipment for young golfers.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud this major professional achievement of Vincent Kabaso, wish him well in his adventures in America, and our community appreciates their service and their accomplishments.

End the Shutdown and Reopen Government Now

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, to step up our response to the opioid crisis. I would be sharing and discussing ideas and proposals 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 grappling 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 who are currently furloughed or working without pay are anxious about putting food on the table and making sure all of our outstanding bills are paid.

Mr. Speaker, 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.

Desert 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 to celebrate a very special and personally meaningful victory for residents in the Coachella Valley in my district.

I rise 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
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 Bass and his family.

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 farmer worker 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 Hat-tie 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.

Every Sunday, James attended church with his family in their mule-driven wagon. In 1929, he officially joined church after sitting on the mourners bench during a revival. He continued to grow and develop, got a job at the church as custodian, and attended and graduated from the Booker T. Washington High School in Ruleville, Mississippi.

In 1938, James revealed his calling and preached his first sermon as a full-fledged minister at the age of 18.

On December 7, 1941, James was drafted into the military and served 3 years in 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 three 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 colleagues in Santa Barbara County in celebrating the exemplary 24-year career of 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, our nation’s asylum seekers, and refuges 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 cowards 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 realistic and worthy goals. Our job is not to waste billions on an ineffective border wall while spreading xenophobic lies.

Numerous disingenuous statistics were comped 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 361,993 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 contribute to fiscal 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. SCHRADER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHRADER. 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.

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 start missing 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 up 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 deliver my first floor speech as the new Representative for Texas’ 16th Congressional District.

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

That is why I have been profoundly disturbed by the rhetoric and policies...
from this administration. I will use my time to tell you the truth about the border, the opportunity she represents, and the need for comprehensive immigration reform.

El Paso, like other border communities, is a part of the fabric of the nation. It is the largest city in El Paso County, Texas, and it is home to many families who have lived in the area for generations. These families have contributed to the economic and cultural vitality of the region, and they have played a vital role in shaping the history of the United States. They have worked hard to make a better life for themselves and their children, and they have done so with a sense of pride and purpose.

I stand here today not only to speak about the need for immigration reform, but also to remember the families who have been impacted by the current immigration climate. The families who have been separated from loved ones, the families who have been forced to leave their homes, and the families who have been left behind in detention centers. These families are not abstract statistics; they are real people with real lives and real stories.

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 personnel 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; overhaul the fault lines of 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 (Ms. WILD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reintroduce my first bill, which was introduced at the end of the last Congress and entitled "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 520 Pennsylvanians, have been in the dark.

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 day jobs, 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 passed and 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. They have 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 made a promise to defend our Nation with their lives and to support their family. 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’s desk, we can show them that we take care of our own and that we honor selfless service in this country more than partisanship.
END THE SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a crisis that is gripping our Nation. This crisis is impacting the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of hardworking men and women, such as Border Patrol agents, TSA agents, national park rangers, janitors, machinists, and many more.

The crisis I am referring to, Mr. Speaker, is the reckless government shutdown that now has gone into its third week.

We are the greatest country in the world. This should never, ever happen in this country. It has left Americans without paychecks, forcing many of them to seek donations from family, friends, and strangers just to make ends meet.

In Arizona, my constituents have reached out to share their stories. One Federal prison employee told my office that she planned to take out a loan on their retirement in order to pay for groceries, bills, and health insurance. Another, a scientist based in Arizona and working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, wrote to me just yesterday to tell me that she would have to take up dog walking, Uber driving, and other part-time jobs just to cover the cost of her rent.

Neither of these Arizonans know what they will do if their paychecks continue to be held hostage for political games.

Mr. Speaker, the American people don’t deserve this. It goes beyond the furloughed government workers. Small business owners and Arizona farmers and ranchers, already hit hard by uncertainty in their global trade partnerships, are being hurt by this.

There is agreement in this body and in the Senate on bipartisan spending measures that open up our government and provide increased funding for SMART, 21st century border security technology that has been proven effective.

The administration has conjured up this crisis and devastated the lives of countless Americans in the process, and it must end.

Mr. Speaker, these political games are hurting Arizona and our country.

HONORING SHERIFF KELLY “KC” CLARK

Mr. O’HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Sheriff Kelly “KC” Clark as he retires from his role as sheriff of 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 Northeast 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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for ½ minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, a wall is not remotely capable of dealing with the magnitude of our continental challenge. From (censored) commerce, greed, addiction and lawless cartels and gangs 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 underfunded 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 miles 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. We need 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. Additionally, 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.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o’clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day, we ask Your blessing on the men and women, citizens all, whose votes have populated this people’s House. Each Member of this House has been given the sacred duty of representing them.

We ask Your blessing as well on the Members of this House, whose responsibility lies also beyond the local interests of constituents while honoring them. Give each Member the wisdom to represent both local and national interests, a responsibility calling for the wisdom of Solomon. Grant them, if You will, a double portion of such wisdom.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people’s House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON. The Pledge of Allegiance was led.
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 singular issue has gotten 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. 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 Hotels 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 for too 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 Senate. 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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dick Kline of Rikersburg, Pennsylvania.

Dick passed away at the age of 94. He leaves behind his 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 65 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. HOUHAN 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. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the career of Ascension Parish Sheriff Jeff Wiley.

Sheriff 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 1985.

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 Compass, 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 Americans 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 and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the U.S. Navy’s latest littoral combat ship christened the USS Wichita.

On Saturday, the USS Wichita will be commissioned in Mayport, Florida, where she will begin her service to our country. As the third USS Wichita in U.S. Naval history, this ship will carry on the proud legacy of representing Kansas’ largest city around the globe.

Wichita will be represented on board by Chief Petty Officer Isaac Davis, a graduate of Wichita Heights High School, who will serve as an operations specialist, and Chief Petty Officer Brian Tanner, a graduate of Derby High School, who will serve as an information systems technician.

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.

Today, in honor of the Moms Demand Action and leaders from Michigan’s Ninth District who have inspired me, I speak up because it is unacceptable that far more people per capita are shot and 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 common sense 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.

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. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Moms Demand Action and leaders from Michigan’s Ninth District who have inspired me.

Today, I speak up in honor of the Moms Demand Action and leaders from Michigan’s Ninth District who have inspired me.

It is time to reopen the government and stop this shutdown from taking even more money out of their pockets.

That is why I voted for bipartisan legislation to end this shutdown on the first day of this new Congress.

It is time to reopen the government and get back to work on behalf of the American people and the people of Nevada’s Fourth.

HONORING COLONEL ERICA INGRAM

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

Mr. HILL. 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 1995.

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 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 for her 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 block the Affordable Care Act for health care 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 this 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 opioid addiction 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 the opioid crisis, 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 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 clean-up 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 disappointing 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 of California. 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 Khaall 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 military 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 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.

HONORING NIKOS MOUYIARIS

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an entrepreneur, innovator, and philanthropist who truly lived the American Dream.

In 1975, Nikos Mouyiaris received a $6,000 grant from his brother. He turned that small loan into a company that would become one of the world’s most prestigious cosmetic manufacturers and developers.

A proud Greek American, Nikos dedicated his life to giving back to his community, and his spirit demonstrates that we all benefit when we open our doors to hardworking immigrants who believe in the promise of America.

Nikos said: “We are successful not because we are smart; not because we worked hard; not because we were lucky; but because we had the good fortune of being able to stand on the shoulders of others.”

His loved ones mourn this devastating loss, we can take comfort in knowing that an entire community will be standing on his shoulders.

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 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 LGBTQ 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-Qaida 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 matters of war, 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.
H376

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

January 10, 2019

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 265

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby authorized on and after any day of the fiscal year, in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the period 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 $390,000 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 Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Office; not to exceed $4,711,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; not to exceed $4,711,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration, of which $22,301,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other necessary expenses; not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: Provided further, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; not to exceed $7,500,000 shall be available for the Office of Communications: Provided further, That no appropriation provided for in this Act may be used to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: Provided further, That no appropriation provided for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: Provided further, That not to exceed $11,000,000 of the amount made available under this paragraph for the immediate Office of the Secretary shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, for the Secretary: Provided further, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations to the extent consistent with the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: Provided further, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the Secretary's discretion: Provided further, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency.

**EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, $19,786,000, of which not to exceed $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, $5,525,000.

**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, $6,028,000.

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

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 CIVIL RIGHTS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, $6,028,000.

**AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES**

**(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)**

For payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92–313, including authorities pursuant to the 1984 delegations of authority to make or complete agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155, for the operation, maintenance, improvement, and repair of Agriculture buildings and facilities, and for related costs, $55,350,000, 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.), $3,500,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That appropriations and funds available herein to the Department for Hazardous Materials Management may be used to enter into lease agreements for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity subject to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452; 5 U.S.C. App.), including such sums as may be necessary for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease 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 the Inspector General Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–98).

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, $14,146,000.

**OFFICE OF ETHICS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, $4,136,000.

**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**

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, $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, $800,000: 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 or not to exceed $100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the gross 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 $2,680,000 shall be available to carry out the Plant Research and Development program; of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be available for maintenance and support of the Regional Plant Research Centers; and of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be available for research on the biotic and abiotic stresses with high potential for economic impact on the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility: Provided, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: Provided further, That no appropriations hereunder shall be available for the construction of an aircraft or any building at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of an airport.

**OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL**

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, $14,146,000.

**OFFICE OF ETHICS**

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, $4,136,000.

**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, $800,000: 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 or not to exceed $100, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the gross 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 $2,680,000 shall be available to carry out the Plant Research and Development program; of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be available for maintenance and support of the Regional Plant Research Centers; and of which not less than $2,000,000 shall be available for research on the biotic and abiotic stresses with high potential for economic impact on the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility: Provided, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: Provided further, That no appropriations hereunder shall be available for the construction of an aircraft or any building at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of an airport.
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 768 of this Act; Provided, That funds for facility improvements in 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than $1,000,000: Provided further, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 10104(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Animal and Plant Health Protection Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 7771 et seq.), shall be for the scrapie program for extension activities: Provided further, That of amounts made available by this or any other Act for the purposes of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, for the current fiscal year that does not remain available until expended, shall be for the National Veterinary Stockpile of which up to $1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: Provided, That of amounts made available by this Act for the purposes of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, for the current fiscal year that does not remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: Provided, That of amounts made available under section 450l(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Services Development Act of 2000, shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That of amounts made available under section 10601 of the Animal and Plant Health Protection Act of 1987 (7 U.S.C. 7771 et seq.), shall be 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 of amounts provided under this Act for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States, counties or local governments of the United States, shall be for the purposes of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States,应当被接受的条件, of which $11,826,000, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7771 et seq. and 7772) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 777v and 777z), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in a fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: Provided further, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2290) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2019, the agency is authorized to charge fees to cover the cost of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, if such fees are reasonable based on the technical 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 plans, construction, repair, preventive maintenance, environmental support, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase and development of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2250, and acquisition of land as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 228a, $3,175,000, to remain available until expended.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, $155,845,000, of which $4,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 12306 of Public Law 113–79; and of which $2,000,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 10601 of the Agricultural Marketing Service Act of 2000, respectively.
4196 (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 perform other programs and activities to provide technical assistance to promote innovation, process improvement, and marketing relating to dairy products: Provided, That this appropriation 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 $20,569,000 for formulation and administration of marketing orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-128).

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, $1,028,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That not more than 50 percent of the $44,691,000 made available under this heading for information technology related to farm program delivery systems, may be obligated for the fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1911 et seq.), $7,904,000.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out well- or groundwater protection activities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for fiscal year 1992: Provided, That none of the funds made available by this Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2), $6,500,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDENTURY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indentury 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 indentury program described in the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1911 et seq.), the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2061 et seq.), the FSA, and the Grain Futures Act, and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 488) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program account: Provided further, That the Secretary shall deem the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans, $500,000,000, for private insurance or reinsurance or guaranteed operating loans, $1,500,000,000; and for direct operating loans; emergency loans, $37,688,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, $20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, $1,000,000,000; and a portion of the $400,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, $7,904,000.

Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indentury 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 indentury program described in the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1911 et seq.), the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2061 et seq.), the FSA, and the Grain Futures Act, and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 488) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program account: Provided further, That the Secretary shall deem the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans, $500,000,000, for private insurance or reinsurance or guaranteed operating loans, $1,500,000,000; and for direct operating loans; emergency loans, $37,688,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, $20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, $1,000,000,000; and a portion of the $400,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, $7,904,000.
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 support loans, $59,670,000 for direct operating loans, $21,168,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans, emergency loans, $1,567,000 and $2,134,000 for Indian high-yield guaranteed loans to remain available until expended.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $325,068,000 for guaranteed direct disaster loans; Provided, That the amount of this appropriation shall be available until September 30, 2020.

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Actuarial Company shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for the Risk Management Agency and in accordance with the provisions of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001–1005 and 1007–1009) to carry out surveys and investigations, engineering and planning, construction, and other flood control and conservation activities, including but not limited to the provision of flood protection (including wetland treatment measures); Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading, $50,000,000 shall be allocated to the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses, pursuant to section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a–11): Provided, That the amount of this appropriation shall be available until September 30, 2020: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading, $50,000,000 shall be available until June 1, 2019: Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support 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. 1472o), and the amount so appropriated shall continue to be available for purposes authorized by this Act, the funds so appropriated under this heading shall be available to the Secretary to assist in the development of public and assisted housing programs, and the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the conversion of the Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in forever affordable 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: to support Rural Development programs, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow

Provided, That the Commodity Credit Corporation may increase the amount available under this heading by section 502(1) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472o) with such interest, if any, that is necessary to repay the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 502(1) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472o) for such programs, to the Secretary of the Treasury; Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support 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. 1472o), and the amount so appropriated shall continue to be available for purposes authorized by this Act, the funds so appropriated under this heading shall be available to the Secretary to assist in the development of public and assisted housing programs, and the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the conversion of the Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in forever affordable 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: to support Rural Development programs, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow

Provided, 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. 1472o), and the amount so appropriated shall continue to be available for purposes authorized by this Act, the funds so appropriated under this heading shall be available to the Secretary to assist in the development of public and assisted housing programs, and the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the conversion of the Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in forever affordable 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: to support Rural Development programs, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow
For the cost of guaranteed loans, included in the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, $4,285,000, to remain available until expended.

For the cost of grants for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, $89,619,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, $7,200,000 shall be available for grants for the rural transportation programs as described in section 381H of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, to provide capital funds for the purchase of vehicles for use in rural transportation programs to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and $8,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009a et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 2104 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 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: Provided further, That $5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be used for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009a et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 2104 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 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.
For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by section 311(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662), $690,000,000, of which $3,000,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which $1,072,000, to remain available until expended, of which not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be available for the rural energy for America program.

For the program of a cost of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 305 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and of which not to exceed $10,000,000 shall be available for the rural water and waste disposal program.

For the cost of direct loans, as authorized by section 306(b)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 2662), $240,000,000, of which $35,000,000 shall be available through June 30, 2019, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100–460; Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying rural economic development and job creation projects, shall not exceed $15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(2)(b) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $993,000 shall be available for the rural energy for America program described in section 306A(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $68,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants included in water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306B(a)(1) and section 305 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 made available by section 305 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 grants and loan guarantee programs.

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loan guarantees, as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3), to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, as authorized by section 311(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), $338,000,000: Provided, That the cost of modifying such loans, as defined in accordance with Public Law 100–460: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying rural economic development and job creation projects, shall not exceed $15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(2)(b) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $993,000 shall be available for the rural energy for America program described in section 306A(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $68,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants included in water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306B(a)(1) and section 305 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 made available by section 305 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 grants and loan guarantee programs.

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loan guarantees, as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3), to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, as authorized by section 311(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), $338,000,000: Provided, That the cost of modifying such loans, as defined in accordance with Public Law 100–460: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying rural economic development and job creation projects, shall not exceed $15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(2)(b) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $993,000 shall be available for the rural energy for America program described in section 306A(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $68,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants included in water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306B(a)(1) and section 305 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 made available by section 305 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 grants and loan guarantee programs.

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loan guarantees, as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3), to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, as authorized by section 311(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), $338,000,000: Provided, That the cost of modifying such loans, as defined in accordance with Public Law 100–460: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying rural economic development and job creation projects, shall not exceed $15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(2)(b) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $993,000 shall be available for the rural energy for America program described in section 306A(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $68,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants included in water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306B(a)(1) and section 305 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 made available by section 305 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 grants and loan guarantee programs.

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loan guarantees, as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3), to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.

For the cost of a program of loan guarantees, as authorized by section 311(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), $338,000,000: Provided, That the cost of modifying such loans, as defined in accordance with Public Law 100–460: Provided, That such costs, including the cost of modifying rural economic development and job creation projects, shall not exceed $15,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(2)(b) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $993,000 shall be available for the rural energy for America program described in section 306A(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed $68,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants included in water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306B(a)(1) and section 305 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 made available by section 305 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 grants and loan guarantee programs.

For the principal amount of broadband telecommunication loan guarantees, as authorized by section 305 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1972 (7 U.S.C. 950aaa–3), to remain available until expended, for a grant program to finance broadband transmission in rural areas eligible for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program benefits authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa.
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 17(h)(10) 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 and activities provided herein: Provided, That of 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. 1772). 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 as breastfeeding infrastructure and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: Provided further, That of the total amount available, $29,000,000 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 of the funds provided in the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2018” and inserting “2010 through 2019”; Provided further, That funds provided under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2020; Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2020; Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be expended or obligated to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for any deficiency that may arise under section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds provided for breastfeeding peer counselors and services under this heading may be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other breastfeeding services, including telemedicine: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity, including provisions and activities authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

COMMODY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 1512 note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1985, special assistance for the nuclear affected lands, as authorized by section 105(c)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–38); and the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, $322,139,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020; Provided, That none of these funds shall be used to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for any deficiency that may arise under this Act: Provided further, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2039(a)), the Secretary may use up to $200,000,000 to fund up to 15 percent for projects that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies and subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2020; Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be expended or obligated to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for any deficiency that may arise under section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds provided for breastfeeding peer counselors and services under this heading may be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other breastfeeding services, including telemedicine: Provided further, That of the funds made available under section 749(g) of the Agriculture Appropriations Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–80); Provided further, That of the funds provided in the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766a) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2018” and inserting “2010 through 2019”; Provided further, That funds provided under this heading shall remain available until September 30, 2020; Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2020; Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)); Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity, including provisions and activities authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.
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 92–313 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 of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for on the Secretary’s certificate, not to exceed $25,000, and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107–188; $5,419,250,000: Provided, That the amount provided under this heading shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379f, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $501,396,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $960,568,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j–21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; $50,987,000 is appropriated for the National Center for Toxicological Research; $1,720,807,000 shall be for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs, of which no less than $120,000,000 shall be used to provide for the acquisition of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; $2,120,807,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; $369,857,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research; $216,914,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; $456,988,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities in the Office of Medical Products and Radiological Health; $398,072,000 shall be for the Federal Center for Toxicology Research and related field activities; $369,857,000 shall be for the Food Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; not to exceed $274,751,000 shall be for Rent and Related Activities, of which $50,987,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the transfer of $10,000,000 to the General Services Administration for rent; and not to exceed $210,887,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and $920,206,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, the Office of Medical 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. 3784(n)) shall only be from amounts available under this heading for other activities: Provided further, That the amounts that are made available 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 funds available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: Provided further, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: Provided further, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, biologic product, and related fees, fees derived from biosimilar biological 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, biologic product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2019, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2019 and credited to this account and remain available until expended: Provided further, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2020 of fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2020, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2020 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2019 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: Provided further, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, and related biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379f–11; and such fees shall be transferred to the FDA Innovation Account, for the purpose of funding certain special purpose space in the District of Columbia, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: Provided, That amounts available for such purposes under the heading “Salaries and Expenses”, $70,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That amounts described in this paragraph are appropriated pursuant to section 1002(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1002(b)(2)(A) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to the appropriation for “Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General,” and “Salaries and Expenses” solely for the purposes provided in such Act: Provided further, That upon a determination by the Commissioner that fees derived from those specific activities and previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the account: Provided further, That funds appropriated in addition to any other transfers to the Food and Drug Administration.
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 administering the funds. None of the 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 to a safe haven the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a de-

priations of both Houses of Congress:

pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of information technology services, and other sys-

tion of financial, administrative, and infor-

mation technology expenses. technology upgrades: Provided further, That of any personnel from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropri-

ations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with section 717 of this Act: Provided further, That 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 National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: Provided further, That of any personnel from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That none of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following ac-

counts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification Program Loan Guaranty Fund account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 707. Funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the con-
currence of the Executive Information Tech-

nology Investment Review Board: Provided, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or other-

wise made available by this Act may be transferred from the Office of the Chief In-

formation Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: Provided further, That notwithstanding section 13139 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for informa-
tion technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over $25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: Provided fur-

ther, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds with-

out written approval from the Chief Informa-

tion Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements, when, in the opinion of the Chief Information Officer, the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113–235.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provi-
dion of law, any former RUS borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrifica-
tion Program may use any unexpended balance of any loan or loan guarantee for a utility that is 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.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, no more than $30,000,000 in appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2020, to operate the ECCC (defined in section 385 of the Agricultural Improvement, Development, and Business Opportunity Act of 2018): Provided, That except as otherwise specifically provided by law, unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act shall remain available through September 30, 2020, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of any agency under this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program estab-

lished under any provision of law or another public law, any or all of the provisions of this Act, including any provisions of this Act described in section 314 of the Agricultural Improvement, Development, and Business Opportunity Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or pro-

grams for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than $2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activ-

ities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the De-

partment of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

None of the funds in this Act shall be available to pay indirect costs charged against any agricultural research, education, or extension grant awards issued by the Na-
tional Institute of Food and Agriculture: Provided, That none of the funds appropriated for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without re-

duction of the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corpora-
tion Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

the use of such carryover funds used in accordance with clause (3) of section 32 may not be ob-

ligated until the Secretary of Agriculture pro-

vides written notification of the expendi-

tures to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

SEC. 714. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the downloading and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of any 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. 715. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110–246 (7 U.S.C. 5922 (as added by this section and as a component of section 14222)) (hereinafter referred to as “section 14222”), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used for the salaries or expenses of personnel to carry out any provisions of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), grants provided by the Act for grants awarded by the National Food and Agriculture shall be available to pay full allowable indirect costs for each grant awarded under section 9 of the Small Busi-


SEC. 714. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the downloading and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of any 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. 715. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 14222 of Public Law 110–246 (7 U.S.C. 5922 (as added by this section and as a component of section 14222)) (hereinafter referred to as “section 14222”), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be used for the salaries or expenses of personnel to carry out any provisions of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), grants provided by the Act for grants awarded by the National Food and Agriculture shall be available to pay full allowable indirect costs for each grant awarded under section 9 of the Small Busi-


SEC. 714. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the downloading and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of any funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.
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, 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 or provided by previous Appropriations Acts, are to be used for the repackaging, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs, or
(2) relocates an office or employees;
(3) increases funds or personnel by any amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

Sec. 719. None of the funds appropriated 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, of provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies or provided by previous Appropriations Acts, are to be used for the repackaging, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(a) notifies in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes;
(b) 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
(c) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the Committees on Appropriations receive a written notification, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

Sec. 720. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts, are to be used for the repackaging, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(a) creates new programs, or
(b) relocates an office or employees;
(c) increases funds or personnel by any amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

Sec. 721. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days unless the 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 assignment.

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 supplemental assistance program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79); provided, however, that funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5506a), or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, use, or industrial hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with subsection section 502 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, within or outside the State in which the industrial hemp is grown or cultivated.

provided, however, that the Secretary or any prior Appropriations Act under 7 U.S.C. 5501(b) shall be made available without regard to section 7238 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 3371 note), under the matching requirements in laws in effect on the date before the date of enactment of such section: Provided, That the requirements of section 502 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary of Agriculture or any prior Appropriations Act under 7 U.S.C. 5501(b) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 732. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to propose, promulgate, or implement any rule, or take any other action, with respect to a project for which the engineering and construction materials otherwise prohibited by this Act may be used to construct, maintain, or repair of a public water or waste disposal program account, Rural Development Loan Fund Program Account, Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grant Program, Rural Development Loan and Housing Insurance Program, the Administrative Law Judges, or the Commodity Credit Corporation to enter into agreements with and provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations dedicated to conservation, forestry, and wildlife habitat improvement and in conducting an accurate forest inventory analysis through the use of advanced, cost-effective technology. The Secretary shall focus the analysis on lands that have been forested for at least eight years and located in areas with a substantial concentration of acres enrolled under conservation programs. The Secretary shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee of the Secretary. 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.

SEC. 733. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to carry out any rule, guidelines, or other information intended for a prescriptive health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 506(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)), to be distributed to such professional electronically (in lieu of in paper form) unless and until a Federal law is enacted to allow or require such distribution.

SEC. 734. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to carry out any rule, guidelines, or other information intended for a prescriptive health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 506(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have been not received by the Secretary and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 735. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to carry out any rule, guidelines, or other information intended for a prescriptive health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 506(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have been not received by the Secretary and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 736. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to carry out any rule, guidelines, or other information intended for a prescriptive health care professional, in the case of a drug or biological product subject to section 506(b)(1) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 353(b)(1)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have been not received by the Secretary and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 737. There is hereby appropriated $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 640F of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1807a): Provided, That the Secretary or the designee shall allow eligible entities to offer loans to customers in any part of their service territory and to offer loans to replace a manufactured housing unit, if replacement would be more cost effective in saving energy.

SEC. 738. There is hereby appropriated in fiscal year 2019, the Administrators of the Agricultural Research Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service may make not to exceed 50 appointments in any fiscal year for employees of such agencies at the National Bio- and Agro-defense Facility (NBAF) in Manassas, VA: Provided, That such appointments may be made in the manner provided by 7 U.S.C. 7667(b)(4)(A)(i–v): Provided further, That such appointments may be made at rates not exceeding the rate payable for such positions under the General Schedule or the Executive Schedule, or other applicable schedule, as appropriate.

SEC. 739. There is hereby appropriated $1,000,000 for the Secretary to carry out a pilot program that provides forestry inventory analysis and economic outcomes modelling for certain currently enrolled Conservation Reserve Program participants. The Secretary shall allow the Consolidated Forests to enter into agreements with and provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations dedicated to conservation, forestry, and wildlife habitats, that are in conducting an accurate forest inventory analysis through the use of advanced, cost-effective technology. The Secretary shall focus the analysis on lands that have been forested for at least eight years and located in areas with a substantial concentration of acres enrolled under conservation programs. The Secretary shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee.

SEC. 740. During fiscal year 2019, the Food and Drug Administration shall not allow the introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of any food that contains genetically engineered salmon until the FDA publishes final labeling guidelines for informing consumers of such content. The Secretary or the designee shall allow eligible entities to offer loans to customers in any part of their service territory and to offer loans to replace a manufactured housing unit, if replacement would be more cost effective in saving energy.

SEC. 741. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this Act and notwithstanding the last sentence of 16 U.S.C. 1310, there is appropriated $4,000,000, to remain available until expended, to implement non-regulatory programs that include the following: (1) to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations dedicated to conservation, forestry, and wildlife habitats, that are in conducting an accurate forest inventory analysis through the use of advanced, cost-effective technology. The Secretary shall focus the analysis on lands that have been forested for at least eight years and located in areas with a substantial concentration of acres enrolled under conservation programs. The Secretary shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee.

SEC. 742. There is hereby appropriated $1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a pilot program for the Secretary to provide grants to qualified nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities for technical assistance, financial and legal services, to RHS multi-family housing borrowers to facilitate the
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, and that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multi-family housing program for a period of time determined by the Secretary.

Sec. 746. 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 subsection (b).

Sec. 747. The Secretary of Agriculture (referred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall carry out a pilot program during fiscal year 2019 respecting 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—

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

(b) the alternate calculation method described in subsection (c) is used for the calculations;

(c)(1) A supplemental payment made under the pilot program established under this section may be made to an agricultural producer in an applicable State, and under such conditions and limitations as the Secretary determines, if the agricultural producer would receive under the alternate calculation method described in subsection (b) a supplemental payment that would be greater than—

(1) The amount that the agricultural producer would receive using the alternate calculation method.

(2) The amount of a supplemental payment made under the pilot program under this section.

(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 the pilot program in section 746 under which—

(a) the amount provided under subsection (d) is not used for purposes of county-level agriculture risk coverage payments under section 1117(b)(1) of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 9017(b)(1)) other than payments made in accordance with the pilot program under this section.

(b) 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) other than for purposes of the pilot program under this section.

Sec. 748. The Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary's designees are hereby granted the same access to information and subject to the same requirements applicable to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development as provided in section 453 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653) and section 1603(l) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 1603) to verify the income for individuals participating in sections 502, 504, 521, and 542 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472, 1474, 1490a, and 1490c), notwithstanding section 4501(h) of the Social Security Act.

Sec. 749. In addition to any other funds made available in this Act or any other Act, there is appropriated $5,000,000 to carry out section 18(g)(8) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766(g)), to remain available until expended.

Sec. 750. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration to develop, issue, promote, or advance any regulations applicable to food manufacturers for long-term population-wide sodium reduction actions or to develop, issue, promote or advance final guidance applicable to food manufacturers for population-wide sodium reduction actions until the date on which a dietary reference intake report with respect to sodium is completed.

Sec. 751. There is hereby appropriated $1,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for the costs of loans and grants that is consistent with section 4206 of the Agriculture Improvement and Rural Development Act of 2018 for the fiscal year 2019 for necessary expenses of the Secretary to support projects that provide access to healthy food in under-served areas, support public health and agriculture links, and to revitalize low-income communities.

Sec. 752. For an additional amount for "Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Salaries and Expenses", $7,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, for one-time control and management and associated activities related to the multiple-agency response to citrus greening.

Sec. 753. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce any regulation issued by the Food and Drug Administration entitled "Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, 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 grapefruit and oranges that are used solely for wine and receive commercial processing that adequately reduces the presence of microorganisms of public health significance.

Sec. 754. There is hereby appropriated $20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for an additional amount for telecommunications programs and facilities in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 9503aa et seq., to help address the opioid epidemic in rural America.

Sec. 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.

Sec. 756. There is hereby appropriated $425,000,000, to remain available until expended, for an additional amount for Sec. 709 of the Food, Conservation, and Delta Water Quality Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-240).
(C) to develop other scalable commercial applications for kelp, seagrasses, or products derived from kelp or seagrasses.

(b) The working group shall include—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture; and

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

(3) 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); and

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

(D) the date on which each 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 such 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)."
It must be passed now, and the furloughed employees at these vital Federal agencies, our farmers, our agricultural businesses, and the other Americans who are depending on their livelihoods must be brought back to work.

Because of the shutdown, USDA has stopped making loans and grants for rural development programs such as housing, water and wastewater facilities, and community facilities. New grants to our universities for agricultural research can't be made.

Across the Nation, Farm Service Agency county offices have been closed since December 28. Farmers applying for relief from retaliatory tariffs are in limbo, waiting for the shutdown to end. Nearly 33,000 USDA employees who are funded by this bill are currently furloughed.

At the Food and Drug Administration, more than 10,000 employees are working without pay, while nearly 7,000 have been furloughed, which is impacting everything from user fee collections to the reduction of food safety inspections, jeopardizing the food we eat. According to USDA, nearly 9,000 people are working without pay to inspect our meat, poultry, and egg products.

This bill would fund the Food Safety and Inspection Service at over $1 billion to restore our safety. I will be the first person to admit that this bill is not perfect, but no bill ever is. However, this is about opening the government and putting it back to work for the American people.

The Senate has passed the Senate by a vote of 92-6. There is no reason why we should not pass this bill since it has already been adopted by the leadership of the Senate and the Members of the Senate overwhelmingly, so that we can put American workers back on the job.

Specifically, this legislation provides over $23 billion in discretionary funding for USDA and FDA. That is $225 million above the 2018 enacted level.

It provides over $1 billion for agriculture research conducted by the Agricultural Research Service and NIFA, an increase of $114 million from fiscal year 2018. These increases will help to ensure American agriculture remains competitive with other nations.

The Farm Service Agency, whose county offices were shuttered on December 28, is funded at $1.6 billion. In my district, all the county offices are now closed. These offices are the primary line of communication for our farmers and our ranchers, providing critical data, processing loans, and answering questions. Without this assistance and information, they are left in the dark when it comes to planning for next year.

Fruit and vegetable growers, who suffered from Hurricane Michael recently, are at a loss. They have produce that is stored in warehouses that need to be delivered in order to get income, but they can't get those sales accomplished without an okay from the Farm Service Agency. Those offices are closed. Nobody is there.

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.

When we began 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 Member bills 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 throw 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 urge 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 Farm Service Agency, and 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 $139 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.

Any bill but a full open rule on appropriations bills was absolutely condemned by the Democrats for the past 8 years. However, as a 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, in contrast to the 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 areas. 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 fewer 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 of House Republicans who are not included in the Democratic proposal.

When it comes to rural infrastructure, the Republican bill included language to secure set-aside funds for persistent poverty counties in rural areas. This provision is vital to rural communities 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 for 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 assist housing, utilities, or economic development. And approximately 4 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—one 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 with a vote of 92–6. This bill would open the Department of Homeland Security and 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 move on DACA, and so 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 issue and an immigrant issue. 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, said the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAUNOY), 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. DELAUNOY. 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 are buying 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 is 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 our 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, the Senate bill includes $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 Senate 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, and it ignores the will of this House and all of the hard work Members from both sides of the aisle have put into this process.

Madam Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on the legislation.

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

Let me just say that, as we said before, this bill is not perfect, but we should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Chief among the funding in this bill is funding that is included to combat one of the biggest public health risks today which is opioids. The bill provides strong support for the FDA to combat this opioid epidemic.

In addition to the funding provided last year, it provides $59 million to continue the activities involved in inspecting, investigating, and screening of opioids. As the agency that oversees these drugs, the FDA has a vital responsibility 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. 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, which provides more than $23 billion to partially reopen the government. This critical bill would ensure that struggling families do not go hungry.

Madam Speaker, there are 38 million families who rely on SNAP food stamps to help put food on the table. And while USDA has said they will pay for SNAP and WIC in February, there is no guarantee for families in March. Let’s be clear. We’re talking about 38 million Americans going hungry.

Already, SNAP benefits are woefully insufficient to feed a family. No one can make a meal off of $1.40 a meal, and now families may be left with nothing.

Madam Speaker, contrary to what President Trump says, food banks and charities cannot make up the difference. They are already struggling with the volume of need in our communities throughout the country. This is simply immoral.

I am reminded of a very difficult period when I was a young, single mother raising two little boys and had to rely on food stamps to get my family through some very difficult, tough times. I was a bridge over troubled water. That lifeline should be there for all families all of the time.

Our bipartisan President may not know what it is like to choose between putting food on the table or gas in the car, but I tell you, Agriculture needs funding.

And forcing the choice on families because of a manufactured shutdown is unconscionable. So let’s pass the bill to reopen the government. Let’s get Federal employees back to work, and get them the paychecks they need.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill, and “yes” to reopen the government. The American people deserve no less.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, at this time I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (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 rural 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 President 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 do our job. And I am 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 mortgage is approved; for the single parent trying to make ends meet and not knowing whether their SNAP benefits will be there next month; and for the couple who won’t be able to close on their dream home because they can’t access a rural housing loan.

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 reauthorize 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 eliminated in the House, support 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 a charade. 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 are arriving at the border without borders data, not anybody else’s—have been sexually assaulted on the way to the border. This proposal includes money to provide for applying for asylum in their home countries. Why are we not doing this?

Why are we not addressing a comprehensive border security package and passing all of these appropriations bills and moving on to other priorities? We may disagree about those.

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

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 problem? Let’s grow up. Let’s be adults and solve the problems instead of bickering.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Bishop of Georgia. 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 these Federal agencies, simply to satisfy the ego of someone at the end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pallone), who is the chairman of the authorizing Committee on Energy and Commerce.
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 markup in this body, and 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 our 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 committee this week. Both amendments previously passed unanimously in the Appropriations Committee and, rightfully, should be in the bill before us.

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 codified the longstanding prohibition of releasing proprietary SNAP 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 data 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.

I constantly hear from farmers in central and southwest Georgia about the inefficiencies of the H-2A program. I am afraid 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.

This amendment supported 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 programs we are 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 and included 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 significant 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 abridge our respect for 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. Right now we have half of 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 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. 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.
It is about reopening government. It is about reestablishing Congress as a co-equal branch of government.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan funding bill for the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration.

The day before the government shutdown began, the President signed into law the 2018 farm bill, after much debate and work. As a member of the conference committee, we negotiated the farm bill in good faith. Therefore, it has been incredibly disappointing to see the shutdown prevent key pieces of the legislation from taking effect. Examples of the impacts in my district are the following.

One such program allows a company in my district to deliver fresh California produce to our local school districts to improve the quality of food for the children. This contractor now is not allowed to be paid.

They are among many of the subcontractors in the business with governmental entities. Because of the shutdown, the USDA cannot pay them to provide services, putting in jeopardy the future of their businesses and people who work for them, and the delivery of healthy fruits and vegetables to our local schools.

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 programs have been significant throughout the country.

In addition, farmers cannot sign up for newly 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 gentleman from California has 5 1⁄4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Alabama has 10 1⁄2 minutes remaining.

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.

Also, programs cannot proceed to address drinking water needs in our rural communities. We have places like Oscoda in my home district experiencing a drinking water emergency from PFAS. They have relied on the Department of Agriculture for help. That help won’t be available.

By passing this bill, we put thousands of Michigan workers back to work. We ensure families who rely on food nutrition assistance will get the help they need. Right now, they are only guaranteed that help through the end of February.

Additionally, there are contractors who are essentially doing much of the same work as government employees but are not getting paid and will not see a paycheck when all of this is over.

During this Trump shutdown, these hardworking employees don’t know where their next paycheck is coming from. They can’t turn to their parents like some can when they run out of money to pay their bills. They need help for healthcare. They need help to pay for childcare. They need to be able to cover their housing costs. They need to be able to buy food for their families. They can’t plan for their own future when they don’t know what they are going to be eating next week.

President Trump is using these families and farmers who work or depend on the Department of Agriculture as pawns in a political game. We may have disagreements, but we should never, ever shut the government down in order to achieve something that the President and his party are unwilling to submit to the legislative process.

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

As I noted earlier, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee received over 350 Members who came before our subcommittee and submitted requests. Many of those requests included support for animal disease and for plant pests destroying agriculture products. Let me just give an example of some that we heard.

The House bill included $15 million to fight the pest from China called the spotted lanternfly. This pest is destroying fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals in the mid-Atlantic States.

The House bill included $5 million more for the oriental fruit fly that ravaged south Florida.

The House bill and also the House report included higher amounts for the citrus greening disease killing the orange groves across Florida. I can give numerous examples of other House priorities and directives included in the House bill and report by the majority that have been dismissed by the Senate bill. Like I said, these are just some examples that our Members have requested. It has been important to their districts. They thought it was very important for agriculture in their regions.

Again, by us adopting the bill today, we would be doing this for nothing.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. Wasserman Schultz), the chair-designate of Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to pass this bill, which would fund agricultural and nutrition programs that are vital to our Nation’s farmers and well-being. I also rise to ask that my colleagues refrain from turning millions of hardworking SNAP recipients into pawns in a shutdown fight over a feckless border wall.

While the President continues to insist on shutting down key agencies like the USDA, our Nation’s farmers are facing uncertainty. Every month, USDA releases the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report, which provides important information about the size of crop harvests. However, due to the shutdown, the USDA is unable to send out this highly anticipated report, casting doubt on the agricultural commodities markets.

Even worse, the shutdown has forced USDA to stop providing assistance to
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 does not undertake dangerous inspections 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 government 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 made any new regulatory adjustments. 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法案 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 issues that are very important to Florida.

Citruses 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 House of Representatives and to the citizens who elected them to serve them because, as you’ve said, 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 deficiencies.

The American people want and need both enhanced border security and nutritional programs. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a crucial program that helps these Americans suffering from food insecurity. For example, SNAP recipients.

The longer the shutdown goes on, the longer the American people 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 world will experience during this shutdown.

That is why it has fallen on all of us in the Congress to take 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 am proud to have passed and have been law 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’s 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 responsibility. And go gently, go with it a charade. 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.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, as I prepare to close and urge my colleagues to open to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and all the agencies. He is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Ways and Means. He also represents the salad bowl of this country.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, today, we, unfortunately, are enduring our government’s second longest government shutdown since 1981. We 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 world will experience during this shutdown.

That is why it has fallen on all of us in the Congress to take 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 am proud to have passed and have been law 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 responsibility. And go gently, go with it a charade. 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 more than 30 years. That bill serves only to give a false impression that the new majority is trying to resolve our funding deficiencies.

The American people want and need both enhanced border security and nutritional programs 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 after another shutdown in which there has been 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 such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), as I prepare to close and urge my colleagues to open to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and all the agencies. He is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Ways and Means. He also represents the salad bowl of this country.
crop, 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 92–6 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 Program, 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 access 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 3,500 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 $33 billion, were redeemed at big-box stores such as Walmart Inc. and Target Corp., up from 47% in 2015, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show.

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 SNAP savings, 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. SNAP 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.

Dean 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.

A report by the USDA in 2010 also said that boosting SNAP benefits during economic downturns starts a “virtuous cycle” 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:
Mr. Aderholt moves to recommit the bill H.R. 265 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendments:

Page 2, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $19,000,000)".
Page 2, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $12,000,000)".
Page 3, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $2,000,000)".
Page 3, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $5,000,000)".
Page 4, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $6,000,000)".
Page 5, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $34,000,000)".
Page 5, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $10,000,000)".
Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $3,000,000)".
Page 6, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $58,000,000)".
Page 17, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $3,000,000)".
Page 66, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by $2,000,000)".
Page 100, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by $6,000,000)".

Mr. ADERHOLT (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am, in its current form.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Aderholt moves to recommit the bill H.R. 265 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back to the House.

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.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The SPEAKER pro tempore.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit restores a House priority that had overwhelming support when we put together the FY 2019 Agriculture bill during the last Congress.

As I mentioned in my opening statement, our House bill last year placed a high priority on delivery of broadband to theunserved and underserved populations in rural America. Eighty percent of the 24 million American households that do not have reliable, affordable, high-speed internet, are in rural areas.

That is according to the most recent report by the Federal Communications Commission. Again, 80 percent are in rural areas.

Reliable and affordable internet connectivity is fundamental for economic activity throughout the United States. It is also a fundamental need for rural American households, for schools, and for health care centers.

The National Agriculture and Rural Prosperity Task Force recommended connectivity for all rural Americans because it has become a modern-day necessity. It is not simply an amenity anymore. In today's information age and where we are today, it is driving our global economy.

Our House appropriation bill last year included $550 million for this new pilot program. This motion that is now before us will simply add an additional $125 million to the $475 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. This 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, I urge a "yes" vote on the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.
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, namely:

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, $133,535,000, of which not to exceed $3,001,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed $1,540,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary; not to exceed $29,428,000 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 $29,244,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for programs; not to exceed $2,142,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs; not to exceed $1,855,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration; not to exceed $12,325,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response; 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.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, $8,471,000, of which $2,218,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2021: Provided, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and other sources in lieu of salaries and expenses incurred for training: Provided further, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Act of 1998 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

For capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, $1,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2021: Provided, That the Secretary of Transportation shall distribute funds provided under this heading as discretionary grants to be awarded by the Under Secretary of Transportation for Planning and Environment, transit agency, port authority, or a collaboration among such entities on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact: Provided further, That any projects eligible for funding provided under this heading shall include, but not be limited to, highway or bridge projects eligible under title 23, United States Code; public transportation projects eligible under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code; passenger and freight rail transportation projects; and port infrastructure projects (including inland port infrastructure and land ports of entry): Provided further, That the amount made available under this heading may be used an amount not to exceed $5,000,000 for the planning, preparation or design of projects eligible for funding under this heading: Provided further, That grants awarded under this heading shall not be subject to a minimum grant size: Provided further, That the Secretary may use up to 20 percent of the funds made available under this heading for the purpose of paying the subsidy and administrative costs of projects eligible for Federal credit assistance under chapter 6 of title 23, United States Code, or sections 501 through 504 of the Railroad Revitalization and Regulatory Reform Act of 1976 (Public Law 94–210), as amended, if the Secretary finds that such use of the funds would advance the purposes of this paragraph: Provided further, That in distributing funds provided under this heading, the Secretary shall take such measures as so to ensure an equitable distribution of grant funds that the Federal share of the financing package shall not be less than 50 percent of the total cost of the project and that not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading may be awarded to projects in a single State: Provided further, That the Federal share of the projects described in the preceding proviso shall be applied as if they were required to be distributed as if they were required to be distributed as provided in section 1302 of title 23, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and the Yeas and Nays ordered. There was no objection. The Yeas and Nays are ordered to be considered read.
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

January 10, 2019

NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE BUREAU

For necessary expenses of the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 116, $2,967,000, to remain available until expended.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation financial management and re-engineering business processes, $2,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to wide area network perimeter controls and identity management, testing and assessment of information technology against business, security, and other requirements, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives and information infrastructure enhancements, and implementation of enhanced security controls on network devices, $15,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2020.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, $9,470,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, $7,879,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such amount, $1,000,000, shall be for necessary expenses for the Interagency Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center (IIPIC): Provided further, That there may be transferred to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, amounts transferred from other Federal agencies for expenses incurred under this heading for IIPIC activities not related to transportation infrastructure: Provided further, That the tools and analysis developed by the IIPIC shall be available to other Federal agencies for the permitting and review of major infrastructure projects not related to transportation only to the extent that other Federal agencies provide funding to the Department as provided for under the previous proviso.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital expenditures for the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed $203,883,000, shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: Provided, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: Provided further, That the above limitation on operating expenses shall not apply to non-DOT entities: Provided further, That no funds appropriated in this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: Provided further, That amounts may be levied against any program, budget activity, sub-activity or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Appropriations committees and are approved by such Committees.

MINORITY BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAM

For necessary expenses of the Minority Business Resource Center, the provision of financial education outreach activities to eligible transportation-related small businesses, the monitoring of existing loans in the guaranteed loan program, and the modification of such loans of the Minority Business Resource Center, $239,000, as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 332a and notwithstanding that section, these funds may be for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION AND OUTREACH

For necessary expenses for small and disadvantaged business utilization and outreach activities, $3,488,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That notwithstanding 49 U.S.C. 332, these funds may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS (AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under 49 U.S.C. 41731 through 41742, $175,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: Provided, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary shall consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: Provided further, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 135 regulations that apply to commercial operations under section 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: Provided further, That none of the funds in this Act or any other Act that authorizes the Administrator to enter into new contracts with a community located less than 40 miles from the nearest small hub airport before the Secretary has negotiated with the community over a carrier cost share: Provided further, That amounts authorized to be distributed for the essential air service program under subsection 41742(b)(2) of title 49, United States Code, for the number of days immediately prior to and immediately from amounts otherwise provided to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration: Provided further, That the Administrator may reimburse such amounts from fees credited to the account established under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

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 an agenda for the 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 and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: 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 the Congress: 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 the Congress: Provided further, That funds may be used to support a single year/period budgeting methodology for the Federal Aviation Administration, except for any funds that are not available for obligation or expenditure, or in compliance with the procedures set forth in this section: Provided further, That not later than March 31 of each fiscal year, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to the Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of Public Law 108-176: Provided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $1,000,000 for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to the 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 submitted to the Congress in December 2004, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: Provided further, That the amount herein appropriated shall be reduced by $100,000 per day for each day after March 31 that such report has not been submitted to the Congress: Provided further, That funds may be used to enter into a grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or other cooperative agreement with a non-profit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: Provided further, That none of the funds made available in this Act shall be available for the second career training program: Provided further, That none of the...
funds in this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would pro-

provide or implement new procedures for new regulations required after the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That there may be credited to this appropriation, as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign au-

thorities, other public authorities, and pri-

vate sources for expenses incurred in the pro-

vision of agency services, including receipts for the handling and operating of air traffic, air navigation facilities, and for issuance, re-

newal or modification of certificates, includ-

ing all or part of the fee or other charge for any such certificate, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: Provided further, That the funds appro-

riated under this heading, not less than $168,000,000 shall be used to fund direct oper-

ations of the current 254 air traffic control towers in the contract tower program, in-

cluding the contract tower cost share pro-

gram, and any airport that is currently qual-

ified or that will qualify for the program during the fiscal year: Provided further, That none of the funds for aircraft for aviation

charting and cartography are available for ac-

tivities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: Provided further, That the funds appropriated or provided otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to eliminate the Contract Weather Observers program at any airport, that an airport, That of the funds appro-

riated under this heading, up to $6,000,000 shall be used for providing matching funds to qualified commercial entities seeking or receiving grants or direct

funds of the Federal Aviation Administration designated UAS test sites: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall identify es-

sential integration technologies that could be demonstrated or validated at test sites designated in accordance with the preceding proviso.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

( AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND )

For necessary expenses, not otherwise pro-

vided for, for airport grants, grants-in-aid for air traffic services, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including the contract tower cost share program, grants-in-aid for air traffic services, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including aircraft for aviation

charting and cartography are available for ac-

tivities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: Provided further, That the funds appropriated or provided otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to eliminate the Contract Weather Observers program at any airport, that an airport, That of the funds appro-

riated under this heading, up to $6,000,000 shall be used for providing matching funds to qualified commercial entities seeking or receiving grants or direct

funds of the Federal Aviation Administration designated UAS test sites: Provided further, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall identify es-

sential integration technologies that could be demonstrated or validated at test sites designated in accordance with the preceding proviso.

SEC. 110. None of the funds in this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 tech-
nicants and staff-years under contracts or grants for the Federal Aviation Administration to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations required by the Federal Aviation Administration to fund research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administra-

tion and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2019.
through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SFC. 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.

SFC. 117. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act may 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 Aviation Administration’s Aircraft Situation Display to Industry data that is made available to the public, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SFC. 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.

SFC. 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, as the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautical navigational and associated services of the Federal Aviation Administration, that are consistent with Executive Order 13642.

SFC. 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 60 days in advance.

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

SFC. 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 new or modified participant in the 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 report, Establishment and Discontinuance Criteria for Airport Traffic Control Towers (FAA–APO–90–7 as of August, 1990).

SFC. 120. 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 Organizational Designation Authorization’s (ODA) model and functions documented in its procedures manual on a type certification project unless the Administrator certifies that the ODA’s capability has not been previously established in terms of a new compliance method or design feature. Provided, That the Administrator may submit plans to the Federal Aviation Administration that will work with the ODA holder if requested to develop the capability to execute that function efficiently.

SFC. 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 the Terminal Aerodrome Forecast report is current, and supplemented by other local weather observations or reports, is available, and the alternate flight route designated by the Terminal Aerodrome Forecast and weather report is specified. The air carrier shall have approved procedures for dispatch and en route weather evaluation and an alternate instrument flight rules en route to the destination.

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

SFC. 119P. 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 providers of general aviation ground support services located at those airports closed during a temporary flight restriction (TFR) for any airport incident 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 violation of FARS or FARS, negligence, of such operators and service providers or of third parties (including airports) are not eligible for reimbursements; Provided further, That such fees are available until expended for such actions.

REPORT ON NEXTGEN IMPLEMENTATION

SFC. 119G. (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of NextGen’s commercial service airports in the United States.

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

(1) The number and percentage of commercial service airports in the United States that have fully implemented NextGen.

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

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

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop a standard for determining under subsection (b)(2) the percentage completion of NextGen in each commercial service airport 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 submit the report required under subsection (a) the standard developed under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) definition of such title “NextGen” means the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

(2) NEXTGEN.—The term “NextGen” means the Next Generation Air Transportation System.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed $446,444,304, together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be obligated or expended for administration and operation of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition, $3,246,000 shall be transferred to the Appraisal Fund (for compliance with section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Funds available for the implementation or execution of Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under titles 23 and 49, United States Code, shall be obligated or expended for Federal-aid highways (limitation on obligations) (highway trust fund) for the purpose of carrying out an Act of Congress that 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 60 days in advance.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, and the provisions of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act shall not exceed total obligations of $45,268,596,000 for fiscal year 2019.

Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be in addition to any funds made available under this title, $5,000,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under section 133(b)(1)(A) of title 23, United States Code, $15,800,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Puerto Rico Highway Program as described in section 10001(a) of division C of such title, $5,000,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Territorial Highways Program, as described in section 1804(a) of title 23, United States Code,

LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs authorized under title 23, United States Code, the amounts made available under this heading shall be in addition to any funds made available under this Act, $6,007,596,000 derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), remain available until expended.

LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

There is hereby appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation $3,300,000,000: Provided, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be in addition to any funds made available under this heading; $2,369,200,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Puerto Rico Highway Program as described in section 133(b)(2)(C) of such title, $15,800,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Puerto Rico Highway Program as described in section 133(b)(2)(C) of such title, $5,000,000 shall be set aside for activities eligible under the Territorial Highways Program, as described in section 1804(a) of title 23, United States Code.
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(d) of such title, except that if a State has no bridge replacement or rehabilitation program in place by September 30, 2022, the funds made available under this heading for a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program shall be used in areas of a State that have a population of 200,000 or fewer individuals: Provided further, That if a State has no bridge replacement or rehabilitation program in place by September 30, 2022, the funds made available under this heading for a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program may be used for highway bridge replacement projects on public roads that are operated by or for the Federal Government or by any political subdivision of a State (other than non-highway bridges), and (b) a bridge replacement and rehabilitation program shall be administered as if appropriated under title 23, United States Code, except that amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in sections 202 and 204 of title 23, United States Code, are exempt from the limitation under subsections (b)(12) and (b)(13) of such title in the proportion that the percentage of total deck area of bridges classified as in poor condition in each State 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 title 13, 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 of December 31, 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 Federal-aid highway programs for fiscal year 2019 in 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 highway and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years that are apportioned by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under sections 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which the 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 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 highway and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraph (b)) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(2) for such fiscal year, bears to the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; and

(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 the programs described in paragraph (1)) that are apportioned under section 133(d) of title 23, United States Code, (other than the amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, and 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, to all States for such fiscal year;

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(6) distribute sufficient amounts to those States (other than those States to which the funds were initially made available for obligation) to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States...
having large unobligated balances of funds appropriated 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 provided under section 306 of title 23, United States Code; and

(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 paragraph (1) 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.

(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 not designated for program under section 226 of title 23, United States Code that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid highway programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be appropriated under section 200 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 138(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid highway program for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses: Provided, That such funds shall be subject to the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under its or her statutory authority, any Buena Vista requirement for Federal-aid highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice opportunity to the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: Provided, That the Secretary shall provide an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on any waivers granted under the Buena Vista requirements.

SEC. 123. None of the funds provided in this Act that are not obligated by October 1 of the current fiscal year may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under title 23, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: Provided, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, (i) the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 124. None of the funds in this Act may be used to make a project under section 117 of title 23, United States Code, unless the Secretary, at least 60 days before making a grant under that section, provides written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and the Federal Highway Administration that the proposed grant, including an evaluation and justification for the project and the amount of the proposed grant award: Provided, That the writing not containing a project proposal shall be made no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act.

SEC. 125. (a) A State or territory, as defined in section 165 of title 23, United States Code, may use for any project eligible under section 138(b) of title 23 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 of funds to be obligated 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 rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration; or

(2) a congressional earmark, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

(c) 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 to none 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 States or territories each quarter to the House and the Senate Committees on Appropriations.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS) (HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 3110 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, $284,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: Provided, That funds available for implementation, execution or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of $284,000,000 for ‘Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Program’ for fiscal years of which $9,073,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2021, is for the research and technology program, and of which $24,824,000 to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2021, is for information management.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS

(LIMITATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31103, 31104, and 31131 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act, $382,800,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: Provided, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of $382,800,000 in fiscal year 2019 for ‘Motor Carrier Safety Grants’; of which $304,300,000 shall be available for the motor carrier safety assistance program, $32,500,000 shall be available for the commercial motor vehicle operator grants program implementation program, $4,000,000 shall be available for the high priority activities program, and $2,000,000 shall be made available for commercial motor vehicle operators grants, of which $1,000,000 is to be made available from prior year unobligated contract authority provided for Motor Carrier Safety grants in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Public Law 105–178), SAFETEA–LU (Public Law 109–59), or other authorizations or appropriations acts.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. Funds appropriated or limited in this Act shall be subject to the terms and conditions stipulated in section 350 of Public Law 107–87 and section 6901 of Public Law 110–28.

SEC. 131. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall send notice of 49 CFR section 385.308 violations by certified mail, registered mail, or another manner of delivery, which records the receipt of the notice by the persons responsible for the violations.

SEC. 132. To the maximum extent practicable, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall ensure the timely completion of the flexible sleeper berth pilot program of the Administration.
For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 23 U.S.C. 402, section 1001(a)(1) of Public Law 114–94, and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, $152,100,000, to be derived from the High...
headings 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 15 percent on passenger fares to 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 as authorized by section 11101(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (division A of Public Law 114–94), $2,651,000,000, to remain available until expended.

That none of the funds 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, or on State-supported routes as defined in section 24102 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 of 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 24102(c)(1) of such title: Provided further, 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 rail service permitted by 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 or regulation:

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, $113,165,000: Provided, That none of the funds provided or limited 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 for fiscal year 2020 for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5323(e)(6), 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, hereafter known as an 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 (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code), $9,999,390,000 in fiscal year 2020: Provided, That none of the funds provided by this heading shall be derived from the general 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 in the America’s Surface Transportation Act.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out 49 U.S.C. 5314, $5,000,000, of which up to $1,500,000 shall be for a cooperative agreement with a Tribal entity under which the Federal Administration assists small-urban, rural and tribal public transit recipients and planning organizations with applied innovation and capacity building: Provided, That the assistance provided under this heading shall be derived from the general fund: Provided further, That none of the funds provided by this heading shall be used to carry out any Federal program.

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 those required by individual agreements: 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 poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: Provided further, That the President of Amtrak may modify the amount of the cap as necessary to meet the fiscal year 2020 budget constraint: Provided further, That in no event shall the total cap be reduced below $543,500,000, as determined by the Secretary on the basis of the fiscal year 2019 budget constraint: Provided further, That section 24102(c) of title 49, United States Code, with respect to Long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102(c)(1) 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 permitted by 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 24102(c)(1) of such title: Provided further, 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 rail service permitted by 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 or regulation:

Sec. 200. Provided further, That the term “low or no emission vehicle new bus models” as used in this Act means vehicles new bus models at each selected institution of higher education:

Sec. 205. Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transportation programs set forth in the America’s Surface Transportation Act.

Sec. 210. Provided further, That the term “low or no emission vehicle new bus models” as used in this Act means vehicles new bus models at each selected institution of higher education:

Sec. 215. Provided further, That none of the funds provided by this heading shall be used to carry out any Federal program.

Sec. 220. Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transportation programs set forth in the America’s Surface Transportation Act.
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 progress to improve 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 region, 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. 5328, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated before October 1, 2018, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 162. Of the unobligated amounts made available for fiscal years 2005 or prior fiscal years to “Transport Formula Grants”, a total of $16,560,000 is hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 163. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used for the implementation or furtherance of new policies detailed in a “Dear Colleague” letter distributed in the House by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in connection with the appropriation for “MARITIME TRANSPORTATION” for fiscal year 2019.

SAINT LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to the fiscal year limitations provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act, as amended, as may be necessary in carrying out the program set forth in the Corporation’s budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operation, maintenance, and capital asset renewal activities on those portions of the Saint Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development, $36,000,000, to remain available until expended:

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a Merchant Fleet to secure the national security needs of the United States, $300,000,000, to remain available until expended:

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, $149,442,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020, of which $71,000,000 shall be for the operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and of which $2,400,000 shall remain available until expended for the maintenance and repair, equipment, and capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Provided further, That prior to conducting training ship fuel assistance, and of which $6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2020, for direct payments for State Maritime Academy Operations and Training, Maritime Administration.

Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $7,000,000 shall remain available until expended for the Short Sea Transportation Program (America’s Marine Highways) to make grants for the purposes authorized under sections 55601(b)(1) and (3) of title 46, United States Code: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this heading for the Short Sea Transportation Program (America’s Marine Highways) from prior year recoveries shall be available to carry out activities authorized under sections 55601(b)(1) and (3) of title 46, United States Code: Provided further, That from funds provided under the previous two provisions, the Secretary of Transportation shall make grants no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act in such amounts as the Secretary determines: Provided further, That any unexpended balances from previous appropriations for programs and activities supporting State Maritime Academies shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for “Maritime Administration, State Maritime Academy Operations” and shall be made available for the same purposes.

STATE MARITIME ACADEMY OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of operations, support and training activities for State Maritime Academies, of which $300,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for maintenance, repair, life extension, and capacity improvement of National Defense Reserve Fleet training ships under this heading, and $3,000,000 shall be for the costs of training ship multi-mission vessels:

Provided further, That of the funds provided under the previous two provisions, $149,442,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the Maritime Environment and Technology Assistance program authorized under section 50307 of title 46, United States Code: Provided further, That of the amounts made available under this heading, $7,000,000 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 Academy Operations and Training, Maritime Administration.

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

To make grants to qualified shipyards as authorized under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, as amended by Public Law 113–281, $20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet, Maritime Administration, $5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, $3,000,000, of which $750,000 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 to furnish services 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 utilized, in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $23,710,000: Provided, That the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a final rule to expand the comprehensive oil spill response plans within 45 days of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the amounts appropriated under this heading shall be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and used for the response to and containment of releases from hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline Safety Trust Fund.

PIPELINE SAFETY (PIPELINE SAFETY FUND) (OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

For expenses necessary to conduct 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, of which $150,000,000 shall be derived from fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 5108(g) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: Provided, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, funds received from States, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for transfers to any State or other public authority to carry out the pipeline program and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities, of which up to $803,000,000 shall be derived from fees collected under 49 U.S.C. 60102 and deposited in the Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility Safety Account for the purpose of carrying out the underground natural gas storage facility safety program.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

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 not later than January 12, 2018, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall take final action to implement comprehensive oil spill response plans within 45 days of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the amounts appropriated under this heading shall be deposited in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and used for the response to and containment of releases from hazardous materials excreations and approvals functions.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For expenses necessary to conduct 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, of which $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 underground natural gas storage facility safety program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS (EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

Notwithstanding the fiscal year limitation specified in 49 U.S.C. 5116, not more than
SEC. 184. 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 Fede-
reral Highway Administration’s “Highway Safety Assistance Program” and the Federal 
Railroad Administration’s “Safety and Operations” 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 Trans-
portation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant un-
til the Secretary of Transportation certifies to the House and Senate Committees on Ap-
propriations that the Secretary has informed the Inspector General that the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the govern-
ment (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEC. 186. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Inspector General for 
investigations may be used to acquire an asset, other than a computer system, for the In-
spector General’s use or the use of agents on loan to the Inspector General, other than as
provided in 18 U.S.C. 2721.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Inspector General may use funds provided
in this Act to pay administrative costs, including in such cases as the govern-
ment (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.

SEC. 187. Amounts made available in this Act may be used to make a loan, loan

guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation pro-
vides that the funds are not available for obligation.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), none of the funds 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 pro-
vides that the funds are not available for obligation.

(c) Any funds made available in this Act may be used to pay administrative costs, in-
cluding in such cases as the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.

SEC. 188. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Trans-
portation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation pro-
vides that the funds are not available for obligation.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), none of the funds made available in
this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to pay administrative costs, in-
cluding in such cases as the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), none of the funds made available in
this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to pay administrative costs, in-
cluding in such cases as the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.

SEC. 190. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that
estab-
ishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency career track programs.

SEC. 191. The Department of Transpor-
tation may use funds provided by this Act, or any other Act, to assist a contract under the
so-called Small Business Innovation Research Program that is a contract with a mod-
dal administration.

SEC. 192. (a) No recipient of funds made available in this Act shall disseminate per-
sonal

information (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2275(c) obtained by a State department of motor

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold funds provided in
this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with the act.

SEC. 193. None of the funds in this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of
more than 110 political and Presidential ap-
pointees in the Department of Transpor-
tation: Provided, That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on
temporary detail outside the Department of Transpor-
tation.

SEC. 194. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Rail-
way Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and
private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Fed-
eral Highway Administration’s “Highway Safety Assistance Program” and the Federal
Railroad Administration’s “Safety and Operations” account, except for State rail safety
inspectors participating in training pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 20105.

SEC. 195. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Trans-
portation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant un-
til the Secretary of Transportation certifies to the House and Senate Committees on Ap-
propriations that the Secretary has informed the Inspector General that the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the govern-
ment (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.

SEC. 196. (a) None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Trans-
portation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, or discretionary grant un-
til the Secretary of Transportation certifies to the House and Senate Committees on Ap-
propriations that the Secretary has informed the Inspector General that the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 3), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the govern-
ment (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity to the Inspector General, shall be available for obligation by individuals other than the Sec-
retary of Transportation, or his or her des-
ignee.
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 with the public, including small and medium-sized planning organizations, and regional transportation commissions on advancing data and information system technologies and other smart cities solutions.

SIRC. 193. The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Assistant Secretary of the Army 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.

SIRC. 194. (a) Subject to subsections (c) and (d), nothing appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended to enforce or require the enforcement of section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2416).

(b) The Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on efforts under this section.

(c) Nothing in this subsection prohibits the Secretary from issuing an order under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1337) or an order under subsection (a)(2) of that section; and

(d) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to apply to funds that are not appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this or any other Act.

SIRC. 195. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation may be obligated or expended to enforce or require the enforcement of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1337) or any regulation issued under that section, subject to the condition that, as provided in subsection (b), funds provided under a contract or subcontract described in paragraph (1) to expand the manufacturer’s production of rail rolling stock manufactured described in subsection (a) if the manufacturer produces rail rolling stock for a public transportation agency with a rail rolling stock manufacturer described in subsection (a) if the manufacturer produces rail rolling stock for an eligible public transportation agency with a rail rolling stock manufacturer described in subsection (a)(1) of that title, United States Code, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock, as defined in section 310 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.

SIRC. 196. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Federal Transit Administration under this title to carry out sections 307, 311, 313, and 339 of title 49, United States Code, or any regulation issued by the Secretary pursuant to such section, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock, as defined in section 302 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.
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 purpose of the specific item or portion of services, specified in the matter preceding the first proviso: Provided further, That with respect to the Fund, the authorities and conditions provided under section 7(f).

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

TEAR-DOWN 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. 1437 et seq.), not otherwise provided for, for $18,780,987,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2018 (in addition to the $4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that 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 242(a)(4)(G) or (H) of the Act) and including renewal of other social purpose tenant-based vouchers: Provided, 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 valuation management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflator 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 excess which exceeds the public housing agency's authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration program under section 9 of the Act, including the terms and conditions of their MTW agreements: Provided further, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the limits established under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate each public housing agency's allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: Provided further, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated by 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 share under this paragraph no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2019: Provided further, That the Secretary may extend the notification period by no more than 90 days: Provided further, That the amounts made available under this paragraph, $5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance not limited by the pre- 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 those activities related to tenant-based or tenant-aided assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities; (4) $154,000,000 for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under authority of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: Provided, That any other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be subject to the same percentage decrease as under the previous proviso: 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 tenant-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 ensure that any such waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act of 1996 and modeled after the Jobs-Plus initiative as a voluntary program for residents: 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 amounts and re-allocate it to other public housing agencies based on need for voucher assistance in connection with such program; and (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(g)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937: Provided, That the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, such paragraph and increase earnings: Provided further, That the amount provided under this heading, up to $35,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinators and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437w-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4101): Provided further, That of the total amount made available under this heading, $15,000,000 shall be for a Jobs-Plus initiative modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: Provided further, That funding provided under the previous proviso shall be available for competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3122), and other agencies that are authorized or support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: Provided further, That for such purposes set forth under this section, the Secretary may reallocate, as determined by the Secretary, amounts returned or re-allocated from awards under prior authority: Provided further, That any obligated 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 any obligations shall be terminated: Provided further, That in addition to the amount previously 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 under this paragraph, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

PUBLIC HOUSING CAPITAL FUND

For the Public Housing Capital Fund Program to carry out capital and management activities, as authorized under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) (the “Act”) $2,775,000,000, to remain available until expended: Provided further, That for purposes set forth under this section, 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 purpose of such funds shall be to support ongoing public housing financial and physical assessment activities: Provided further, That up to $1,000,000 shall be to support ongoing public housing and urban development needs including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That of the amount made available under the previous proviso, not less than $5,000,000 shall be for safety and security measures: Provided further, That the amount in the previous proviso for such safety and security measures, any amounts that remain available, after all applications requests for funds under this heading, for emergency capital needs have been processed, shall be allocated to public housing agencies for such safety and security measures: Provided further, That of the total amount made available under this heading, up to $35,000,000 shall be for supportive services, service coordinators and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437w-6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4101): Provided further, That in addition to the amount previously 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 under this paragraph, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

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 this Act or prior Acts, that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph that the Secretary determines is necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such voucher assistance: Provided further, That assistance made available under this paragraph shall continue to be available for homeless veterans upon turn-over; (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 assistance 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 amounts and re-allocate them 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 RECISSIONS

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 any obligations shall be terminated: Provided further, That in addition to the amount previously 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 under this paragraph, in addition to amounts otherwise available.
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 assistance for fiscal year 2019 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers: Provided further, That the Department shall notify public housing agencies of the allocation of funds within 10 days of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That the total amount provided under this heading: $25,000,000 shall be available for purposes under the previous proviso to public housing agencies to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in public housing by carrying out the activities of risk assessments, abatement, and interim controls (as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851a)): Provided further, That for purposes of environmental review, a grant under the previous proviso shall be considered funds for projects or activities under section 17 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g et seq.) for purposes of section 26 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437x): and shall be subject to the regulations implementing that provision.

PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND
For 2019 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g), $1,756,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020.

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 for transformation, rehabilitation, and replacement allocation) and for purposes of carrying out title II 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 to enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency, $80,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the Secretary, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under subsections (b), (e), (h), (b), or (c) of section 23 of such Act in order to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary:

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY
For the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 9 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, $80,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023, for the Secretary, by Federal Register notice, waive or specify alternative requirements under subsections (b), (e), or (h), or (c) of section 23 of such Act in order to facilitate the operation of a unified self-sufficiency program for individuals receiving assistance under different provisions of the Act, as determined by the Secretary:

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANTS
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)
For the Native American 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. 4101 et seq.), $655,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023:

PROGRAM ACCOUNT
For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1709z-13a), $1,440,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $17,761,989: Provided further, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That for an additional amount for the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA, $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023:

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND
For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1709z-13a), $1,440,000, to remain available until expended: Provided, That such costs, including the costs of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as amended: Provided further, That these funds are available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $17,761,989: Provided further, That the Department will notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of the date of enactment of this Act: Provided further, That for an additional amount for the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA, $100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2023:

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT
For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VI of the Department of the Interior, Office of Ocean and Natural Resources Research and Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2020, and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VI of the Department of the Interior, Office of Ocean and Natural Resources Research and Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021, and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VI of the Department of the Interior, Office of Ocean and Natural Resources Research and Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022, and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VI of the Department of the Interior, Office of Ocean and Natural Resources Research and Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023, and the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VI of the Department of the Interior, Office of Ocean and Natural Resources Research and Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024: Provided, That any funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso shall remain available until September 30, 2024.
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 108 of the Community Development 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 502(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 are funded under section 854(e)(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 that are providing funding for 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, $3,100,000,000 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. 13501 et seq.), $223,000,000 is for carrying out the Development Area Assistance program under section 216(10) of such Act; $200,000,000 is for carrying out the Housing Choice Voucher program under section 811 of such Act; $300,000,000 is for carrying out 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 Housing and Community Development Act of 1996, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), of which not less than $5,000,000 shall be made available for rural capacity building activities: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $5,000,000 shall be made available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations with experience assessing national needs, developing capacity for financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local nonprofits, local governments, and Indian Tribes serving high need rural communities: Provided further, That of the total amount provided under this heading, $4,000,000, shall be made available for a program to rehabilitate and modify the homes of disabled or low-income veterans, as authorized under section 1079 of Public Law 104-134 (20 U.S.C. 8201 note), of which not less than 20 percent of any grant made with funds appropriated under this Act shall be provided to State agencies that have 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 any unobligated amounts remaining from funds appropriated under the National Homeless Data System for rural populations, can dramatically reduce youth homelessness: Provided further, That of the amount made available under this heading shall be required to co-ordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: Provided further, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under this heading shall remain available until expended: Provided further, That not less than $230,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be required to support small and rural communities under the Continuum of Care program and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program as authorized under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any funds provided under this heading shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: Provided further, That all funds provided for under, in up to 25 communities, including at least 16 Native American Tribal communities, for projects that are evidence-based and provide technical assistance and training to supportive services 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 the other renewal under the Continuum of Care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for the other renewal under the Continuum of Care and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program shall be by not less than 25 percent in kind to projects and support services in rural communities which have not previously been 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 implement projects to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: Provided further, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under this heading shall be required to co-ordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: Provided further, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME Investment Partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Housing and Community Development 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 Secretary shall not apply to allocations of such amount: Provided further, That 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, in up to 25 communities, for projects that are evidence-based and provide technical assistance and training to supportive services 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 the other renewal under the Continuum of Care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other renewal applicants: Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be available to the Secretary for the other renewal under the Continuum of Care and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance program shall be by not less than 25 percent in kind to projects and support services in rural communities which have not previously been 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 implement projects to coordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: Provided further, That any rental assistance amounts that are recaptured under this heading shall be required to co-ordinate and integrate homeless programs with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible: 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, $375,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022, provided further, That the Secretary shall comply with the requirements of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy rowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy rowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108.
provided under this title: **Provided further,** That such projects shall be eligible for re-
newal under the continuum of care program subject to the same terms and conditions as other grants. **Provided further,** That youth aged 24 and under seeking assistance under this heading shall not be required to provide third party documentation to es-
tablish their eligibility under 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): section 8 project-based assistance, for car-
ried out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f):

**Provided further,** That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating 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 con-
tracts for projects in units that are subject to a section 8 project-based assistance, for the
emerg-
cy Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preserva-

**Provided further,** That upon request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in resi-
dual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based Housing Assistance Pay-
ments contract that authorizes HUD or a Housing Finance Agency to require that sur-
plus project funds be deposited in an inter-
mined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the Housing Finance Agency to require that sur-
plus project funds be deposited in an inter-
mined by the Secretary shall be remitted to the

**Provided further,** That the amounts made available under this heading shall not exceed 5 years in duration:

**Provided further,** That that the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: **Provided further,** That, upon the request of the Sec-

**Housing Programs**

**PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

For activities and assistance for the provi-
sion of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq., as amended), not other-
wise provided for, $11,347,000,000, to remain 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 am-

**Provided further,** That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: **Provided further,** That, upon the request of the Sec-

**Housing for the Elderly**

**For capital assistance, including amend-

edments to capital advance contracts, for hous-
ing the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1969, as amended, and 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, in-

**Provided further,** That upon request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in resi-
dual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based rental assistance contract and, upon termination of such con-
tract, in addition provided for, $154,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: **Provided further,** That unobligated balances, in-
cluding recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be available for amend-
ments and renewals notwithstanding the pur-
poses 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 grants made avail-

**Rental Housing Assistance**

For amendments to contracts under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Develop-
ment Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1715a) and section 236 of the National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), as amend-
ed, for project rental assistance for sup-
portive housing for persons with disabilities

**Housing for Persons with Disabilities**

For amendments to capital advance con-
tracts, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act, for project assistance contracts pursuant to sec-

**Provided further,** That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: **Provided further,** That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for Real Estate Assessment Center inspections and inspection-related activities associated with section 811 projects: **Provided further,** That, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds which are held in resid-
ual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 811 project rental assistance con-
tract and, upon termination of such con-
tract, in addition provided for, $11,347,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2022: **Provided further,** That unobligated balances, in-
cluding recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be available for amend-
ments and renewals notwithstanding the pur-
poses for which such funds originally were appropriated.
PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FERS TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to $12,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which the minimum of $12,000,000 is to be derived from the Manufactured Housing Trust Fund: Provided, That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: Provided further, That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2019 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2019 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to section 620 of such Act shall be modified as necessary: Provided further, That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary may assess and collect fees pursuant to section 621 of such Act: Provided further, That such collections shall be deposited into the Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as amounts provided pursuant to section 622(b)(1) of such Act, for necessary expenses of such Act: Provided further, That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may delegate 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 mortgages 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, fees pursuant to section 620 of such Act shall be modified as necessary to ensure that loan commitments exceed $200,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2019, an additional $100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each $1,000,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below $1,000,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed $3,000,000,000,000: Provided further, That, notwithstanding the section 621 of such Act, $27,000,000,000 shall be available during fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: Provided further, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments exceed $155,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2019, an additional $100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each $1,000,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below $1,000,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed $3,000,000,000,000: Provided further, That the Secretary may use approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Programs of sections 204(f)(1) and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–2 and 1735c), shall not exceed $30,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which may be insured, remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That during fiscal year 2019, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans made under this section, 204(g), 207(c), 207(f), 207(q), 207(t), 251, 252, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed $1,000,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION GUARANTEES 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. 1712i(g)), shall not exceed $550,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That $27,000,000,000 shall be available during fiscal year 2019: Provided further, That the Office of Government National Mortgage Association: Provided further, That to the extent that guaranteed loan commitments exceed $155,000,000,000 on or before April 1, 2019, an additional $100 for necessary salaries and expenses shall be available until expended for each $1,000,000,000 in additional guaranteed loan commitments (including a pro rata amount for any amount below $1,000,000,000), but in no case shall funds made available by this proviso exceed $3,000,000,000,000: Provided further, That the Secretary may use approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

Policy Development and Research Research and Technology

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies under the Multifamily Housing Insurance Accounts, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including $150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2020: Provided, That with respect to matters 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 purposes of furthering the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program under title X of the National Housing Act: Provided further, That no funds appropriated under this heading shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Amendments of 1987 and the Family Housing Assistancessh Quality Reform Act of 1994: Provided further, That not less than $85,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading for the award of grants pursuant to section 101 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 shall be provided to areas with the highest levels of lead paint abatement obligations: Provided further, That not less than $45,000,000 of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with fair housing and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in receiving the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

For the Lead Hazard Control Program, as authorized by section 101 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (20 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.), not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z-1 et seq.), including $30,000,000,000, 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 1974 (42 U.S.C. 7311, et seq.), that shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint policies and other housing-related practices, as authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (22 U.S.C. 2401 et seq.), and for operational expenses of programs of research and studies under the Multifamily Housing Insurance Account, as authorized by title X of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.
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 grantees meeting cost-savings, productivity, and performance standards established by the Secretary: Provided further, That the Secretary shall give priority to applicants that secure commitments for additional contributions from public and private sources: Provided further, That grantees committing more than 10 percent of the funds made available 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 and if of which the applicant shall certify adequate capacity that is acceptable to the Secretary to carry out the proposed use of funds pursuant to a notice to apply: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this or prior appropriations Acts, still remaining available, may be used for any purpose for which funds made available under this heading are authorized to be appropriated, if a program competition for such projects meet the standards for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed.

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 centralized and distributed programs and 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 prior enactments, or reprogramming, or from appropriated funds, or from unobligated balances, or from any other fund or account, or from any other source, or from any other appropriation, or from any other Federal source or fund, shall be subject to the conditions and limitations of such fund, account, or source: Provided further, That amounts made available under this heading in this or prior appropriations Acts, still remaining available, may be used for any purpose for which funds made available under this heading are authorized to be appropriated, if a program competition for such projects meet the standards for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed.

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the amounts of appropriation associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from programs described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Appropriations Act, 1999 (42 U.S.C. 1437 note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development 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 projects at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. 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 participating in a knowing and willful violation of a non-frivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or in a capacity outside the jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be implemented on an agency basis and in accordance with section 162 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3543).


SEC. 205. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a regrouping 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. 206. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to them by 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, subject to the conditions established in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2019 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: Provided, That the urban development grant programs and the Community Planning and Development grant programs and the Community Development Block Grant programs and the Low Income Homeownership grant programs and the Economic Development Assistance grants of the Department of Housing and Urban Development agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent 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 provisions of this Act which authorize the Secretary to make available, obligated, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall be subject to the conditions established in this Act and in any other appropriation, or from any other Federal source or fund.

SEC. 207. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees appropriating such assistance regarding all unobligated, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit such reports to the 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. 209. No funds provided under this title may be used for an agreement with the 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 some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) TRANSFEROR AND RECIPIENT.—(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: The number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e., bedroom size) providing the assistance to be transferred to the receiving project or projects shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferor project: The Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(C) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet the applicable project-based rental assistance standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagee of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenant. The Secretary may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.
(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project or projects, 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.

(6) If the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the multifamily housing 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 or projects, 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.

(7) If the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the multifamily housing 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 or projects, 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 or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in 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 are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Oversight Panel Act of 1974) for which 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) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing market to market debt restructuring; the Multifamily Housing Reform and Affordability Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 203 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 203 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; and

(3) the term ‘‘project-based assistance’’ means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Housing Act of 1977;

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act, except that existing units must be vacated 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 of 1937;

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(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 the 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 are transferred;

(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 not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, 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), (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) from private sources, or an institution of higher education (as defined under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 212. The Secretary is authorized to assign Native Americans under the heading ‘‘Native American Housing Block Grants’’ in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same National American Indian tenant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005.

SEC. 213. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2019, in managing any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 or other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain and/or use existing tenant lists under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the tenants of the ‘‘officers’’ agree in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that such a multifamily property owned or held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of new tenant placement and the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under the Multifamily Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (‘‘MAHRAA’’) and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective manner, the Secretary shall consult with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing property, or other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based 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. After notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or conceding, That an agency section of any multifamily property described under this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under sections 9(e) and 9(g).

SEC. 214. The commitment authority funded by fees paid as provided under the heading ‘‘Community Development Block Grants Program Account’’ may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes, or other obligations issued by any local, State, or Federal government, and other public entities in any State, and all funds subject to such guarantee shall be subject to asset management requirements.

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 any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas, Provided, That 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) or that are activities 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 as defined in section 201 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(1) and (2)); 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) or that are activities for assistance with amounts from the operating fund for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under section 9(g)(1) or 9(g)(2).

SEC. 218. The Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder under the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(1) and (2)); Provided, That the Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD appropriation under the accounts ‘‘Executive Offices’’ and ‘‘Administrative Offices,’’ as well as each account receiving appropriations under the general heading
The Executive Order, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary, for the Secretary must 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 Notice of Default, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default. (2) At the end of the time period for correction identified in the Notice of Default, if the owner fails to fully correct such deficiencies, the Secretary may—(A) require immediate replacement of the project management agent approved by the Secretary; (B) impose civil money penalties, which shall be used solely for the purpose of supervising the repair and rehabilitation of applicable properties, as designated by the Secretary, with priority given to the tenants of the property affected by the penalty; (C) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected; (D) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, which will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract as long as such renewal is offered; (E) transfer the existing section 8 contract to another project or projects and owner or owners; (F) pursue exclusionary sanctions, including suspensions or debarments from Federal programs; (G) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies; (H) with the owner, lender, or other related party in an attempt to preserve the property through compliance, transfer of ownership, or an infusion of capital provided by a third-party that requires time to effectuate; or (I) take any other regulatory or contractual remedies available as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to the extent necessary to assist relocation of tenants for major threats to health and safety after written notice to the affected tenants. To the extent the Secretary determines that the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, the Secretary may—(1) require the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 ("MAHRA"); and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied by other cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of another property, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall report quarterly on all properties covered by this section that are assessed by the Physical Needs Assessment Center and have UPCS physical inspection scores of less than 60 or have received an unsatisfactory management and occupancy score within the past 36 months. The report shall include—(1) the enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times; (2) the enforcement actions of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties; and (3) any administrative or legislative recommendations to further improve the living conditions at properties covered under a housing assistance payment contract. This report shall be due to the Senate and House Committees no later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act and, on the first business day of each Federal fiscal year thereafter with this section remains in effect. The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning, and Evaluation shall submit for review within the past 36 months. The report shall include—(1) the enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identify properties that have such conditions multiple times; (2) the enforcement actions of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer, or 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 may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 30 full business days before any project. The Housing Authority, tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices.

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to require or enforce the Physical Needs Assessment (PNA). SEC. 225. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other entity selected to receive a grant award 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 allocated, 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 expended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, may be be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be rebudgeted 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, for the chief executive officer, tribe, nonprofit organization, or 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. 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 114–15, section 525 of division H of Public Law 114–113, and such authorities as are enacted for Performance Partnership Pilots in an appropriations Act for fiscal year 2016 with respect to specific policy proposals to reduce administrative burden. The Secretary, in consultation with the advisory committee, shall submit a report on the results of such regulatory review to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 236. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to establish and apply a ranking factor in the selection and award of any funds made available and requiring competitive selection under this Act, including the Secretary’s use of incentives for participation in or coordination with EnVision Centers.

SEC. 237. (a) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall engage in efforts authorized by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113–4, 127 Stat. 54) to ensure that survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault are not unlawfully evicted or denied housing by certain landlords based on their experience as survivors.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit to Congress a report on the efforts described in subsection (a).

SEC. 238. None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to provide housing assistance benefits for an individual who is convicted of—

(1) aggravated sexual abuse under section 2241 of title 18, United States Code;

(2) murder in section 1111 of title 18, United States Code; or

(3) 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 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102); or

(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 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, $400,000: Provided, That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation funds received for publications and training expenses.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission, as authorized by section 201(d) of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, as amended, $174,500,000: Provided, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $35,000,000: Provided, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authorities as are authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1984, as amended, to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, provided further, That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authorities as are authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1984, as amended, to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.
For necessary expenses (including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger-carrying 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 functions pursuant to title II of the McKinsey-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, $3,600,000; Provided, That any new program or project, or reprogramming of funds that—
(1) creates a new program;
(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;
(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;
(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;
(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or
(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, or program 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, the enacted level, the appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level, the President's budget request, the appropriation and prior year enacted level, and the fiscal year enacted level; and
(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation with a separate column to display 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.

SNC. 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) requires 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;

SNC. 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 agencies and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—
(1) is less than 180 days;
(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
(3) increases funds for personnel for any program or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;
(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;
(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;
(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or
(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, or program 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, the enacted level, the appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level, the President's budget request, the appropriation and prior year enacted level, and the fiscal year enacted level; and
(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation with a separate column to display 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.

SNC. 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 funds shall be used in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SNC. 407. No funds made available in this Act may be used for any purposes other than for purposes of this section, the public use shall be considered a public use for purposes of section 405 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.-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.

SNC. 413. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or any other application for any foreign air carrier permit or an exemption to such an air carrier permit where such authorization is consistent with the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement and United States law.

(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.

SNC. 414. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to pay for 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 outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SNC. 415. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized by section 4361 of title 49, United States Code.

SNC. 416. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to transfer authority or responsibility for the management of Transportation, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, or any other...
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 computer network or protect against cyber-espionage or sabotage associated with the acquisition of such system, including any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by a company that the United States Government or the Inspector General has determined is a company that is owned, directed, or subsidized by, or controlled by or otherwise affiliated with, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) determined in consultation with NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks; and

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the acquisition of such system is in the vital national security interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in a manner that identifies the system intended for acquisition and a description of the mitigation strategies identified in (1), provided that such report may include a classified annex as necessary.

SEC. 418. (a) None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(b) determined, in consultation with NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the acquisition of such system is in the vital national security interest of the United States; and

(c) the report required under subsection (a) contains an explanation of the mitigation strategies identified in (1), provided that such report may include a classified annex as necessary.

SEC. 419. 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 any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

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 any other entity carrying out any risk associated with such system being produced, manufactured, or assembled by a company that the United States Government or the Inspector General has determined is a company that is owned, directed, or subsidized by, or controlled by or otherwise affiliated with, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, or the Russian Federation.

(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(Sec. 418. (a) None of the funds made available under this Act may be used to acquire a high-impact or moderate impact information system reviewed and assessed under subsection (a) unless the head of the assessing entity described in subsection (a) has—

(1) determined in consultation with NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a mitigation strategy for any identified risks; and

(2) determined, in consultation with NIST and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the acquisition of such system is in the vital national security interest of the United States; and

(3) reported that determination to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate in a manner that identifies the system intended for acquisition and a description of the mitigation strategies identified in (1), provided that such report may include a classified annex as necessary.

SEC. 421. The explanatory statement regarding division D of H.R. 21, printed in the Congressional Record on January 3, 2019, and submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, shall have the same effect with respect to allocation of funds and implementation of this Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

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 authority granted by this Act during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations, as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act during which there occurs a lapse in appropriations, shall have the meaning given such terms under section 6503(d) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 423. (a) If a State (or another Federal grantee) used State funds (or the grantees' non-Federal funds) to continue carrying out a Federal program during a lapse in appropriations, any of the funds appropriated 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 funds 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 an amount provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

(b) For purposes of this section, “State” and the term “grantee,” including United States territories and possessions, shall have the meaning given such terms under subsection (a). 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 funds 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 an amount provided in advance in appropriations Acts.

This Act may be cited as the “Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2019”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.
maintaining existing infrastructure, it will allocate $17 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 FAST 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 undeniably true that 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 new the country, large and small, to leverage both public and private capital to address their most pressing community needs.

Just as important, this legislation would open these departments. It would close the 20,000 furloughed employees at DOT and over 7,000 furloughed employees at HUD to receive back pay and to return to their mission, which is serving the American people.

The Trump shutdown, Mr. Speaker, has dragged on for more than 2 weeks, shuttering vital government services and creating chaos and uncertainty for families, businesses, and communities in each of our districts.

For example, grants to help States and communities pay for upgrades to transit, road, and aviation facilities are being put on hold.

Mr. Speaker, we also included a provision that provided regulatory relief to major vehicle manufacturing defects, which, in fact, puts lives at risk.

New hiring and training for air traffic controllers has ground to a halt, exacerbating an ongoing staffing shortage. FAA equipment maintenance is curtailed, and pilot certifications are 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 want 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 bipartisan cooperation, 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 different from 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 opportunity 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. Republican or Democrat.

Mr. Speaker, in our House bill, I am proud that we decided to make history, for example, in ports: port infrastructure, the ports, seaports, including larger seaports that are critical to our economic future. 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 a high 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 in our country.

Mr. Speaker, we also included a provision that provided regulatory relief to, for example, sugar and beet haulers in Idaho and in 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,
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 would open the Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other critical agencies like the National Transportation Safety Board and U.S. Interagency 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 Trump shutdown has also had dangerous housing implications for many hardworking families. For example, HUD’s project-based Section 8 housing assistance program, which covers tens of thousands of low-income renters, is in trouble. Payments have been made for tenants this month, but due to staff furloughs, HUD contracts with landlords that expired since the shutdown began have not been renewed.

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 the Senate was counting on the House to fix, to finally prevent evictions. 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—re-valorization 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 $100 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 a minute to thank somebody who has become a personal friend, Chairman PRIEST. 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 PRIEST 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 remain on policy. 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 those kind words—a sentiment that I share totally. And yet, I am sure, are going to be able to continue this cooperative relationship in this new Congress, and I look forward to that.
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. )[c] for this effort 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. )[c], 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 are furloughed.

Worse yet, the Trump administration is unconsciously 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 without pay 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 singlehandedly 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. )[c], 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 found 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 said 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.

Every one 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 Idaho 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.

Hon. RICHARD SHELEY, Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.
Hon. SUSAN COLLINS, Chairwoman, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Washington, DC.
Hon. PATRICK LEAHY, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Washington, DC.
Hon. JACK REED, Ranking Member, Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Washington, DC.
Dear Chairman Shelpy, Ranking Member Leach, Chairwoman Collins, and Ranking Subcommittee Chair Reed:
We are writing to support a provision in H.R 6972, reported by the House Appropriations Committee, which would increase the allowable length of uniquely configured trucks hauling sugar beets by 14’ 8”, but only on less than 55 miles of specifically identified, non-Inter-state roads in rural Malheur County, Oregon.

These trucks use limited non-Inter-state routes as they drive from Oregon sugar beet receiving stations to Idaho beet processing facilities. In Idaho, trucks hauling sugar beets have been safely using this configuration since 2003. Extending this to Oregon sugar beet growers across the border means 1,830 fewer truck trips on our roads.

This provision has bi-partisan support. The four undersigned, representing Oregon and Idaho, introduced this provision as an amendment when the THUD bill was considered by the Senate, although it was not voted upon.

The proposed language has been extensively reviewed by technical experts at the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Idaho Department of Transportation as well as the Oregon Department of Transportation Motor Carrier Division as well, both of which assisted with its drafting.

We encourage you to help Oregon sugar beet farmers and their families by including the narrow provision for trucks hauling Oregon sugar beets on defined Malheur County routes in the final legislation.

Sincerely,
Ron Wyden, United States Senator;
James E. Risch, United States Senator;
Mike Crapo, United States Senator;
Jeffrey A. Merkley, United States Senator.
Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, this provision is noncontroversial. It is in the House bill. Guess what? It is not in the Senate bill. That means, if you adopt the Senate bill, you have dropped out this provision and you have dropped out many other provisions that are a priority of House Republicans and House Democrats.

Why would we turn everything to the Senate and their priorities?
You all know how this works. When we write a bill, we emphasize House priorities and downplay Senate priorities. They do the same thing on their side, emphasizing Senate priorities and downplaying House priorities. Then we go to conference, and try to work it out, but find no 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, because 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 is very much alive, and he wants to build, along part of the border, a wall. 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. And 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 not paid.

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 fuel 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 then there 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? Aren't we going to provide 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, reopen the government, fund transportation and 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 forward to 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. The President vetoed it, and it did not get past the Senate. People were 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 do the same 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 his $5 billion downpayment on a $25 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the Speaker.
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 strangely 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 households face locally, particularly for PHAs that serve large elderly and disabled populations. The House language directs HUD to submit a report outlining alternatives for operating fund calculations so that PHAs already strapped for cash do not continue to lose money because of a one-size-fits-all approach.

Lastly, for years now, the T-HUD package has contained a provision prohibiting funds for HUD's physical needs assessment, an onerous and costly requirement that increases administrative burdens on PHAs and, as time has shown, has no operational benefit for local housing programs.

These may seem trivial to some, but these are vitally important to the people they affect.

Mr. Speaker, these are not Republican priorities; these are bipartisan priorities. We owe it to the Members of this body who have been discussing 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 both sides 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 gentlewoman 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 our 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 FBI, 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 New Hampshire 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.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, she cannot obtain the statement from OPM regarding her pension right now because they are closed. This jeopardizes her living situation.

We must reopen government and then resolve our differences about how we address border security. Passage of this bill is a critical first step.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, if I might inquire how much time I have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from North Carolina has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, having no more speakers, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SOUTHWICK), a new Member of the House.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 267, and I urge my colleagues to come together to reopen a vital part of our government and to support this straightforward, bipartisan bill. It is a downpayment on reducing our nationwide, dangerous infrastructure problems.

It provides $650 million for Amtrak's Northeast corridor, the most heavily used passenger rail line in the Nation: $2.8 billion for the Federal Railroad Administration; and $800 million in new transit infrastructure grants. This is the least we can do to begin to get our government open and Americans back to work.

Congress is 4 months behind on paying our transportation bills. We cannot move forward on our larger infrastructure investment needs, like Gateway, without this first step. Gateway is the most vital infrastructure project in our Nation.

The century-old Hudson River rail tunnel connects 200,000 commuters every day from New Jersey to New York. Amtrak uses it to connect 20 trains per day between New Haven, Connecticut, and New York. Amtrak uses it to connect 20 trains per day between New Haven, Connecticut, and New York. The Northeast corridor is the Achilles heel of the Northeast rail corridor and was severely damaged during Superstorm Sandy. A collapse of the tunnel could injure thousands and cost our economy an estimated $100 million a day. But just as important to my constituents, every delay, every deferred decision on Gateway means a hardworking parent not making it home to see his or her family.

The proposal for Gateway was submitted to the DOT over a year ago. Secretary Chao needs to put the funds already approved by Congress to work. New transit trains and tunnels are exactly the type of infrastructure projects our country needs to build a strong future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the subcommittee chair for being so focused on America's transportation priorities and for allowing the voice of the people of the 11th District of New Jersey to be heard today.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.
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 the only important 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 has not 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 our air travelers.

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 Nation’s aviation 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 federal government agencies.

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 huge 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. from California to let me know about 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 this bill.

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 legislate 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 it then funds the programs. The issues 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.

I will never forget the Speaker of the House spent almost 8 hours on this floor saying that she wanted to fight for the Dreamers. Yet, there was a vote on Tuesday, Mr. Speaker, in the committee that she controls, the Rules Committee, on a party-line vote, the bill that would have, yes, funded border security—but would have legalized those under the DREAM Act, and legalized those under TPS—was voted down on a party-line vote.

Mr. Speaker, you want to know if there’s 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 government that I 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 America's homes by keeping families from 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 homeowners across the nation, and it protects renters who rely on HUD inspectors 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 support 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 and the safety of their families. Without HUD, families with children in these units are being put at risk because HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center is not conducting inspections in assisted housing units.

Because HUD has lapsed, thousands of low-income renters may face eviction. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, because the integrity of our airspace and transportation systems depend on it. And so do thousands of Americans who depend on HUD for housing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 267, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2019," which funds the Department of Transportation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development and ensure that people living in housing supported by HUD are not evicted as a result of the government shutdown proudly engineered by the President of the United States.

I am pleased to co-sponsor and support this bill because it is the right thing to do.

Because of the TrumpShutdown, some of the most important activities funded in the Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies have ground to a halt.

In addition to concerns over possible evictions and severe slowdowns with Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans, the shutdown has also led to other serious impacts.

For example, the health and safety of renters have been at risk because HUD's Real Estate Assessment Center is not conducting inspections in assisted housing units which are critical to ensure decent, safe, and sanitary housing.

Because of the shutdown, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has suspended data analysis and investigations into motor vehicle manufacturing defects which means that recalls of automotive defects will not occur.

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 airman 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
individuals and families across the country who are dependent on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Small Business Administration has completely halted its role in the federal contracting process, interfering with projects governed by its contract administration. The SBA has also stopped approving loan assistance and guarantee applications from commercial banks and small businesses, blocking access to federally-assisted loans for many small businesses.

Housing across the country have lost access to the Department of Homeland Security’s E-Verify program, which is intended to allow businesses to comply with federal law and determine the immigration status of employees they hire.

Most services provided by the Federal Trade Commission are suspended under the shutdown, including the National Do Not Call Registry (for consumers and telemarketers), consumer complaint systems, and identity theft reporting—as well as law enforcement access to FTC’s consumer complaints.

In addition, the FTC has suspended most investigations and litigation under the shutdown.

The Department of Justice’s civil litigation efforts against bad actors have stopped, and payments to crime victims have been put on hold.

Training for Department of Justice employees, even for those still working despite the shutdown, is canceled.

Department of Justice programs to train state and local law enforcement officers and officials have also been canceled.

All services for visitors to National Park Service sites—such as visitors’ centers, interpretative programs, and restrooms—have been suspended.

Many Parks are overflowing with uncollected garbage, while curtailed law enforcement staffing is putting visitors’ safety at risk.

In addition, the Smithsonian Institution and the National Gallery of Art have closed.

The Environmental Protection Agency has halted inspections at drinking water systems, hazardous waste management and chemical facilities.

The men and women who have been furloughed because of this manufactured crisis are not responsible for the Trump Shutdown. The dedicated men and women of the federal civilian workforce, like those who serve in the Armed Forces, have not spent their professional lives fomenting ethnic hatred and xenophobia, or imagining a national security crisis on the southern border.

Instead, these loyal and committed public servants by their paramount interest in serving the American public without fear or favor and, for the last four days, without any guarantee that they would be compensated for their labor.

And yet, they gladly and willingly serve, risking their lives to keep us safe.

Others stand watch monitoring weather systems and providing information necessary to protect the public from hurricanes and tornadoes and wildfires or conducting research to find cures for disease or that will yield technological innovations or help us mark and measure the far reaches of space.

Others work to secure the borders and homeland, ensure the safety of our food and water, serve our seniors and children, provide training and support for those looking for work, and protecting our environment and keeping watch over our treasures—our national parks and monuments, including this magnificent Capitol where the people have sent us to their business.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the federal workforce do the people’s business. They serve everyone equally. They do not single out some persons to serve and ignore others. They do not cherry-pick.

We should follow their example. And the best way to do that is for the House and Senate to pass this and the remaining appropriations bills by veto-proof margins and send them to President for signature and to vote to override should the President unwisely elect to veto the bill.

I urge all Members to join me in voting for H.R. 267.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank Chairman PRICE for his leadership on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the FY 2019 Transportation and Housing Appropriations Bill. The bill includes 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 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.

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. McCUHIN). 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.

Mr. DIAM-BALART. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Yes, its in current form.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the gentleman from Florida is recognizing the 5 minutes in support of his motion.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. (During the reading).

Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit restores a House priority that had overwhelming support when we put together the FY 2019 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 $390 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 lifeline to 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 today, and, instead, provides an additional $71 million for this valuable program.

The motion would provide 7,200 vouchers, and would correct a significant blight in the Senate-originated bill that is before us today.

Every single dollar of this funding goes directly to serve those in need. This is an account without bureaucratic overhead. Every single dollar goes to serve those who need it. It is a program with, again, a strong record of accountability and of performance.

None of one dollar of this program goes to the Federal overhead. These funds directly serve the disabled and their families, often, Mr. Speaker, through faith-based and community-
Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, responsibility for funding the Federal Government is as basic as it gets. It is one of the most important duties of Congress. The previous majority failed to do the basic task of keeping the lights on. Here on day 5 of the 116th Congress, we Democrats and leadership are determined to reopen Federal agencies shuttered by the Trump shutdown.

This legislation, which has already gotten bipartisan support—virtually unanimous support in the Senate—will ensure that the Federal Government is open and working for the American people.

The agencies funded in this bill have been shuttered for 20 days. More than 20,000 Federal workers are essential to keeping the country moving, on the job, ensuring the safety of the Nation’s skies, without pay. They have been doing their jobs without the usual complement of safety professionals who support the operation of the airspace.

Yet, when paydays come for these controllers—and thousands of other Federal workers—they will see nothing. Instead of their pay, they will get a blank check. They will not get compensation for the work they have done.

HUD is scrambling to renew contracts and ensure that thousands of tenants aren’t evicted. The uncertainty over Federal grants has caused State departments of transportation to delay construction season, and the list goes on.

This is why we are taking this approach. I ask my colleagues to support the bill.

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.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act.”

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act.”

 SEC. 2. SECURING UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR FACILITIES AGAINST CYBERSURVEILLANCE.

(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, by 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 such employees, 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 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate 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.

GENERAL LEAVE

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. The previous question is on the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield my time as I may continue.

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, and 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 Congress.

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, and 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 Congress.

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.
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 commonsense 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, says 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 routines and the location of secret foreign installations.

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 say that the Protecting Diplomats from Surveillance Through Consumer Devices Act is a commonsense way to improve the safety of U.S. personnel overseas.

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 material is not compromised is a non-partisan national security. 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.

I’d also like to thank my colleague from Texas, Ranking Member Michael McCaul, for authoring this measure with me.

Mr. Speaker, U.S. Foreign Service Offices voluntarily serve in some of the most dangerous pockets of the world to advance U.S. national interests and security abroad.

Changing technologies force 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 reintroduce 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 Department of State to establish a policy on location-tracking consumer devices at U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities around the world and requires employees to be briefed on the policies and procedures during routine security briefings.

H.R. 115 also requires the Secretary of State to coordinate with heads of any other agencies whose employees are deployed to or stationed at U.S. facilities in formulating this policy.

I support this legislation because, among other things, with the enactment of this act, the Secretary of State shall establish a policy on the use of location-tracking devices, including GPS-enabled devices, at United States facilities, both at home and abroad.

This act clarifies that U.S. employees will be kept up-to-date and notified about the use of location-tracking devices both on and off the premises of U.S. diplomatic and consular facilities.

The State Department is the critical go between when dealing with international 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.

Location-tracking information can be stored within a device or transmitted to an outside server, both storing the data, and giving real time location of said device.

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 phones 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’ location to provide accurate weather information.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 115 and upholding the importance of the privacy of our employees in consular and diplomatic facilities, and ensuring that all persons involved are aware and educated about the upholding policies.

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 agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: H.R. 133

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 “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 of State for Educational 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 800,000 United 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 2015.

(6) In January 2014, the United States established the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund which seeks to realize the goals of the 100,000 Strong in the Americas Initiative by facilitating a public-private partnership between the Department of State and international 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, 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 levels, with community colleges and through academic institutions in the covered United States-Mexico border region;

(2) encourage United States and Mexican academic 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 and practice in medical school and nursing programs in the United States by the Accreditation and Standards in Foreign Medical Education, in addition to the Commission on Foreign 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 section—

(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 all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 193, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

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 complements 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 in Mexico City, with many of my colleagues. Our two countries have had 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. It is a chance to 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 many 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 action 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 down 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 benefitted from a bilateral, mutually beneficial partnership focused on advancing the economic interests of both countries.

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 in the United States less than three years or less.

Rene´ Sa´nchez, 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´ Sa´nchez.

High school students like Sophia Martinez, an 18-year-old senior from Mexico who has been in Houston for nearly two years and speaks 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 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. 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 terrorism.

(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 program that appropriately allocates resources, shares responsibility, deconflicts programs, and maximizes the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development efforts.

SEC. 3. TRANS-SAHARA COUNTERTERRORISM PARTNERSHIP.

(a) Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership.

(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 all United States Government activities, 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 counterterrorism 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 through social media operations, 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 such countries, to counter media operations and recruitment propaganda by terrorist organizations.

(2) 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 and agencies.

(3) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before obligating amounts for an activity coordinated by the TSCTP and pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall submit a notification, in accordance with the requirements of section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394-1), that includes the following:

(A) The foreign country and entity, as applicable, whose capabilities are to be enhanced in accordance with the purposes specified in paragraph (1).

(B) The amount, type, and purpose of support to be provided.

(C) An assessment of the capacity of the foreign country or entity to absorb the assistance to be provided.

(D) 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. 2351 et seq.), or any other "train and equip" authorities of the Department of Defense.

(b) 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 establish 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 component of the Department of Defense, if applicable, will be responsible for leading and coordinating each such program; and

(C) outlines a plan to monitor and evaluate TSCTP programs and identifies the key indicators that will be used to measure performance and progress under the strategy.
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. 192, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of this measure. I would like to begin by again thanking Mr. McCaul for once again putting forward this legislation. I look forward to working with him, as I mentioned before, as he has been the ranking member on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

The bill before us today authorizes the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. This interagency program was established in 2005 to help America’s partners in the Sahel and Maghreb regions counter terrorism and violent extremism.

In places where instability leads to terrorism and conflict, it is important that we coordinate with our allies and that our policy is driven by a united interagency effort. That is why this bill is so important. By coordinating our diplomatic, military, and development efforts in our own government and with partners abroad, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership strengthens our response to the international security threats facing these regions of Africa.

Passing this legislation, which authorizes an existing program, will also enhance the ability of Congress to conduct thorough oversight.

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 myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of my bill, the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership Act. This bill passed the House last year and passed that the chairman and I were able to make it an early priority in this Congress.

This legislation strengthens our counterterrorism operations in Africa, an area where the terror threat is rapidly rising.

Our military successes in Iraq and Syria have splintered ISIS, squeezed terrorists out of the Middle East, and sent them fleeing to Africa. The numbers are alarming.

On the eve of 9/11, al-Qaeda had only a few hundred followers. Today, it is estimated that 10,000 ISIS and al-Qaeda jihadists have established bases across the continent.

Along with other existing terrorist organizations, such as Boko Haram, terrorism is taking hold in Africa and prohibiting its prosperity. We know that these groups have plotted attacks that threaten U.S. interests, and some have succeeded.

The Trump administration recently released their Africa strategy. It appropriately prioritizes U.S. efforts to counter radical Islamic terrorism on the continent. I applaud their continued focus on this issue.

My bill, which I introduced with my friend Mr. Keating, authorizes for the first time a program of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership. This program works with countries such as Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria to build their capacity to conduct counterterrorism operations, prevent the spread of violent extremism, and strengthen the rule of law.

Furthermore, it requires the State Department, USAID, and the Defense Department to work together to develop a counterterrorism strategy in Africa. By taking a multifaceted approach and better coordinating our efforts, we can prevent terrorism from gaining a larger foothold in these countries.

Again, I thank Mr. Engel and I thank Mr. Keating for their shared support of this cause, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman Engel and Congressman Keating. The bill authorizes a really important interagency effort to combat terrorism and prevent the spread of radical Islamist extremism in Africa. As ISIS and other terrorist ideologies are degraded in the Middle East, they are, unfortunately, finding a safe haven in Africa.

We must partner with other nations to work to combat these threats before they impact the homeland. This bill will increase congressional oversight from our committee and better coordinate U.S. assistance.

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

Mr. Engel. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I again thank Mr. McCaul for his work on this measure and state again that I look forward to working by his side with him as chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

This bill authorizes an important program that strengthens our efforts to assist partners in the Sahel and Maghreb to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

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.

As a new bill launched in 2005, is a partnership to cooperate with 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.

Extremist movements, such as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram, and 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.

As Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State are being driven out of the Middle East, Africa is becoming the new battleground for their terror 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 make the region more likely to be inflamed by these 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 North and West Africa to improve immediate and long-term capabilities to counter terrorist threats, and for other purposes.

This 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. 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 of Africa. Coordinated, interagency approaches are needed to appropriately allocate resources, share responsibility, de-conflict programs, and maximize the effectiveness of United States defense, diplomatic, and development capabilities.

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 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.

SPECIAL ENVOY TO MONITOR AND COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 221) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to monitor and combat anti-Semitism globally, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 221

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 “Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.”

SEC. 2. FINDING.

Congress finds that since the Global Anti-Semitism Review Act of 2004 was enacted, in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent and wide in scope, the perpetrators and varieties of threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries anti-Semitic incidents have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and deadliness.

SEC. 3. MONITORING AND COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM.

(a) In General.—Subsection (a) of section 59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2731) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end of the following: “, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate”;

and

(ii) by adding at the end of the following new sentence: “The Special Envoy shall report directly to the Secretary,”; and

(b) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “APPOINTMENT” and inserting “NOMINATION”; and

(ii) by striking the first sentence; and

(iii) in the second sentence, by striking “If the President determines that such is appropriate, the President may nominate”; and

(iv) in the third sentence, by striking “The Secretary may allow such officer or employee to retain the position (and the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the appointment” and inserting “Such officer or employee may retain the position (or the responsibilities associated with such position) held by such officer or employee prior to the nomination”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall serve as the primary advisor to, and coordinate efforts across, the United States Government relating to monitoring and combating anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incitement that occur in foreign countries.

“(4) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—The Special Envoy shall have the rank of ambassador.

“(5) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy should be a person of recognized distinction in the field of—

“(A) combating anti-Semitism;

“(B) religious freedom; or

“(C) law enforcement.

“(b) NOMINATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 120 after any such position becomes vacant, the President, shall nominate the Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating anti-Semitism under section 59 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as amended by subsection (a) of this section.

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

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. 221, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection 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, I rise in support of H.R. 221. I am a proud original cosponsor of this bill, and I am pleased we are considering it today. We passed it with bipartisan, unanimous support in the last Congress, and I am looking forward to seeing us show that broad support again. In this Congress, we must continue to stand against anti-Semitism.

I thank my colleagues for their hard work on this effort: Congressman CHUSSmith, the author of this legislation, and my fellow co-chairs of the Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism. I am proud to stand with a group of legislators committed to fighting intolerance and hatred.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen a sickening increase in anti-Semitism over the past few years. Just a few months ago, a gunman stormed a synagogue in Pittsburgh, attacking peaceful congregants and killing 11 people. We have seen people who embrace hatred and bigotry give a new, loud megaphone to spread their poison. Across the United States, we have seen an uptick in anti-Semitic language and an increase in threats of violence against Jewish communities. In my home state of New York, officials have reported an alarming surge of anti-Semitic hate crimes.

Every day, more and more alarming anti-Semitic incidents are happening across the world. Holocaust survivors recently assaulted, rallies and parades glorifying Nazi leaders, and swastikas graffitied to incite fear and terror. The list goes on and on.

This is appalling, and it demands immediate action.

As a country, we need to come together to say enough is enough. We need to confront evil, call it by its name, and say there is no place for it anywhere. In the United States or around the world. We need to do it as citizens. We need to do so in our laws and in our policies. We need to make sure that we fill the positions that are supposed to be dealing with this issue. The Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Anti-Semitism position at the State Department is still vacant, and that is simply unacceptable.
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, released in 2016, indicated 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 these evils. 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. SMITH), 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 will make it easier to fight this hatred.

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. 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 do so immediately.

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 violence worldwide. 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—demonization, double-standard, and delegitimization. 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. My friend, what Sharansky called the new anti-Semitism.

Anti-Semitic hatred is hardwired into the ideology of violent Islamist...
and White supremacist groups, but the evil goes beyond those perpetrators.

Politicians, entertainers, and public intellectuals across the philosophical spectrum have exhibited anti-Semitism. Strong American leadership, therefore, is essential to battle this bigotry.

Combating anti-Semitism, as I said earlier, has always been a bipartisan effort. This bill did pass the last Congress 393–2. The text before us in the legislation is identical. I hope we have very strong support for it and the Senate, take it up, consider it, pass it, and get it to the President.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

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 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 assaults 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, 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 our 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 all years, some of which make headlines, including in schools and online. The report recounts abuse against Jews in dozens of countries around the world.

Yet, despite its clear findings, the Trump administration has yet to even fill the position of Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism. This is simply shameful and inexplicable. It is particularly shameful given this President’s unabashed embrace of the alt-right, a movement which was linked to the murderous atrocity of the Hypercacher and other White supremacist groups, but the evil remains at the top of our country’s foreign policy agenda.

We have asked administration officials in person to outline whether they plan to appoint a Special Envoy. 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 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 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 how 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. ENGEL, Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Hastings).

(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. ENGEL, 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 fester.

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 scourge will be eliminated entirely from the planet.

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 presidentially-appointed and Senate confirmed position.

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-Semitism Review Act of 2004, Congress has found that in many foreign countries acts of anti-Semitism have been frequent, threats to Jewish communities and their institutions have proliferated, and in some countries these attacks have increased in frequency, scope, violence, and lethality.

The Kamesh Center, a research department at Tel Aviv University focused on the interdisciplinary research of European Jewry from the end of World War II to the present day, recorded 327 worldwide major incidents of violence, vandalism, and desecration in 2017. This number, 327, does not represent all incidents in this crisis—arsenal weapon and weaponless attacks, serious threats, vandalism, and desecration.

Targets of these attacks include people, synagogues, community centers and schools, cemeteries and memorial sites, and private property.

There has also been an increase in harassment and abuse, both in person and digitally. Anti-Semitic attacks are human rights violations and they need to be treated that way.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 221 which establishes a Special Envoy that serve, not only as the primary advisor to the Government, but will also coordinate efforts relating to monitoring 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 New York (Mr. Engel) 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 and three-fifths being in the negative, the question is on the motion to recommit.

The Chair designates the motion.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 193, nays 228, not voting 12, as follows: [Roll No. 22]

YEAS—193

Abraham, Abraham, Asian, Asian, Armstrong, Armstrong, Azar, Azar, Bacon, Bacon, Baldwin, Baldwin, Banks, Banks, Bergman, Bergman, Bigger, Bigger, Bishop (UT), Bishop (UT), Bost, Bost, Brooks (AL), Brooks (AL), Brooks (IN), Brooks (IN), Buchman, Buchman, Buck, Buck, Bud, Bud, Burnett, Burnett, Burgos, Burgos, Byrne, Byrne, Calvert, Calvert, Carter (GA), Carter (GA), Chabot, Chabot, Chene, Chene, Cloud, Cloud, Clothier, Clothier, Collins (GA), Collins (GA), Collins (NY), Collins (NY), Connor, Connor, Conway, Conway, Cook, Cook, Crawford, Crawford, Crenshaw, Crenshaw, Cunningham, Cunningham, Curtis, Curtis, Davis, Rodney, Davis, Rodney, Des-Jarlais, Des-Jarlais, Diaz-Balart, Diaz-Balart, Duffy, Duffy, Duncan, Duncan, Dunn, Dunn, Ender, Ender, Ferguson, Ferguson, Fitzpatrick, Fitzpatrick, Fieichtmann, Fieichtmann, Flores, Flores, Forst, Forst, Fox (NC), Fox (NC), Fulcher, Fulcher, Gaste, Gaste, Gallagher, Gallagher, Gianforte, Gianforte, Gil, Gil, Gohmert, Gohmert, Goules (OH), Goules (OH), Gooden, Gooden

NOES—228

Barraga, Barraga, Bass, Bass, Beatty, Beatty, Beza, Beza, Bera, Bera, Book, Book, Carson (IN), Carson (IN), Ca´rdenas, Ca´rdenas, Carver, Carver, Carter (GA), Carter (GA), Castor (FL), Castor (FL), Chaffetz, Chaffetz, Cochrane, Cochrane, Cochran, Cochran, Cook, Cook, Crawford, Crawford, Crenshaw, Crenshaw, Cunningham, Cunningham, Curtis, Curtis, Davis, Rodney, Davis, Rodney, Des-Jarlais, Des-Jarlais, Diaz-Balart, Diaz-Balart, Duffy, Duffy, Duncan, Duncan, Dunn, Dunn, Ender, Ender, Ferguson, Ferguson, Fitzpatrick, Fitzpatrick, Fieichtmann, Fieichtmann, Flores, Flores, Forst, Forst, Fox (NC), Fox (NC), Fulcher, Fulcher, Gaste, Gaste, Gallagher, Gallagher, Gianforte, Gianforte, Gil, Gil, Gohmert, Gohmert, Goules (OH), Goules (OH), Gooden, Gooden

NAYS—228

Beyrer, Beyrer, Bishop (GA), Bishop (GA), Blumenauer, Blumenauer, Blum, Blum, Barragán, Barragán, Bass, Bass, Beatty, Beatty, Beza, Beza, Bera, Bera, Book, Book, Carson (IN), Carson (IN), Ca´rdenas, Ca´rdenas, Carver, Carver, Carter (GA), Carter (GA), Castor (FL), Castor (FL), Chaffetz, Chaffetz, Cochrane, Cochrane, Cochran, Cochran, Cook, Cook, Crawford, Crawford, Crenshaw, Crenshaw, Cunningham, Cunningham, Curtis, Curtis, Davis, Rodney, Davis, Rodney, Des-Jarlais, Des-Jarlais, Diaz-Balart, Diaz-Balart, Duffy, Duffy, Duncan, Duncan, Dunn, Dunn, Ender, Ender, Ferguson, Ferguson, Fitzpatrick, Fitzpatrick, Fieichtmann, Fieichtmann, Flores, Flores, Forst, Forst, Fox (NC), Fox (NC), Fulcher, Fulcher, Gaste, Gaste, Gallagher, Gallagher, Gianforte, Gianforte, Gil, Gil, Gohmert, Gohmert, Goules (OH), Goules (OH), Gooden, Gooden
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAS</th>
<th>NAYS</th>
<th>NOT VOTING</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>244</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>9</td>
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[Roll No. 23]

Miss. SPANBERGER, Messrs. RUSH, LEWIS, and COSTA changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi, DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, KING of New York, CHABOT, SPANO, and CALVAGNOLI changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to reconsider was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. A R R I N G T O N. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 22.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yeas</th>
<th>Nays</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 5, not voting 7, as follows:

- Abraham
- Adcock
- Allen
- Amodei
- Armstrong
- Arrington
- Ballina
- Bacon
- Baird
- Balderson
- Banks
- Barr
- Bergman
- Biggs
- Bilirakis
- Bish (UT)
- Bost
- Brady
- Brindisi
- Brooks (AL)
- Brooks (IN)
- Buchanan
- Buck
- Budd
- Burchett
- Burgess
- Byrne
- Carter (GA)
- Chabot
- Cheney
- Cola
- Cline
- Cole
- Collins (GA)
- Collins (NY)
- Corder
- Conaway
- Cook
- Crawford
- Crenshaw
- Cunningham
- Curtis
- Davis
- Delgado
- DelJarlais
- Diaz-Balart
- Duncan
- Druan
- Emmer
- Esga
- Ferguson
- Fitzpatrick
- Fleischmann
- Flores
- Fortenberry
- Fox (NC)
- Palacio
- Gaetz
- Gohmert
- Golden
- Gomez
- Gonzalez (OH)
- Gooden
- Gosar
- Greiner
- Graves (LA)
- Graves (MO)
- Green (NY)
- Green (TX)
- Grijalva
- Guthrie
- Hagerdorn
- Hartzler
- Horn
- Hoven
- Hagedorn
- Harker
- Harken
- Jordan
- Joyce (OH)
- Joyce (SD)
- Keating
- Kasten
- Kavanaugh
- Kennedy
- Kelly (IL)
- Kelly (MI)
- Kennedy
- Kim
- Kinzinger
- Koontz (TN)
- LaHood
- Lamb
- Lamb
- Latta
- Leach
- Lee (TX)
- Lee (CA)
- Lee (OH)
- Lee (NM)
- Lee (PA)
- Lee (SN)
- Lee (WV)
- LeMieux
- Lewis
- Loebsack
- Loudermilk
- Lucas
- LaTiker
- Loe...
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 and disallow 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 My Land Act will counter the many threats Trump has made to get his medieval 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 personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERVISORS STEVE CHUCRI AND BILL GATES

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the just completed chairmanship of Maricopa County Supervisor Steve Chucri and to congratulate the incoming chairman, Supervisor Bill Gates.

Maricopa County is the Nation’s fastest growing county, and Steve Chucri has had a lot to do with our success. He has led efforts on the board of supervisors to create a healthier urban environment, foster more job connections, fight homelessness, and sustain good governance. We are thankful for his service as chairman of the board of supervisors.

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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, but 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 Security; the airports in my district, with 51,000 screeners, may miss their first paychecks; and John-son Space Center—hard-working 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 is 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 air-

I am proud to say that this airport is in my district, and these brave Americans who are on the front lines of protecting America, are working without pay.

TSA agents are considered essential employees and are still reporting to work even though they aren’t getting paid during the shutdown. Screening areas at Bush and Hobby have not been impacted, but it’s a different story in Dallas and New York.

At DFW, there has reportedly been a 200% to 200% increase in TSA agents calling out sick since the shutdown began.

Travelers waited in nearly hour-long security lines at New York’s LaGuardia Airport on Mon-

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

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

RECOGNIZING MARICOPA COUNTY SUPERVISORS STEVE CHUCRI AND BILL GATES

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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 paycheck.

TSA agents are considered essential employees, but they must 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 drags on.

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.

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 their products to be sold across state lines.

Federal employees are required to work throughout the shutdown without pay, like corrections 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 nonprofit American Freedom Fund.

These veterans—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 those who can mentor one another, and most 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 in 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 rose 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 not absence of fear, but presence of fear.”

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.
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 lost.

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 suggest to 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.

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 all will 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?

Well, 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:

1. The need to stop the flow of illegal drugs;
2. 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
3. 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 when I talk to my 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 cases, against their own people. 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.

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.

1700

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 who 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, ¾-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. 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 meth, that they have shoved 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 saw 300 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 could be a citizen and he traveled 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 them 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 fairness. 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.

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 face. The result: 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 his case to 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 across 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.

When President Obama was in office, for example, all 54 Senate Democrats voted for $46 billion in border security and hundreds of miles in border fencing.

What has changed, Mr. Speaker? That is an important question. Do our friends across the aisle need to hear from the families who have lost loved ones at the hands of an illegal alien? Do they deny that children being snatched across the border deserve reprieve?

Sadly, the legislation that has come before the House this week fails to address the extraordinary crisis we face. This isn’t an honest attempt to end the shutdown. These aren’t good faith negotiations. The President made his case to put these bills will not be considered by the Senate; they will not be signed by the President; and everybody knows
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 commend the President and all of my Republican colleagues for taking this stand.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Thank you so much. I appreciate your perspective down here in Louisiana.

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 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, the deaths, the human trafficking 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 of the policy implications that come with having a border that can be easily accessed by those who want to cause us harm.

To be frank, the current shutdown isn’t due to policy difference; it is due to politics. Let’s put politics aside, and let’s do what is right for our constituents and for our country.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Well said, Representative.

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. HILL. Thank you. I yield to the gentlewoman from Arkansas. Mrs. HARTZLER, thank you for your 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, citizen leaders, and community leaders. We 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.

It is frustrating to me that this is a crisis of politics in this House Chamber and in the United States Senate. It is utterly hypocritical on the part of our leaders in the House and our minority in the Senate to not see this need for humanitarian assistance on the border and physical security on the border. Republicans have proposed this time and time again last year. We got no Democratic votes for it last year.

I want my friends on the other side of the aisle to be able to make the moral distinction between those who come to our country legally and those who come here illegally. It seems to me that is a straightforward promise. America is a nation of immigrants. We are the most generous and welcoming country in the world.

One other point I want to make before I close, my friend from Missouri, is to talk about people seeking asylum here, people coming to our border with no papers, no documentation.

There was a news story this week about the Bangladeshi pair of men trying to come in and cross the border, interviewed on national television. We see this time and time again. The come from Bangladesh and from all over the world. They come to Mexico; they come to our border; and they have no passport.

How do they come into the United States? They have no documents. They claim asylum, credible fear, and yet here, Mr. Speaker, is a driver’s license handed to me by a Border Patrol agent in Chula Vista, California, of a Saudi Arabian born in the early 1990s, and yet we have no record of someone from Saudi Arabia coming to Chula Vista in the time frame that this driver’s license was found in the Chula Vista station outside San Diego.

...
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 that what the Border Patrol and others are running into is that individuals, 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 colleague from Florida has shared a little bit of his time this evening to come 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 deny 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 border with back in October. She is from Arizona, which is where the port was in Mariposa, Nogales, that we went to.

DEBBIE LESKO, 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 Brian Terry, who was 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. Just ask Mary Ann Mendoza whose son, Brandon, a Mesa, Arizona, police officer, was killed in a head-on collision caused by an illegal immigrant.

The illegal immigrant who killed Brandon was arrested in the nineties for burglary and assaulting a police officer. He never showed up for court and was reapprehended at the border in 2002 and sent back into our country. Unfortunately, a lenient judge let him stay. Because of that, this law enforcement officer was killed.

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 see 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.
We need technology like sensors and drones, so we have eyes where we can’t have our agents. We need more boots on the ground. We have funded more agents on the ground. Let’s hire more agents, so our resources aren’t spread too thin.

What we are asking for is a multifaceted approach to border security. Democrats know this. In 2006, Democrats supported a border fence. CHUCK SCHUMER and then-Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton voted to fund $52 billion for 700 miles of fencing. Now we are asking for $5.7 billion. To me and you, that is a lot of money, but it really represents only one-tenth of 1 percent of our spending.

On December 20, the Republicans in the House voted to keep the government open and secure the border. Unfortunately, not one Democrat voted for the bill. Now we are in a situation where the government is shut down. They won’t come to the table. They won’t negotiate. They don’t have a counteroffer.

I am willing to sit down and listen to their suggestions, but they haven’t brought any suggestions. They are refusing to negotiate and refusing to deal with this national security crisis.

While Democrats refuse to come to the negotiating table, our brave Border Patrol and ICE agents continue their mission of protecting our borders, even without a paycheck. We should be supporting them by giving them the tools and resources they need to do their jobs and keep our Nation safe.

Instead, unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues are ignoring the public calls for border security. In fact, when Democrats repeatedly say, “We are for border security,” I think their talk is talk. They need to walk the walk and listen to our law enforcement that tells them what we need. Part of that is a border fence.

President Trump addressed the Nation last night. It is up to Congress to address and solve the issue with legislation. Let’s stop these political ploys and fund comprehensive border security.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her excellent summation of what is important. It was so touching. I thank her for bringing the pictures of Arizonans who have lost their lives due to Congress’ failure to build the wall and keep us safe.

That is why we are here tonight, saying now is the time. We have to stop this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota, PETE STAUBER. He is new to forwarding any suggestions. They have 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 colleagues from the State of Minnesota for her leadership. It is a privilege to stand here on this important issue.

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 a trafficking 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 Democrat leadership to put partisan politics aside 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.

Mrs. HARTZLER. 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 strongly support this bill. I support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois, MIKE BOST, a colleague to the east. 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 gentlewoman from Missouri for yielding and for putting this on tonight.

Mr. Speaker, if you have listened to this debate tonight, the colleagues that I serve with here are saying that there is a crisis. Unfortunately, there are those who claim that it is a manufactured crisis. Despite what the colleagues from the other side of the aisle say, it is not a manufactured crisis. It is not a new crisis, but it is an ever-growing crisis.

Let me tell you that I have had experience and understand the border from many years ago. While stationed in the United States Marine Corps in Yuma, Arizona, I was actually working at a site called P111 that was 3 miles off the Mexican border in Arizona. Every night, people would come across. Thinking they were seeing a border fence, they would climb into the compound. Every night, we would have to call border security, and they would pick them up and take them back.

We talked about the crisis of drugs coming across. Let me tell you about the crisis that was there at that time. Some very evil people would watch the desert, and they would kill these people trying to come across the border, who would then just be left because there was no ID for them. But they would continue our border. It is an argument that has been going on in this House and in this Nation for some time.

Many of you who are older will remember that Ronald Reagan actually argued and put forth the idea with Tip O’Neill, the idea that they would do immigration reform, which Tip wanted, as long as they could secure the border, which the President wanted. Tip O’Neill got what he wanted. The President didn’t get what he wanted, because the House didn’t pass the funding.

Mr. Speaker, it is time we passed the funding. We have to end this shutdown, and we have to secure our border. But it takes a good-faith effort on both sides to negotiate. Mrs. PELOSI says she offered $1 toward the border wall. That didn’t get what he wanted, because Tip O’Neill got what he wanted. The President wanted immigration reform, which Tip wanted, and the Democrats didn’t get what they wanted. It is high time we recognize that, because I know my friends, and our constituents live. This is unacceptable.

Plain and simple, let’s stop playing politics, and let’s fund the government and secure our border. It is an argument that has been going on in this House and in this Nation for some time.
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 the 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 constantly 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.

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 do not 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 national security issue and 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 at 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.

The President should be applauded for looking at every angle and every out-of-the-box idea to answer his constitutional duty to the American people to secure our Nation. This is about national security. It is not just about illegal immigrants wanting to come into our country to work and provide for their family; this is about national security.

We all know we have an epidemic drug problem in this country, and the majority of the drugs are coming across our southern border. Sex trafficking and human trafficking, in general, are immense in our southern border region.

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 to his job 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. Now 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. Last year, do what does the gentleman have to say?

Mr. BABIN. I was at the border this past weekend.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Really?

Mr. BABIN. I certainly was.

Mr. Speaker, as a Representative from the 36th District of Texas, I made a promise to my constituents and the American people to secure the southern border, 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 two 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 blocked this commonsense legislation and are now unwilling to negotiate with us or the President.

The crisis at our southern border is a dire national security and humanitarian concern, and a solution must not be delayed any longer. The border 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 coming 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.

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 they have.

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 of 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 little more than 230 miles 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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

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

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 payments can easily push them 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 and late payments on credit report 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 relying 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 those offices.

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, not the chaos of a government 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 their 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 debt 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 hurt 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.

Moreover, Michigan's country's 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, Kinecta Federal Credit Union, is offering unpaid workers $2,500 at 0 percent 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 about 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, Isabelle, 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 world we love 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.

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 families 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 that 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

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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 disconnect 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 hurt 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 colleague 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 did 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 seen 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 my friends the Republicans had 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 I 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 gentlewoman from California has 43 minutes remaining.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (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 district 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 catastrophic.

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 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 the 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 Democratic 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
sent to the desk of the President of the United States. I would say: Mr. President, sign the bill and open the government.

Policy changes are not warranted for a shutdown. Fifty-one thousand TSA agents miss their paychecks is not defendable, and the 800,000 total employees, 16,000 NASA employees who were furloughed, and the impact on the fourth largest city in the Nation, rural home loans financed by the USDA, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Hurricane Harvey Federal aid.

I heard the pain of a Member whose Pacific Island, which he represents as a Delegate, has just suffered a massive typhoon. We need disaster aid for them.

The good news is that the Democratic leadership is doing our job. We are on the floor every day passing the bill to have the needed money in treatment. We have looked at the criminal justice system, and we will look even more to not penalize those who are addicted. We are trying to eliminate access to meth and some of the most polluted of our public service should give the best evidence of the truth that we can.

Those of us who have served in the last 2 to 3 or 4 or 5 years have seen the pain of our constituents and the pain of Members of Congress who come from districts where the enormity of the opioid crisis has taken whole families. We know that there are 100-plus people dying every day from opioid abuse.

For those of us who come from inner-city communities, that was yesterday's crack and cocaine that didn't get the attention that we are getting now. But I am not selfish. I am glad, as a nation, we recognize the literal destroying of a human being and family. So I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, no one narrative, no one statement of any of us in public service should give the best evidence of the truth that we can.

Those of us who have served in the last 2 to 3 to 4 or 5 years have seen the pain of our constituents and the pain of Members of Congress who come from districts where the enormity of the opioid crisis has taken whole families. We know that there are 100-plus people dying every day from opioid abuse.

But it is shameful to use the pain of these families and to create a false narrative that I put up a wall and I will heal Johnny Smith way up in New England from his opioid disease.

Drugs, we have a war that we must finish, fight and finish. We must get people off of drugs. We must cure them. We must treat them as if they are sick. But I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, no wall is going to stop the epidemic. We must engage in diplomacy and the frustration and the poverty in South and Central America.

By the way, I have introduced a bill that says if we have a wall, concrete wall, then, as was promised by this administration, Mexico should pay for it.

But we must engage with the South and Central American countries, and any drugs that want to get into this country, you can be assured they will be coming in underground, in tunnels, well-lit tunnels, well-known pathways and legal points of entry.

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 and the睁

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 be presented is increased 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. It must be told what to do by 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 tonight: 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 that, 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. 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 this 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 this 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 pounding 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 creative. 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 Ms. PELOSI aptly put it, President Trump doesn't understand that working people cannot ask their dad or their mom for money. This whole situation is unacceptable. And just like President Trump said when he accepted the Republican nomination back in 2016, he alone can fix it. 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 America. We are a better country. We are a better America.

We ask you, Mr. President: Give up your wall. Give up your wall and reopen government. Free the 800,000 Federal workers you have held 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 thank 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 credit unions 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 college, 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 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 outside. 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 anymore, we can do that. 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 to me. 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 unwarranted 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.

The Trump Shutdown will 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 off the 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 Transportation, State, Commerce, Interior and Agriculture, 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 hardworking 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 and 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 their fellow Americans.

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 over-flowing with unculled 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 faced 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 title 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 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 ours that desperately doesn’t want 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 do say? 1.76 births, when you need to be up around 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, and 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 instructing the real reality of what threatens our Republic.

The first slide here, all I want to be absorbed is this is 1965, a long time ago, 56-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 that is that you have Social Security and Medicare. These are entitlements. 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 Triad, you have a treaty 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 break-out.

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 boom, 78 million of the 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 68, 65 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 starts 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, but it is stark. 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 Republican 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 we do. 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 in the senior population-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. As a simple example, how many of the women 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, work 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. 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 lack of control over 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 nationwide, 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 our pensions and healthcare and 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 parts of the world that will still be types 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 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, this is about maximizing economic growth, that is what we can 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 we could ever have 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 you react.

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 of barbell-type curve where we have lots of 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.

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 societal 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 barbell-type curve where 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 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—whether it be from 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.
Remember, this is a loop. Everything 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 the one 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 availability. And, yes, there are things 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 pump.

Because we do know that more than half of our healthcare costs in this country are for the 5 percent of our brothers and sisters who have chronic conditions, what happens when those digiceuticals help manage those chronic conditions to prevent the crashing?

How about the pill bottle that makes sure that—we know that 50 percent of pharmaceuticals are not used properly. The solution becomes a technology one.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o’clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, January 11, 2019, at 9 a.m.
### 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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**HOUSE COMMITTEES**

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### 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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### 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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3 Military air transportation.

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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<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per diem ¹</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Other purposes</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²</td>
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1. Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2. If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
3. Military air transportation.
4. **Includes Brazil and Guatemala legs of the trip.**

### REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Departure</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Per diem ¹</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Other purposes</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
2. If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.


HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul, Chairman, Jun. 6, 2018.

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul, 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 JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Member or employee</th>
<th>Arrival</th>
<th>Departure</th>
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<th>Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency 2</th>
<th>Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency 2</th>
<th>Other purposes U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency 2</th>
<th>Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alec Davis</td>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>874.98</td>
<td>583.85</td>
<td>1,033.04</td>
<td>1,892.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Sisson</td>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>259.40</td>
<td>259.40</td>
<td>259.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexander Davis</td>
<td>7/5</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>874.98</td>
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<td>1,033.04</td>
<td>1,892.04</td>
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<td>Committee total</td>
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<td>3,646.62</td>
<td>38,932.43</td>
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<td>42,579.05</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
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. 423. 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. 426. 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. 428. A bill to withdraw certain National Forest System land in the Emigrant Creek Drainage in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Park County, Montana, from the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. AUSTIN Scott of Georgia, and Mr. LOUDERMILK):
H.R. 427. A bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide reporting requirements for recipients of funds that provide access in rural and high cost areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Miss RICE of New York (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):
H.R. 433. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land and facilities of the Central Valley Project, to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUDD:
H.R. 432. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish post-secondary education training programs for veterans at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. BASS, Ms. MOORE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HUD of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. CASTRO, Ms. BUMMER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):
H.R. 431. A bill to designate the Emancipation National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. 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, Ms. WASSERMAN 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. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. BIGOS, Mr. ARTHUR, Mr. RANKS, Mr. DUFFY, and Mrs. ROHY):
H.R. 437. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit research with human fetal tissue obtained pursuant to an abortion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CALVERE (for himself, Mr. COOK, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):
H.R. 438. A bill to deny Federal funding to any State or political subdivision of a State that has in effect any law, policy, or procedure that prevents or impedes a State or local law enforcement official from maintaining custody of an alien pursuant to an immigration detainer issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):
H.R. 439. A bill to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. AMASH:
H.R. 440. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security to take property using eminent domain, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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. BABB (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):
H.R. 441. A bill to require FERC to examine certain hydropower licences; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BARR:
H.R. 442. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to extend the supervisory authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to include assessing compliance with the Military Lending Act; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 443. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to establish a five-year pilot program to make grants to local educational agencies for the hiring of school resource officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 444. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the period of eligibility for the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:
H.R. 445. A bill to amend the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 to make permanent the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Mrs. WALORSKI):
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 Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCDONNELL (for himself, Mr. DOUGGOTT, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. FINGER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SHEARER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JAYAPAL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY, Ms. GABBAIRD, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BUMENESCH, Mr. SCHALTZ, Mr. NEGUSS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 447. 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. DOUGGOTT, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. GABBAIRD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JAYAPAL, Ms. AXEY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. NEGUSS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY, 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 drugs prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formulation of Health 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 Homeland Security.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. DOUGGOTT, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. GABBAIRD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. JAYAPAL, Ms. AXEY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. NEGUSS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H.R. 449. 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 Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 450. 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. EN GEL (for himself, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 451. 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 spectrum to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN (for himself, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 454. A bill to amend title 15, United States Code, to provide for authorization of which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for information discol- sure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. SHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. NEGUSS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. GABBAIRD, Mr. DE Fazio, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 455. A bill to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median price at which the same drug is available in other countries; 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 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 Mr. 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 Energy and Commerce.

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 rates 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 reinsur- ance markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 472. A bill to allow communities to de- velop alternative flood insurance rate maps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. LAMBERG, Mr. TIPPTON, Ms. DEGROOT, Mr. PERLMUTTER, 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 Co- lumbia and its environs, and for other pur- poses; to the Committee on Natural Re- sources.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAM- BORN, and Mr. TIPTON):

H.R. 474. A bill to insure adequate use and access at the existing祖父 headquarter 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. LAM- BORN, and Mr. TIPTON):

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...
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE H463

January 10, 2019

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 109-515 (16 U.S.C. 1244 note) to promote the health and safety 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 diversions as fall within the jurisdiction of 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. Castle):

H.R. 482. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures 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 in the vicinity of theopens and, and for other purposes; 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 on federal lands, 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. TENTLER (for himself, Ms. DeLAURO, 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. Vela, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. PERSICO):

H.R. 486. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of Chicoine Park, located in San Diego, California, for the purpose of determining whether to transfer the property to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

By Mr. YOHO (for himself, Mr. PETTER-SON, Mr. LA MALFA, Mr. WEBER of Tennessee, Mr. WALKER of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOR-TENBERY, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. THORNBERY, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. FLIECHSMANN, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. CORDER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GIANFORTE, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. BUCK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BARR, and Mr. ROONEY):

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.R. Res. 23. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms a Representative or Senator may serve; 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:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 425. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 426. 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. GIANFORTE:

H.R. 427. 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. SIMPSON:

H.R. 428. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. II, Sec. 8, Clauses 3 and 18.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 429. 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. TURNER:

H.R. 430. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:

H.R. 431. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUCK: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 432. 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. BARR:

H.R. 433. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. DELAUNY:

H.R. 434. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 435. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SENSENBRINNER:

H.R. 436. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 437. 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. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 438. 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. BARR:

H.R. 439. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 440. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 441. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

By Mr. BABB:

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 enact this legislation to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 443. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WILLIAMS:
By Mr. BILIRAKIS:  
H. R. 443.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.  

By Ms. BROWNLEY of California:  
H. R. 444.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.  

By Mr. BROWNLEY of California:  
H. R. 445.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.  

By Ms. DEMINGS:  
H. R. 449.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.  

By Mr. ENGEL:  
H. R. 451.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.  

By Mr. FLEISCHMANN:  
H. R. 452.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to enact all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the laws of the United States, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.  

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:  
H. R. 457.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.  

By Mr. FORTENBERRY:  
H. R. 458.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.  

By Mr. GOLDEN:  
H. R. 459.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: “The Congress shall have power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties and Imposts to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare.”  

By Mr. GRIFFITH:  
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. HAPTING:  
H. R. 462.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8; and Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States.  

By Mr. JONES:  
H. R. 463.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which grants Congress the power to make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces.  

By Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire:  
H. R. 465.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8: The Congress shall have the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the following 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. LUETKEMEYER:  
H. R. 470.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerates in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution.  

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:  
H. R. 471.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerates in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution. Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.  

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:  
H. R. 472.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerates in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution. Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.  

By Mr. NEGUSE:  
H. R. 473.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the explicit power of Congress to regulate commerce in and among the states, as enumerates in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, the Commerce Clause, of the United States Constitution. Additionally, Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the Constitution allows for every bill passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed by the President to be codified into law; and therefore implicitly allows Congress to repeal any bill that has been passed by both chambers and signed into law by the President.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NUGUSE:
H.R. 474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NUGUSE:
H.R. 475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. NUGUSE:
H.R. 476.

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

By Mr. FALLONE:
H.R. 477.

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

By Mr. POSEY:
H.R. 479.

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

By Mr. ROGERS of Alabama:
H.R. 480.

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

By Ms. PINGREE:
H.R. 482.

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

By Mr. SIMPSON:
H.R. 482.

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

By Mr. SIMPSON:
H.R. 483.

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

By Mr. SIMPSON:
H.R. 484.

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

By Mr. TIPTON:
H.R. 485.

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

By Mr. VARGAS:
H.R. 486.

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

By Mr. YOHO:
H.R. 487.

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

By Mr. BYRNE:
H.R. Res. 25.

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

By Mr. WATSON COLEMAN:
H.R. 488.

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

By Ms. PINGREE:
H.R. 489.

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

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida:
H.R. 490.

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

By Mr. RODGERS of Alabama:
H.R. 491.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 492.

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

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H.R. 493.

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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 500.

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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 501.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 502.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 503.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 504.

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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 506.

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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 507.

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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 526.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 527.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 528.

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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
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By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 544.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 545.

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

By Mr. SCHUMACK:
H.R. 546.
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, illuminate 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 unworthily 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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

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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
briaged about: fencing with spaced slats that allowed visibility, made with reinforced steel.

They are the same kind of barriers that Customs and Border Protection experts have told us actually produce real results. You could call them wall; 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—after the bollard fence went up, the number of assaults fell to 71. That is 367 down to 71. That is a decline of 81 percent after the wall or fence or steel slat was chosen to do the job.

We have seen big success in other sectors as well. The Trump administration reports that in four border sectors where physical barriers were recently built or upgraded, illegal traffic droped by—listen to this—90 percent—90 percent.

It is a fact that physical barriers are effective, as Democratic Senators used to understand perfectly well when there was an occupant in the White House and, indeed, used to say publicly. They used to say that they are an essential ingredient in a balanced strategy for securing our border.

That was then, and this is now.

So why the hypocrisy of two completely Democratic Parties? Why does the Speaker of the House feel compelled to denounce as “immoral” the very kind of structures that her own party lead-ers regularly use as essential? Why do my Democratic colleagues and why does the Democratic leader feel the need to prolong this partial shutdown to avoid getting more of the same investments he used to vote for? What is the reason for this bizarre about-face?

Well, even these very Democrats are finding it difficult to invent a good excuse. On Tuesday, the distinguished House majority leader, Mr. HOYER, was asked by reporters how there is any real justification between border security construction projects that Democrats have supported in the past and the ones they are now trying to block. Here is what majority leader HOYER said to those reporters. This is an honest man. “I don’t have an answer that I think is a really good answer.” “I don’t have an answer that I think is a really good answer.”

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 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 someone who is going to lose their job? And what on Earth do these employees and their agencies have to do with disagreements here over security down on our southern border?

The President is treating these hardworking Americans short of leverage—pawns in his political gambit to extract $5 billion from American taxpayers to fund a border wall that he promised Mexico would pay for. This is ridiculous and cruel, and it needs to end.

The Democratic position is very simple. Let’s separate our disagreements over border security from the government shutdown, reopen all the government agencies unrelated to border security, and let’s continue to work to resolve our differences. Do not hold all of these workers as hostages, as pawns, as leverage.

That is why Democrats have passed the legislation to reopen government that was drafted and supported by Senate Republicans. We Democrats are not trying to push down the throats of Republicans something they don’t support or they can’t swallow. Four of the bills in this package passed the Senate 92 to 6. The other two came through committee. They didn’t get to the floor. They passed 31 to 0 and 30 to 1. There is nothing—I repeat, nothing—contained in the legislation that Sen-ate Republicans oppose.

So why aren’t we voting on it? Be-cause Leader MCCONNELL is hiding behind President Trump, saying he will not bring to the floor a bill to reopen the government unless the President says OK.

Now, for the past 3 weeks, we have tried to get the President to “yes.” We have gone around and around and around with the White House and made little progress. Three separate bills that the White House and Senate Republicans have now been to the White House three separate times for negotiations. Each time, the President has been intransigent and uncompromising. He refuses to back down from his position that the price to reopen the govern-ment is $5 billion of taxpayer money for a wall that he promised Mexico would pay for.

On multiple occasions, he has refused our request to reopen unrelated parts of the government and continue negot-iations on border security, revealing that he is holding the American people hostage as leverage, and he seems to be—in his words “proud” of it. After one short time-out food yesterday’s meeting, the President got up, said “bye-bye,” and left. Does that sound like someone who is working to solve this impasse?

All of the President pointed out that he passed out candy to start the meeting. With all due respect, Presi-dent Trump, we don’t need candy. Fed-eral workers need their paychecks.
January 10, 2019

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 appropriations bills Democrats passed through the House. He voted for all six of them in committee, and he voted for four of them again on the floor, because two didn’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 a 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 better 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 moment, 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, Senator 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’s 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. Those six appropriation 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 body, 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—ab solutely pointless—show votes back and forth across the aisle.

However, very recently—not years ago—before the latest shifts in political winds, my good friend the Democratic leader completely agreed with me on this. In fact, he and I made an explicit commitment to several of our Members on this very point. We announced it here on the floor. We agreed that we wouldn’t waste the Senate’s time on show votes related to government funding until a global agreement was reached that could pass the House, pass the Senate, and which the President could sign.

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 piecemeal 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 conflict in 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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.

But both 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.

The 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 should be 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 to 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 just restate 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 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 distinguishing majority leader, as the leader of a coequal 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 to pass 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 he will not.

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?

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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 delayed.

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 say this to the broad 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, refineries, 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 son’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 will get a paycheck away from not being able to pay their mortgage or their rent, and tomorrow hundreds of thousands of them are not going to get a paycheck.
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 second 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. 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 our 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 right now, they are open. 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 homeland 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, open 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 would work 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 pay stubs.

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 rely on 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 accused of 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 horde 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 children 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 his 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 demagoguery 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 among the tens of thousands pressing our nation’s public servants to do their jobs and resume their duties 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 shovel 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 calling in to the bank 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 nursing home to be closer to her 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 was approved just this morning, but that doesn’t detract from the uncertainty and the anxiety caused for this family.

The new home allowed her to stay near her sister. Her sister joined the U.S. Forest Service. In the wake of the recent hurricanes and typhoons, she used government-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 am 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 paycheck 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 tells them 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, how many people 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 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 Coast Guard and the men and women who protect our coasts of the distinguished President’s State are and deployed in my State.

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 and 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. It is an overwhelming veto-proof majority. Well, I would call upon our Republican leader to bring up these bipartisan bills to reopen the government. It
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 has. We have a disproportionate 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 numbers 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 those businesses will come back into operation.

I should mention the majority leader is not here. The majority leader keeps saying, you 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 the majority leader’s unwillingness 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 the majority leader: why is the majority leader’s unwillingness 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 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 leader keeps saying, you 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?

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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 a public health emergency in some areas to make sure that those employees who will be hurt the least if they are called back to work.

This is America, 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 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 came from compounding pharmacies that didn’t have 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.

There is another one that 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 administration. Commissioner Gottlieb says we can’t process 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 more important than the interest of the American people. 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 exercise the constitutional responsibilities which 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 the American people who want the government reopened. They know we have disagreements all the time. We disagree about policy. We have differences. We have disagreements. But the government is operating in a way that affects every American. It is operating in a way that affects every American. It is creating a crisis.

That is why a bipartisan group of Senators— I want to thank Senators Thune, Cantwell, and others—have introduced legislation to pay those who are working. As you heard the Majority Leader say, it is a Trump lockout, not a shutdown. He is locking out so many people who are working because he doesn’t want to give them permission to pay for our country. It is a crisis. 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. There is also a crisis of unemployment. When I introduced legislation to pay those who are working, I was told that it was wrong. It was wrong. It is in the best interest of this country to open this government. It is in the best interest of those who are working to keep the government open.

Our friends on the other side, the Republican leadership, are complicit in this shutdown. It is not by waiting for a permission slip from President Trump to exercise the constitutional responsibilities which each of us swore to uphold. It is the American people who want the government reopened.

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 dedication to 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.

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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 unsanitary, unnecessary, unacceptable crisis.

Last week, the Hartford Courant highlighted the story of Bryan Krampovitis. He is a resident of West Haven and an air traffic controller at Bradley International. That is what 3,700 flight controllers are here in Washington, DC, and they will be outside this building later 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 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. They will be without that 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, malignant 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; that it is manufactured by him. The idea that 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 flight controllers have 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 everybody in this body knows there is a path forward to reopen the government. That is what the American people want—to reopen the government, to adopt the bills that are necessary for these agencies to go back to work, and to reopen the Department of Homeland Security as well while we debate those disagreements we have and do our jobs.

The Congress must do its job and send to the President the bills that are necessary to reopen the government and to reopen America from this manufactured, unnecessary, unacceptable crisis that has come to us and our country from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore of the Senate—Mr. President, many Federal workers in Nevada and across this country will miss their first paychecks tomorrow due to this shutdown. Our President’s govern-by-chaos approach has pulled the rug out from hundreds of thousands of Federal workers and contractors across the country who are currently furloughed or who are being forced to work without pay, including over 3,000 of them in my home State of Nevada. It is outrageous.

I have heard from many Federal workers in Nevada who didn’t sign up to live in constant fear that their paycheck could be political gain. They didn’t sign up to wonder if they will be able to pay their rent on time, cover childcare costs for their young children, or put food on the tables for their families. They certainly didn’t sign up to be used as pawns in this President’s political game. They signed up to serve the American people, and they deserve the certainty of a functioning government and steady paychecks. Instead, hard-working Nevadans are writing me to say they are worried about paying their bills, supporting their children, and keeping up with their mortgage payments.

One Nevadan who is currently working without pay and his colleagues are struggling to pay for the gas to drive to their unpaid jobs.

Another Nevadan is a mother who told me that her son, who is newly enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, is now facing eviction just 1 month after reporting for duty.

A Las Vegas government contractor who is working to help the Department of Justice reduce its immigration court backlog told me how discouraged he and his colleagues are that this shutdown is hurting the very people who are trying to help fix our immigration system.

Nevada’s veterans, park rangers, and TSA agents have also all contacted my office and said that this forced shutdown cannot continue to provide for themselves and their families.

This is one of the major impacts on Nevada, but it is not the only major disruption we are seeing. At our national parks and monuments, there is overflowing trash, which threatens the wildlife and public safety because the park rangers and maintenance staff have been furloughed.

In Nevada’s Tribal communities, lapses in funding threaten to close the doors of health clinics, food pantries, and childcare centers.

The Small Business Administration has stopped processing loans that help Nevada’s small businesses and job creators thrive. Over 7,850 Nevada seniors who are enrolled in nutritional food programs and over 347,000 Nevadans who receive SNAP benefits are at risk of losing access to the food assistance that keeps them and their families healthy.

Real people, families, and communities are hurting. These are the people who do an honest day’s work. They do an honest day’s work, and they expect steady paychecks and a government to be led by a President who cares about their needs and their families’ safety.

The solution to this is simple. Re-open the government and end Federal workers hostage for political gain. They are not leverage. These are hard-working people who are committed to going to work every single day that is what they are paid 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.

As we go on about our day, I ask every single one 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.

That is why I support what my colleagues have done in introducing legislation that provides the backpay that will be necessary to protect these families and make sure they get paid, legislation we may look and ensure that their credit does not get dinged because of a government shutdown they had no control over. Don’t forget, there are going to be thousands of workers out there who will never get paid because they are contract workers, and we should be doing everything in this Congress to ensure that they are getting the support they need. People are having to look for second jobs, and some can’t even look for second jobs because the Federal jobs they have don’t even allow them to look for second jobs.

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 job. I came to this Congress as a U.S. Senator. I believe in article I. I believe we are a coequal branch of government. We should not be abdicating to the executive branch. We should be doing our jobs. We know what the Congress must do in this country that this branch of government can govern and protect everyone.

It is very simple because I know, if we were to get together, pass these bills, and send them over to the President, he could make his decision. If he were to decide to veto it, then we would override that veto. That is the process. That is the process our Founders and our Framers set up so no one branch of government could control. I hope we can do that because the leadership here is abdicating our role in another branch of government.

It is time for us to come together. Let’s open this government. Let’s do it now, and let’s show this Federal workers they are not political pawns that they are not leverage. Let’s show them the respect and dignity they deserve.
I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I come to the floor to discuss the ways in which this pointlessly 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 families who are facing hard times 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 pay 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 24-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 hub. She 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 front line. We are 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 KAINÉ 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, a 9-year-old boy, who fears 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 HEINRICH 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.

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.

There 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 re-open the government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 fast with our Kurdish allies, 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 allies. That is a principled amendment that would do. It wouldn’t require anything, but it would give the President the United States the authority to protect one of our allies in the Middle East—the Syrian Kurds—because, after all, they are contributing 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 airstrokes, 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. Today, 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, 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 out from their last major urban stronghold in Syria. They are now being held to a small sliver 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 Russia, 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 discrimination, massacres, forced relocation, and countless other human rights violations.

The Kurds are one of the largest, if not the largest ethnic minority 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 President 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 buried in the ditches they dug. 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 themselves. Without the Kurds, we cannot be certain who will step in to fill the gaps in the areas that they currently control. We just cannot. We can only guess, and the answers aren’t good.

The threat of U.S. military force has been a major deterrent for the reemergence of jihadists like ISIS and al-Qaeda. 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 for our military to our enemies for 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 compromise the security of our allies, would compromise the security of Israel and Jordan, and would risk exposing the region to more turmoil.

I think it was the late, great Ambassador George Kennan, writing, of course, during the Cold War, who said: “If the past and actions of the U.S. government are to be made to conform to moral standards”—not self-interest, to moral standards—“those standards are going to have to be America’s own, founded on traditional American principles 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 am convinced that what he meant by “American principles of justice and propriety.” If justice is getting 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 defend the Kurdish people. That is what my amendment would do. We have to do it because they are our friends. We also have to do it because 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 important 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 decision with respect to Syria. I understand President Trump’s moral component. I understand his concern about America’s failure in its efforts at nation building. I think all of the American people are frustrated with the Middle East. All of us want a prosperous America, but all of us in America want a prosperous world. And we have been disappointed time and again by totalitarian governments in the Middle East.

I don’t want any of my remarks today to be construed as critical of the President’s decision with respect to Syria. Frankly, I don’t know whether he is right. I am still listening to both sides. I know this: American foreign policy never has been and never should be based solely on self-interest. Certain principles are part of it, but American foreign policy also has to have a moral component. Morality in this case dictates that if we withdraw from Syria, we do not allow our Kurdish allies in Syria to be butchered and gassed like a fish.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. SMITH. Madam President, today and for the last 19 days, men and women across the country are being hurt by a government shutdown that President Trump said he was proud to cause. I am proud to stand on behalf of Minnesotans, on behalf of more than 4,790 hard-working Federal employees and low-wage contractors going without pay in Minnesota right now, and I rise today on behalf of the taxpayers of our country who just want the government to work for them.

Since I became a Senator, just a little over a year ago, the government has been closed three times over the past year. Each time President Trump has threatened a border wall, an expensive, ineffective wall on our southern border. I am all for border security, but we need to focus on real solutions, not symbols.

I want to start with the facts. In my home State of Minnesota, the Federal Government employs about 32,000 people as food safety inspectors, prison guards, postal workers, and more. Of this total number, the Center for American Progress estimates that 4,790 people are impacted by the shutdown today in Minnesota and are furloughed or working without pay. Over 750 of these workers have already filed for unemployment benefits, and hundreds more are being forced to make tough decisions about how to cover basic expenses, feed their children, and take care of their families.

A couple of days ago, I asked Minnesotans how they are being hurt by the shutdown because I wanted to understand how this is affecting people in their everyday lives. In just the last 48 hours, I have heard from Minnesota farmers who can’t cash checks because the Farm Service Agency offices are shut down and Tribal law enforcement officers who are working without pay.

I have heard from air traffic controllers in Minnesota who came by my office earlier this week with dozens of handwritten letters full of stories. The letters I am about to read come from these air traffic controllers, and I really want to thank them for sharing their stories. These are public servants who have dedicated their careers to making our airports safe.

Tomorrow, January 11, marks the first day when these folks—Americans who show up at work every day to protect us—will miss their first paycheck. What is going to happen to these families? How will they be able to cover their rent, mortgage, school payments, their mortgages? These are the questions that are keeping them up at night.

I wanted to share some of their stories with you today so that those of us in Congress and the President can keep these people uppermost in our minds and the human impact of what is a wasteful and increasingly harmful shutdown.

The first story comes from Michael, in Rochester, MN. Michael writes:

My wife stays at home to care for our 3 year old daughter. She is also currently obtaining a master’s degree in education so she can be a teacher when our daughter finally goes to school.

I am the sole income in my home. Needless to say, the prospect of not receiving a paycheck in a week has us wondering how we will make mortgage payments, buy food, etc. We are more fortunate than some of my coworkers, however. Many of them are wondering whether they will get paid while they continue to go to work as unpaid, essential employees.
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 do not 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 out of order to 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’ care 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.

Finally, I want to share this really heartbreaking letter that I received from a brand-new father, Joe, from Lakeville, MN. Joe enclosed two photos of his beautiful brand-new baby boy, Oliver. Here is a picture of Oliver. This is the picture Joe sent to me. This is what he wrote:

This is a picture of my son, Oliver. He was born on New Year’s Eve, 10 weeks early. The only local hospital to take babies born before 32 weeks is not in network for our insurance. 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.

Further, because there is no paid leave during a shutdown, I am spending my days in the NICU on unpaid furlough status. I don’t know when I’ll be able to change my insurance, or when I’ll get paid again. I take solace in what matters most: Oliver is getting a little stronger and a little closer to home every day.

Joe closed by saying:

Please do what you can to reopen the government and leave us with less worry.

President Trump and my Republican colleagues, listen to these stories and think about the consequences of this reckless and increasingly harmful shutdown.

The Senate could put an end to this right now. We could take up and pass the bipartisan bills passed by the House—bills that have already passed the Senate, bills that would help baby Oliver and his dad Joe and the hundreds of thousands of other people around the country who never asked and don’t deserve to be pawns in this fight. It is our job to do this.

Colleagues, we can do this. I don’t just sit in this Chamber and say whether my vote is what the President wants me to do. I think about what Minnesotans want me to do. We must reopen government.

I have a story to tell. A story that each of you has a story to tell. In the NICU, that are stories. I want to thank you and I want to tell you to keep it up. You deserve to be heard by our President, and you deserve a government that works for you.

Thank you.

The PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE. The majority whip.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, yesterday President Trump and Republican leaders once again tried to sit down with Democrats 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 show up and show good faith by being willing to commit to funding the border wall if the government was reopened, she said no—no.

Democrats are saying that we need to end this partial shutdown and reopen the government. 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.

When 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 to get a solution that both parties can support and that the President will sign.

I have to ask: Why 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 this is no longer true. 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 border with barriers to prevent illegal entry 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 we will always welcome the 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 do not let people who are coming to this country be here illegally and 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 across our southern border. This is going to have a lasting negative impact on me and my family. Please help stop this.

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 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 discouraging illegal immigration, we are perpetuating this humanitarian crisis.

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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 2006 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 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—certainly not the far-left, anti-American taxpayer.

Unfortunately, the President—or fortunately, however you want to look at it—came in with his budget request last year to the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, on which I serve as ranking member, and asked for $1.6 billion for a wall. Guess what that subcommittee did, and guess what the Appropriations Committee did. We gave him $1.6 billion for that wall. The Senate didn’t pass that bill, I might add. Sometime later, the President came in and said: No, I want $5 billion for a wall. And now it is $5.7 billion for a wall.

We asked for a report on how this money was going to be spent, and they sent us a report on how the $1.6 billion was going to be spent, with no comparative analysis on how technology or manpower or anything else to secure that border might work more beneficially 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—of 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 that 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 Repub- lican bills. I can bill both parties 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 Baucus. 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 co-equal branch of government. We shouldn’t be allowing—as Senator DURHAN 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 shutdown. 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. TSA employees are working without pay. If we can’t get this resolved by tomorrow, they will miss a paycheck, but they will still be at work.

Home lending programs have halted. For those of us who have air traffic controllers are not being trained. We still have air traffic controllers in the tower who are working now—by tomorrow, without pay coming in—but new training has stopped. That means a year from now, when we need to hire those new controllers, they controller takes their spot in that tower, there won’t be someone in that tower because we have halted the training at this point.
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-
facts a lot, and it affects real lives and real people. Let me give some examples from my State of Oklahoma.

There is a technology company in Tulsa that will have to begin furloughing 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 cosigner for the check, and that defi-
nitely affects them.

A Federal worker contacted us and said she was a contractor, and as of a couple days from now, she is not going to be able to pay her son’s tuition so he can go back to college, be-
cause it will be too far a stretch.

The food banks in my State have al-
ready run out of food and are turning 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 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 Clint-
on and Senator Obama voted to add fencing along 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 because that is 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 maliable 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—so for 10 days we sat without progress because we 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 something that is truly big things for border security—has suddenly become political and contro-
versial.

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 12 tower units to the southern border, has added 50 mobile surveillance units 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 peo-
ple 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 big steel slats, but where do you think those 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 teem members down at the border in San Diego just a month ago. They visited with the Customs and Border Patrol folks 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 12 days down to a month—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 happens is, 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 here 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-
ocratic colleagues I have spoken with over the last 2 days were quietly wis-
pering in these hallways: I hope the President will just declare a national emer-
gency, and it is over. We can get it done, 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 get-
ting 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 ilegally 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 trying to cross illegally, 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 obvious 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 step up, and there will be 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 quickly 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 deja vu comparing this shutdown 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 resolve the budget process. Many of us spoke up, myself included, over and over again, saying that this is a broken budgeting 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. Make everyone stay here.

That may sound 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, you can’t see your families. 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 the people who aren’t in the middle of this fight in the process.

There are ways to solve this—simple, commonsense ways—and I will continue to bring those up again and again because when this shutdown is complete, there will be a fight over another one coming. In the meantime, we need to try to end this loop we are in that destabilizes our system.

Let’s do border security. Let’s not fight over, “OK. Let’s open up the government, and we will talk about it later.” Everyone knows that really will not happen. Everyone knows that game. Let’s resolve what all the American people know needs to be resolved—basic, functional, real commonsense security, not putting up a big wall across the whole border to see a 2,000-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 unanimously in favor of the order for the quorum call to 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 withdraw our troops out of Syria 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 trying to 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 some bills 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 something new. 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 on the Executive.

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 it. We began the debate on this 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 the government shutdown 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 lets the security concern which is something we need to do for our country, but that also works on dealing with something like this, especially as timely as the decision is that was just made last month and the threats that are facing our allies in the 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 stop the bill at the end of the day, then go ahead and vote against 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 have 46 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 prevent 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 investments that help 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 the right to do. 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 does 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. If you don’t want to buy stock in a company that does business in Israel, I think it is short-sighted, but no one is stopping you from doing that. If you want to divest your investments from companies that do business in Israel, nor is anyone 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, I am 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—divest 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 support BDS, then you are in favor of shielding from counter-boycotting anyone who decides to take these actions. That is what you are for, which is de facto support for BDS, because what you are basically saying is you want to go against a country and divest from Israel, but no one can do that to you. That is not what the First Amendment is. The First Amendment protects your right to speech, and it protects from government infringement. It protects your right to speak. It does not protect you from people who disagree with you. It does not protect you from people who speak out against you. So if you are a boycotter, you yourself can be boycotted. 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 do we—every 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 that a city or a county or a State disagrees with? That is all this bill is.

When people go around talking about how to protect the First Amendment rights of individuals, it is just not honest. It is just not true. This doesn’t even apply to individuals. In fact, the bill says very clearly in writing—right there—that nothing under this act shall be construed to infringe upon the First Amendment rights of any American.

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 pro-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. All this is protecting the First Amendment right 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 this, this is being 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 painfully aware 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 flowing 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 dropping 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 go in 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
Idaho, Mr. RISCH, filed a bill last year, called the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act, that is now included in this bill. I believe he will be here shortly to speak about it. It is called the Caesar bill—it has nothing to do with Rome. It is named after a Syrian military defector. It is named after someone who was in the Syrian military whose code name was “Caesar” who smuggled out tens of thousands of pictures of what was going on inside of Syria. One of the thousands of pictures of people who were killed while being detained in Syria. They were images of the torture, of the brutalization of women and innocent men and even sometimes children by the Assad regime and by those who supported them.

The pictures show the true face of what we are dealing with here—the face of an evil and criminal regime, a regime that needs to be held accountable. All those who support them and are at their mercy, that too should also be held accountable.

What Senator RISCH’s bill does is it provides the Trump administration new legal authority to bring some accountability for the people who have done this.

First, it requires a determination and a report by the Treasury on whether the Central Bank of Syria is a financial institution of primary money laundering concern. Why does that matter? Because they are using that bank to clean and launder money to fund their operations, to remain in power, and, ultimately, to gas and kill their own people.

The other thing it does is it imposes new sanctions on anyone who does business with or who provides financing to the Government of Syria, including Syrian intelligence and security services, or the Central Bank of Syria; who provides aircraft or spare aircraft parts that are used for military purposes in Syria; who does business with transportation or telecom sectors controlled by the Syrian Government; or who does business with or who provides financial services to or who are affiliated with any company that has been sanctioned by the United States.

These aren’t just about punishing them. It is about hurting them in their pocketbooks so they can’t afford to put those planes up there to drop these gas and kill their own people. It gives the administration the authority to do this.

By the way, this bill also requires the administration to brief Congress. You hear them talking about holding the administration accountable and conducting oversight. This bill requires them to come before us and tell us what their plan is to deliver humanitarian aid.

By the way, I want to know how we are going to deliver humanitarian aid if there is no U.S. presence on the ground and the only people left are the Russians, the Turks, the Iranians, and the Assad regime. It would be interesting to be briefed on that plan with us not there, but it requires them to come forward and either tell us what their plan is or admit that there isn’t a plan because we are not there anymore.

That is what this bill does. I would love for everyone here to support it, but before you can even vote for it, we have to start debate on it through the rules of the Senate. In about 15 minutes, we are going to vote on this thing, and there are going to be people who want to start an immediate debate on it, and the argument is that it is because of the shutdown.

I hope people reconsider. I don’t understand the logic of it, but when you talk about the normalization of relations between the powerful nations, we should not be afraid to talk about how to get Syria. Which the overwhelming majority of the Senators here say they are strong supporters of, and when you talk about the importance of Jordan and our alliance with Israel, something that every single person here basically agrees with, for the most part, and when you talk about these horrifying war crimes for which there should be some accountability, which I believe everybody here was outraged by, how does stopping a bill or refusing to move forward on a bill deal 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 really time to do something 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.

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 won’t do anything 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. I 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. It is 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 forgo 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. 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. We must act on the other side of the aisle on 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 complete—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, as 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 reauthorizes the sanctions against Syria. The sanctions against Bashar al-Assad and his government in Syria.

These should pass. You might ask yourself: Well, what is going on here? 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 around this chamber 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 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. On 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 process for revoking the sanctions 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 cannot do that because they want to do it really doesn’t make sense. They also need 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 2015, 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 2015, 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.

Mr. THUNE. 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. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “yea.”

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

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 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Richard C. Shelby, James E. Risch, Mike Lee, Josh Hawley, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, Steve Daines, Marco Rubio, Rob Portman, John Barrasso, Mitch McConnell.

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 help 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 be focused on 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 families to tell you that the reigning Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles—lucky, 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 now. Dallas Cowboys fans, you have a discussion with your family friend 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 week. 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 Christmas time, 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—to want to make sure that we are being fair with our sibilings 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 definitively 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, has the tears of joy on 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 want 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 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 resolve 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 for the true spirit of what makes America great.

RECOGNIZING THE CLEMSON TIGERS’ 2019 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Mr. President, before I close, I would like to talk, just for a few minutes, about an epic celebration that shall upscale 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 hate myself who support the Carolina Gamecocks. 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 deny 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 morning 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 many of whom I have spoken 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 civil, 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 this fashion. He said: When I think about being selfless, when I think about real success, it is in this order. First, it is about honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior; second, it is about honoring others; 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.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Senator. Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. I yield to 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 concede that while I am exuberant and excited for the enthusiasm for Clemson to 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 opens today with 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 take climate change seriously. 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 blockade. 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 good odds of winning Republican-held seats in 2016. All were solid, experienced candidates who had been Senators before. All were ahead in early polling. Then the big influencers came in hard, launching attacks against the Senate seat, well more than 1 year before the election. It is a little like strafing the other side’s planes while they are still on the airfield.

The pile-on of so-called outside group spending against these three candidates came to almost $70 million. All three ultimately lost their races, and their losses meant Republicans kept majority control of this Chamber.

Let’s look at that $70 million that acquired the continued Republican majority of this Chamber. Of that $70 million, only about $11 million came from donors and PACs that appear unconnected to the fossil fuel industry. At least two-thirds of that outside spending—more than $46 million—can be directly traced to groups that received significant funding from fossil fuel energy, and $12 million, the remainder of that $70, came through dark money channels. In this day and age in America, powerful influencers can obscure their identities by running their political spending through these dark money channels so it is impossible for us to know whether or how much of this remaining $12 million was from polluter dollars—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 important 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. Their prescription was not enough to move a single Republican colleague to join a bill to establish a carbon fee.

More telling was the spectacle of the Trump administration’s “National Climate Assessment.” This report, written by 15 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 foils. 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 were quick to challenge the science in the report—an admission by inaction that they know their science denial campaign is phony. 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 science is “controversible.” The description of climate science as “uncontroversible” 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 California broke records. The Mendocino Complex Fire in July and August was the largest in the State’s recorded history, and the Camp Fire, this photograph—was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, killing 86 people. Scientists linked California’s increasing wildfires to climate 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.

Professor Michael Mann, the professor of atmospheric science at Penn State University, told PBS recently:

It’s not rocket science. . . . You warm the planet, you’re going to get more frequent and intense heat waves. You warm the soils, you get more drought. You warm the oceans, you get more storms. You bring all that together, and those are all the ingredients for unprecedented wildfires.

Mr. President, 2018 saw the east coast slammed by hurricanes that were supercharged by warming oceans. Hurricanes gain strength from heat energy in the oceans they pass over. Warmer oceans also evaporate more water up into the storms, generating more storm rainfall. So stronger and wetter storms then ride ashore on higher and warmer seas and push larger storm surges ahead of them.

Hurricane Florence intensified over water to 2 degrees Celsius above average and dumped record rainfall and flooding on the Carolinas. Preliminary analyses suggest that its rainfall was more than 50 percent higher due to climate change.

When Hurricane Michael hit Florida, it passed over water 2 to 3 degrees Celsius warmer than average. Passing over that heat, its winds spun up by 80 miles per hour in just 48 hours, becoming the strongest storm ever to make an October 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 devastating nor’easter that wrecked off the coast of Australia that 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 Rosenfeld, 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-driven causes of extreme weather events on land.”

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 over $1 trillion, are expected to be at risk.

A 2018 report from Climate Central and Zillow found that thousands of
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 show up 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 systemically risky asset, 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 invested capital, issued a statement saying that men and women who have been trusted with managing $32 trillion worth of investments—came together to warn that the world faces a financial crash worse than the 2008 crisis unless carbon emissions grow 3.4 percent in 2018 after years of decline, U.S. carbon emissions grew 2.7 percent to reach 4.1 gigatons. If emissions growth continues at this rate, we will pass the 1.5-degree mark in 2030, and the 2-degree target in 2035. To get to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, we would need to reduce emissions by 9.4 percent from 2020 levels every year through 2050. It is clear that the world economy is not on track to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

Another telling aspect of the Washington State ballot initiative is who did not show up. Conspicuously absent are any of the good-guy corporations from the tech, financial, and food and beverage sectors that talk such a good game. One small acolyte is 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 of the fossil fuel pirates. They help to fund, like the 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 aspect of the Washington State ballot initiative is who helped to fund it. 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.

The good guys could show up and counterbalance the political hydraulics here. Barons of carbon fuels are not the only special interest a massive, new tool is ready to bear on our friends on the other side. A coalition is growing to address this issue before Citizens United. It was possible to do that because the five Republican Senators on the Supreme Court had not yet given the fossil fuel industry the massive new political artillery they had given them in the Citizens United decision. Once the fossil fuel industry had that new artillery, the good guys had no choice but to fight. It is time now. We have taken a look at what voters are. We have even taken a look at where Republican voters are. We have taken a look at where the science is. 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 we have had their way around here. They pay the fee, but our Nation pays the price. We have a responsibility here to
Throughout his life, he carried that dedication to service that was so characteristic of so many of his generation. Larry Weinberg applied the lessons of the war to his leadership of the American Jewish community. He worked to promote understanding between religious groups while demonstrating a firm commitment to the Jewish tradition of tikkun olam—improving the world. That is something Jews feel very strongly about. Whether it is healthcare or foreign relations, whatever we want to be part of making the world a better place, perfecting the world. That is what tikkun olam means.

Larry and Barbi Weinberg supported 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 may know Larry for another reason. If you are a Portlander of my age and an ardent Blazer fan, you were thrilled to see 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 the Trail Blazers today wouldn't be possible 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 the last 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. Larry sent a letter 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 somewhat religious, 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 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—trying 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 allowing 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 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 a building bridge person. 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.
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 was all about. He always told 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 Ronald Reagan 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 to see 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 think that my colleagues are going 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 was a leader in our community. 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, or so, are always going to 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. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. I now announce the presence of 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 their 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 to 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 briefly.

"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 the FAA-Washington Enroute Air Traffic Control Center in Leesburg, VA. I have been proudly gone to work for this job that I love, and always maintain the highest level of safety. My husband Brad is also a controller with me at Washington Center, and his Earnings and Leave Statement was for $1.34. We cannot sustain our financial obligations on a total of $1.34 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 60 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 now 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—Ayden 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!"

"It 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. McConnel. 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 Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McConnel. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Mr. McConnel. No further debate. There being none, 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—
That is not the same comfort as getting the paycheck. It is not the same comfort as knowing when the shutdown will be over and when they can go back to try to keep serving American citizens, but having the certainty that it will be paid is something that we can do for the majority leader's working with us on the S. 24 bill that Senator Cardin is the sponsor of and I am a cosponsor of. It does good work in this regard, and I think we can send some people a little bit of a signal. I think we 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.

With that, I thank my colleagues for working together on this.

I yield floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, 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, we 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 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 in the State of Alaska.

Last Saturday, in the great city of Fairbanks, AK, I had the great opportunity and the honor to attend the 100th birthday party—I am looking at the pages, who all just said “wow”—of a legend in Alaska, a man, certainly, of great stories but also of heart, of patriotism, and of everything that makes Alaska and America great.

As you know, Mr. President, I come to the floor nearly every week, while we are in session, to honor someone that I refer to as the Alaskan of the Week, someone who makes our State and our country very special. I want America right now—if you are watching C-SPAN, in the press—to meet Urban Rahoi, our Alaskan of the Week—a husband, a father, a veteran, a pilot, a hunting guide, a developer, and a builder, just to name a few of his defining characteristics.

Urban has had such a full life that it is hard to know where to start—100 years. Let me give you some of the highlights.

He was born on January 7, 1919, the day after Teddy Roosevelt died, in Iron Mountain, MI. He grew up during the height of the Depression, but Urban recently told a reporter with the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner that the Depression for him and for his family wasn’t that bad. His family hunted. They grew their own food. They worked hard. He said: “We had a garden and we had 100 rabbits.” In many ways, that is how they got through the Depression.

He began to get interested in airplanes and in flying. When he was just 15 years old, he took his first solo flight—at 15, a solo flight—and he was forever hooked. He was also hooked on the love of his life, whom he met when he was 21 years old, Vienna—Vi, everyone called her—and they got married in 1940.

In 1943, Urban joined the U.S. military during World War II, in the Army Air Corps, and he flew bombers in North Africa and Italy. “From Italy, we would fly bombing missions into southern Germany, Austria, Romania, and wherever they needed us”—dozens of bombing combat missions.

And what did he fly? Appropriately, Urban Rahoi flew the B-17s, also known as the “Flying Fortresses.” Those airplanes stayed in the air even after some of the toughest battles and some of the most vicious flak—tough as can be, just like Urban. Again, he was a B-17 pilot. Urban was a part of 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’s 49th 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 Northrop 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 say that? 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 Ptarmigan Lake Lodge, an unsuccessful big game guiding business, and he also built two areas in terms of 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 say that? He also built a lodge in an inholding in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

When Alaska became a State, guides were required to become 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. That’s 90 years’ worth of flying. That is nearly twice as much as you pages. He has seen so much, nearly every part of Alaska. “If someone’s there, I’ve been there,” he said recently, about all the flights he has taken all over the great State of Alaska.

In 2012, the FAA presented Urban with the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. Here is what the FAA wrote:

He has used his skill as an aviator to train others in the art of flying. He has used his skill as an aviator to train others in the art of flying. He has rescued people in trouble and supplied people in . . . Bush [Alaska] with the necessities of life. He has contributed to the state of Alaska, and provided many people a chance to see the wild and beautiful Alaska we all love.

The party for Urban’s 100th birthday last Saturday in Fairbanks was so reflective of the impact that he had on the State, his community in Fairbanks, and, of course, his country. Fairbanks is a tough, tough place. I love Fairbanks. Fairbanks has been experiencing a bit of a cold snap. Last Saturday, at Urban’s 100th birthday party, there was snow on the ground. Urban built Ptarmigan Lake 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. Larry Csonka said that 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 3 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—you—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 to your family. You have done it. 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT**

Mr. BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT.

Mr. McConnell. 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 prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA. This is my first scorekeeping report this year. My last floodgates 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 1–3. 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 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. 115–245, 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 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, $1.955 million outlay increase—over the fiscal year 2018–2023 period of $3,045 million—$665 million revenue loss, $2,380 million outlay increase—and over the fiscal year 2018–2028 period of $416 million—$625 million revenue loss, $200 million outlay decrease. 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></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019–2023</th>
<th>2019–2028</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry</td>
<td>$2,414,000</td>
<td>$2,429,373</td>
<td>$3,123,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$1,406,000</td>
<td>$1,820,700</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armed Services</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</td>
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<td>$20,285,282</td>
<td>$20,285,282</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>$11,749,910</td>
<td>$11,749,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce, Science, and Transportation</td>
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<td>$41,777,910</td>
<td>$41,777,910</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Natural Resources</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
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<td>$2,440,333</td>
<td>$2,440,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Relations</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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>Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>$2</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$43,489,49</td>
<td>$43,489,49</td>
<td>$43,489,49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judiciary</td>
<td>$11,194,67</td>
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<td>$11,194,67</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>$84</td>
<td>$84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$84</td>
<td>$84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules and Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intergovernment</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans’ Affairs</td>
<td>$4,379</td>
<td>$4,379</td>
<td>$4,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>$4,403,368</td>
<td>$4,403,368</td>
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<td>Outlays</td>
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<td>Indian Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Business</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,699,576</td>
<td>$2,699,576</td>
<td>$2,699,576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<td>$5,764,198</td>
<td>$5,764,198</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
<td>$6,014,768</td>
<td>$6,014,768</td>
<td>$6,014,768</td>
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</table>

### TABLE 2.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED REGULAR DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2019–2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>$647,000</td>
<td>$597,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonsecurity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statutory Discretionary Limits</td>
<td>$647,000</td>
<td>$597,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount Provided by Senate Appropriations Subcommittee</td>
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<td>$4,093,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>$656,000</td>
<td>$129,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy and Water Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
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<td>$9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legislative Branch</td>
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<td>$4,093,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military Construction and Veterans Affairs</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Foreign Operations and Related Programs</td>
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<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Level Total</td>
<td>$639,112</td>
<td>$296,663</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Enacted Above (+) or Below (−) Statutory Limits</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
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</table>

### TABLE 3.—SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE—ENACTED CHIMPS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHIMPS Limit for Fiscal Year 2019</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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### Table 1.—Senate Appropriations Subcommittee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations Subcommittees</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Water Development</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Services and General Government</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeland Security</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislative Branch</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Construction and Veterans Affairs</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Foreign Operations and Related Programs</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2.—Senate Current Level Report for Spending and Revenues for Fiscal Year 2019, as of January 7, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off-Budget</td>
<td>$3,619.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outlays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Level Over/ Under (−) Resolution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Security Revenues</td>
<td>$969.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Level</td>
<td>$969.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Level Over/ Under (−) Resolution</td>
<td>$−0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays.

The National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) or the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Budget Act).

Pursuant to section 232(b) of H.C. Res. 290 (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, $570 million over the 2019–2023 period, and $454 million over the 2019–2028 period.

The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 also allows the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to revise the revenue levels for fiscal year 2019; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2018. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 also allows the Chair of the Senate Committee on the Budget to revise the budgetary effects of authorizing legislation are recorded as direct spending or revenue. However, consistent with the language in Division I, and at the direction of the Senate Committee on the Budget, those budgetary effects are classified as discretionary spending.

Pursuant to section 323(b)(i) of H.C. Res. 290 (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, $570 million over the 2019–2023 period, and $454 million over the 2019–2028 period.

Sections 1001–1004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114–255) require that certain funding provided for 2017 through 2026 to the Department of Health and Human Services—in particular the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) or the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Budget Act). Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include $771 million in budget authority, and $767 million in estimated outlays.

For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the Senate, the resolution, as approved by the Senate, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not reflect off-budget amounts. Pursuant to section 311(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, 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, $570 million over the 2019–2023 period, and $454 million over the 2019–2028 period.

An Act to amend title 31, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (P.L. 115–177) 

An Act to amend title 3, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (H.R. 3562, P.L. 115–177)

An Act to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes (H.R. 4528, P.L. 115–228)

An Act to authorize the Secretary of Defense to purchase certain land and property in the District of Columbia for use as a National Park, and for other purposes (H.R. 5282, P.L. 115–181)

An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes (H.R. 3562, P.L. 115–177)

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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 of protecting our environment, improving infrastructure, creating jobs and good-paying wages, and ensuring that all Marylanders have access to clean air and water. Despite difficulties with the transportation and infrastructure subcommittee during the 115th Congress, we were able to pass 17 bills that will help us meet our environmental needs: 12 of which were for fiscal year 2018 and 5 of which were for fiscal year 2019. Ms. Stevens has been a key part of these efforts, and I am proud of the good work she has done 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 the nation—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 third 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.

9 years prior to that, at various non-profit 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 Sally Van Dox dressed mannquins in clothing stores in the metro Detroit area. They spent every extra penny they had on ice skating lessons for their daughter, 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 the nation—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 third 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.
Mae also fought for Maryland priorities in the Senate’s 2018 WRDA, including helping me double the amount of Federal funding spent on drinking water infrastructure, nationally and at the State level, and reauthorize the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, WIFIA, a low-cost financing mechanism for large water infrastructure projects. Baltimore, MD, is one of 12 projects in nine States that will receive the first of the WIFIA grants. This will help the 0.8 million people served by the Baltimore Department of Public Works continue to have some of the cleanest, safest, and more reliable drinking water in the country.

Clean water is not a partisan issue, and Mae worked with her colleagues on both sides of the aisle and Capitol Hill to develop legislation that will benefit our aging water resources and infrastructure. The Senate passed the 2018 WRDA reauthorization by a vote of 99-1, a testament to the hard, bipartisan work of the majority and minority staff on EPW, personal staff like Mae, and the committee members. I was proud to be involved.

Mae conscientiously strives to reduce her personal carbon footprint. One way she does this is by commuting to and from work on her bike. She helped me to increase funding for the Transportation Alternatives Program, TAP, and ensure that cities and counties continue to have a voice in how Federal dollars are spent on these important programs in the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation—FAST—Act.

As The British primatologist and anthropologist Jane Goodall has said, “You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What do you make of a difference and you have to decide what kind of person you want to make.” I want to thank Mae Stevens for the difference she has decided to make—and will continue to make—and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Of course, even though she is leaving the Hill, she will always be a member of Team Cardin.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS
REMEMBERING DICK BARCLAY
Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to Dick Barclay. Dick was a friend and civic leader from Rogers, AR, who passed away from complications due to Alzheimer’s last week at the age of 81. Born in Overlin, KS, Dick attended Kansas State University before his honeymoon brought him to Arkansas. Dick and Jan eventually moved to Rogers where Dick, along with his brother Charles, opened a successful public accounting firm that served the area for decades. When I first moved to Rogers in 1976, naturally, Dick was one of the first people I met and someone I quickly grew to lean on and turn to for his consistently sound advice.

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 1988, where he joined Governor Mike Huckabee’s administration, where he put his financial expertise to use as executive director of budget, legislative affairs, and policy. He went on to become Arkansas’s chief fiscal officer and directed the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration in 1999.

Dick didn’t believe that holding public office alone was where his call to service ended, though. He was active among many different groups and organizations that worked to improve life in Rogers and in greater northwest Arkansas. A few such roles included serving on the board of the Northwest Arkansas Community College Foundation, as president and board member of the Rogers Little Theater, chairman of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce, commissioner of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, member and president of the Northwest Arkansas Council, and chairman of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. He also led the Benton County Republican Party for a time.

A man of strong faith, Dick was a board member of First Christian Church in Rogers. One of his sons went on to lead services at Fellowship Bible 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 loss 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 south-east 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 association dedicated to the advancement of education. I would like to congratulate Mr. Williams for his continued service, which has spanned 39 years.

Mr. Williams has worked in education for the past 39 years. He has worked with students from kindergarten through high school. He has served as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. He is currently the principal of Broadus High School. He has been a driving force in Broadus High School’s success. He has helped to build a strong and successful school district.

Mr. Williams is a true leader in the community. He has been involved in many community organizations, including the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Broadus Area Chamber of Commerce. He has also been involved in the Montana State University, where he has served on the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Williams is a true role model for all young people in the community. He has shown them the importance of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. He has been a positive influence on the lives of many students.

I am proud to honor Mr. Williams for his dedication to education and his service to his community.
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 spoken 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 make the world a better place.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLIE GRAY

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Charlie Gray, a 2018 fall intern in my Orlando office, for all 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 CAROLINE HUSEBO

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I recognize Caroline Husebo, 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.

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 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 freshly roasted 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 the 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 Awards, the world’s largest coffee roaster 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 was also led to expansion, 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 to sell their work 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. Again, I would like to congratulate Scott, Amy, and all of the employees at Oceana Coffee Roasters for being named Small Business of the Week. I wish you continued success in your future endeavors.

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 to include 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. 264. An act making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

H.R. 269. 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 papers, reports, and documents, and were 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, a report 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–AEST) 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);” Correc tion (RIN0949–AH74) 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 Policy, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “DIIC–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 Rate Adjustment and 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 Amendments for Fiscal Year 2018 Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–67. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Tenth Annual Report on Delays in Approvals of Applications Related to Citizen Petitions and Petitions for Stay of Effect of Regulations”; 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, a 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 “Disaster Assistance for Persons Affected by the Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to eleven (11) legislative recommendations; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS
The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. KING, Ms. HASSAN, Mr.
S. 75. A bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 76. 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 Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. EINSTEIN):

S. 77. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to allow for the extension of rules of small entities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KISCH (for himself and Mr. CRAPAO):

S. 79. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to maintain or replace certain facilities and structures for commercial recreation services at Smith Gulch in Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARKASO (for himself, Mr. RONDELL, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 80. A bill to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 81. A bill to adjust the eastern boundary of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls Wilderness Study Area in the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 82. A bill to designate the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 83. A bill to amend section 203 of Public Law 94–335 to ensure proper authority for the Office of Advocacy of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. COONS, and Mr. JONES):

S. 84. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBuchar, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. TILLIS):

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. MERKLEY):

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. 88. A bill to redesignate Ocmulgee 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. ISAKSON:

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 Mr. RYCERZ):

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, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. Young, Mr. CRYSTAL, Mr. EINSTEIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Risch, Mr. Daines, Mr. Moran, Mr. Braun, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Portman, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Inhoffe, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Enzi, Mr. McSally, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Scott of South Carolina, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Lee, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Isakson, and Ms. Klobuchar):

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. BENNET, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. EINSTEIN, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. Rounds, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

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 Health and Human Services 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. GILLIBRAND):

S. 96. A bill to revise the authorized route of the North Country National Scenic Trail in northeastern 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. CAYETANO, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HINCHEN, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. KLOBuchar, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, MR. SANDERS, MR. UDALL, MR. VAN HOLLAND, 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. JOHNSTON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 98. A bill to establish a presidentially appointed Medal of Honor Board; 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 promote the negotiation of lower covered part D drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries and the establishment and application of a formula by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. ROYBAL-CASTRO):

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. COLINS):

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. WARREN):

S. 102. A bill to significantly lower prescription drug prices for patients in the United States by ending government-granted monopolies for manufacturers who charge drug prices that are higher than the median prices at which the drugs are available in other countries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):
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. RISCH, Mr. LEONHARDT, Mr. TESTER, 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. BLUNT, Mr. RISCH, Mr. Sasse, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. Daines, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BARNES, Mr. HAWLEY, 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. BLUNT (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. DAVIS, Mr. CONNY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. TESTER, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. King, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. Peters, and Mr. Jones).

S. 106. A bill to authorize, extend and combine 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 the option 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 Mrs. 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, Mrs. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BRUCE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CONNY, Ms. CORTEZ masto, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAINER, Mr. CRAPPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURbin, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HARRIS, Mrs. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEIN RoCH, Ms. HRONG, Mr. HOEKEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBuchar, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANchin, Mr. MARKEy, Mr. McCoNNELL, Ms. McCSAly, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERRICK, Mr. Moran, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. Murray, Mr. NAUL, Mr. PERdue, Mr. PETRERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTs, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUSH, Mr. RUBio, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. Sasse, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHuMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. ShaHeen, Mr. SHELEY, Ms. SEnema, Ms. Smith, Ms. STABENow, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. Thune, Mr. TILLis, Mr. TOomey, Mr. UdALL, Mr. Van HolLe, Mr. WARNer, Ms. West, Mr. WHiteHousE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. Wyden, and Mr. Young).

S. Res. 16. A resolution relative to the death of John Paul Gough, former United States Senator for the State of Iowa; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 31

At the request of Mr. RUBio, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance; 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. 39

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. 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED

BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Ms. HARRIS):
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 despite protective fencing in the 70 years since the Canal began operation. This is about a death per year on average, which would be completely prevented if the canal were converted into a pipe. Tragically, there was another drowning in the canal just last year.

A second reason is water conservation. Drought is always an issue in California, and water is becoming more and more expensive. About 6% of the canal’s water is lost through evaporation and seepage. A pipeline would eliminate those losses.

A third reason is avoiding flood risk from the earthen canal. When the canal was built 70 years ago, much of the surrounding land was farming country, but more recently homes have been built around 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 does not have a 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 it.

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. ROUNDS): 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 right, 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 submission 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 Conveyances; 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 “Sick Act”); (16 U.S.C. 484a); and

(2) available to the Secretary 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**

**SENATE RESOLUTION 14—AFFIRMING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA’S FOREIGN MEDICAL MISSIONS CONSTITUTE HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) 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 States’ 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 out of work”;

(3) “threatening to revoke their medical licenses”;

(4) “retaliating against their family members in Cuba if participants leave the program”;

(5) “imposing exile if participants didn’t return to Cuba as directed by government supervisors”;

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 Brazil, acting through the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) commenced contracting Cuban doctors for the Mais Médicos program, and the first Cuban medical professionals arrived in Brazil in August 2013;

Whereas Cuban doctors were the only medical professionals participating in the Mais Médicos program to have their salaries directly garnished by their government, and doctors of other nationalities serving in Brazil outside of the formal structure of the program;

Whereas, in July 2013, the Government of Brazil announced the creation of the Mais Médicos program, which included the participation of Cuban doctors and doctors of other nationalities;

Whereas the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) commenced contracting Cuban doctors for the Mais Médicos program, and the first Cuban medical professionals arrived in Brazil in August 2013;

Whereas Cuban doctors were the only medical professionals participating in the Mais Médicos 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;

Whereas Cuban doctors participating in the Mais Médicos program faced severe limitations to travel to neighboring countries;

Whereas Cuban doctors participating in the Mais Médicos program were prohibited from having their families accompany them while stationed in Brazil;

Whereas Cuban doctors frequently had their passports taken by Government of Cuba officials present in Brazil in order to limit their ability to travel;

Whereas the Department of State’s 2018 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report documented how the Government of Cuba also confiscated Cuban doctors’ passports in other countries, and stated that “the Cuban government acknowledges that it withholds passports of overseas medical personnel in Venezuela.”

Whereas the Pan American Health Organization’s external auditor, the Spanish Court of Audit—

(1) stated in its January 2018 report that 198 CMS doctors had presented 159 legal challenges in the Brazilian court system since the start of the program in July 2013 demanding extra free time in their contracts and conditions as doctors of other nationalities participating in the Mais Médicos program; and

(2) stated in its April 2018 report, in recognition of the legal risks associated with the Mais Médicos program, that it would be “prudent that PAHO set a contingency plan to face possible negative statements of (the) lawsuits”; Whereas the Government of Cuba has stated that Cuban doctors unwilling to return to Cuba after their contracts in foreign medical missions will not be permitted to return to their homeland for eight years; Whereas the Government of Cuba directly profited from exporting the services of Cuban professionals, having earned more than $8,000,000,000 from their work in 2016, of which foreign medical missions represent the majority of this income; and

Whereas the term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” is defined under section 103(c)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(c)(B)) as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government of Cuba subjected Cuban doctors and medical professional participating in the Mais Médicos program to state-sponsored human trafficking by directly assuming risks related to participation in forced labor arrangements; and

(2) doctors participating in the Mais Médicos program should have been permitted to work under the same conditions as all other foreign doctors participating in the program;

(3) the Government of Cuba should compensate Cuban doctors that participated in the Mais Médicos program for the full amount of wages that were garnished by the Government of Cuba;

(4) foreign governments that sign agreements with the Government of Cuba or the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS) or other companies affiliated with the Government of Cuba to procure the services of Cuban professionals directly assume risks related to participation in forced labor arrangements;

(5) the Pan American Health Organization must immediately provide greater transparency about its participation in the Mais Médicos program and its agreement with the Government of Cuba and the for-profit Cuban Medical Services Trading Corporation (CMS);

(6) the United States Department of State must 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 long-standing failure to criminalize most forms of forced labor; and

(7) the Department of State must reestablish the Cuban Medical Professionals Parole (CMPP) program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 15—COMMEMORATING THE CLEMSON UNIVERSITY TIGERS FOR WINNING THE 2019 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

Whereas, on Monday, January 7, 2019, the Clemson University football team, Dabo Swinney, has won an outstanding role model to the Clemson players and the Clemson community; Whereas Trevor Lawrence, the first true freshman starter to win a national title since 1985, gave an outstanding performance by throwing for 347 yards and 3 touchdowns; Whereas Travis Etienne had 14 carries for 86 yards including 2 rushing touchdowns and a passing touchdown; Whereas the Clemson University football team displayed outstanding distribution, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the 2018 collegiate football season in achieving the highest honor in college football; and

Whereas the Tigers have brought pride and honor to the State of South Carolina: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Clemson University Tigers for winning the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship;

(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 16—RELATIVE TO THE DEATH OF JOHN CHESTER CULVER, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOKEr, 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. CRAZER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FIErNSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HIRONO, Mr. HAYACK, Mrs. HAYACK, Mr. HORE, Mr. ISAkSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. Kaine, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. King, Ms. KLOBuchar, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCCONNELL, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. MENZENg, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROMNEY, Ms.
Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITE-SANDERS, Mr. ASSER, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. Res. 16

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 the people of Iowa in the Senate with honor and distinction for 1 term;
Whereas a Senator, John Chester Culver spearheaded a commission to modernize the procedures of the Senate, including an increased use of computerized floor status updates and committee schedules;
Whereas John Chester Culver was known 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 the 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.

COMPELLING 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 agreed to.

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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.

The Family Service Agency of Greater Sacramento (FSA) opened in 1953 as a mental health treatment and prevention organization. FSA provided treatment services, child abuse prevention, and a suicide prevention crisis line. In 2005, FSA merged with The Aquarian Effort (The Effort), a free clinic designed to address substance use disorders. The Effort became a community clinic as their programs drew more high need persons to preventive health care. FSA’s emphasis on mental health care has continued through its merger with The Effort and in 2013, The Effort was renamed WellSpace Health after their mergers with several health care providers concentrated on the underserved.

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 THE RETIREMENT OF OKLAHOMA STATE LIBRARIAN SUSAN MCVey
HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. MULLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Susan McVey, State Librarian of Oklahoma. Susan McVey will retire at the end of January after 32 dedicated years of service to Oklahoma. For the past 18 years, she has served as the first female State Librarian. Prior to that, Susan served the Oklahoma Department of Libraries in a number of different capacities. As President of the Oklahoma Library Association, Susan received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the Association, for exemplary service to the state’s library community. She was honored as an Oklahoma Library Legend. She has served as President of the Chief Officers of State Library Agencies and has received the designation of Honored One from the National Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

Susan McVey has demonstrated her commitment and dedication to the education of Oklahomans time and time again. Under her leadership, Oklahoma’s public libraries were included in the Oklahoma Universal Service Fund, providing rural Oklahomans access to free high speed broadband in their local libraries. She successfully secured the first statewide access to online reference resources for Oklahoma’s nearly 1,300 private, public, and school libraries. She is responsible for obtaining $4 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to provide public access computers in every public library in Oklahoma.

I am honored to recognize Susan McVey today before the United States House of Representatives. Well done on a lifetime of service to Oklahoma and congratulations on your well deserved retirement.

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 source 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 Broadcaster 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 significant 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 REVEREND DR. CAMERON MADISON ALEXANDER
HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. BISHOP. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished civil rights leader, an inspirational leader as Doctor Cameron Madison Alexander.
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 that impacted 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 football, 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, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree and 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 established the Antioch International Macedonian Missionaries (AIMM) ministry to touch “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, 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 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 Folklife Center at the Library of Congress which became part of the oral history and spoken word collections that preserve Americans’ accounts of and reactions to significant cultural 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 thousands 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 grieved 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. SUZAN 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 of diversity and has recognized the diversity of his students by displaying eleven flags in his classroom to celebrate their heritage.
HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM G. FLANGAS
OF NEVADA
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 story, Mr. Flangas was a man of substance; he left a lasting legacy that stands as a testament to his tremendous life’s work and an example for others to emulate.

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 Thermopoly. 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 train of the Ely Central Railroad. Bill’s father and uncle, Alexander J. and Potene Flangas in Ely, along with their three sons, John, Gus 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 recruited and hired by the Reynolds 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 detoxification of the site, writing an entry 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 improve moving the nuclear weapons tests underground are memorialized in a book entitled: “Caging the Dragon.” Bill stayed at the Nevada Test Site for 37 years, serving as Tunnel Operations 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 under- ground 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 local youth to play ball. In conjunction with these efforts, Bill led the way in having 11 desperately needed baseball and basketball fields lit up by putting the process in motion, putting together volunteers, the 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 the park’s full-service 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 President and Chair- man 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 accredited standing. The 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 1888. 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 Ne- vada Engineer of the Year in 1976. He received the Las Vegas Exchange Club Book of Good Deeds Award in 2003, and the TV-3 Spirit Award in 1983. He was honored as the 1984 Distinguished Nevadan by the Uni- versity 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 Commu- nity 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 broth- ers, John (Carmen) Flangas and Ernest Flangas; nieces, nephews, relatives and godchildren. Visitations will be Fri., Jan. 4, at 4 p.m. with a Trisagion following at 5 p.m. Services will be at 11 a.m. Sat., Jan. 5, all at St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, located at 5800 El Camino Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118. At Bill’s request, burial will be at noon Mon. Jan. 7, in Ely. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to the St. John Building Fund. May his memory be eternal.

HONORING CENTRALIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE STEVE HARRIS
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 Centralia School District, who is retiring with honor and distinc- tion, having been changing the lives of stu- dents and teachers for nearly 45 years.
After graduating from California State Uni- versity 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. MECKS. 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 EU External Action Service, responsible for establishing this new EU diplomatic corps. His other notable positions within the European Union 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 and Capt. Nick Adsero from Woodinville, in my district, rescued two children from their burning apartment building in Everett, Washington. On December 13, 2018, both gentlemen were recognized for their heroic actions by the American Red Cross Northwest Regional 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. By 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 the 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

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 metalworking 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 his 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
herself. Scott's spirit, passion, and drive were second to none, and I am humbled to have known him throughout his life.

Scott was born 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 later shared his passion by serving as a teacher, coach, and caddie.

Scott was known for his strong presence in his community: hosting the Eclectic Music Hour for Allegheny Mountain Radio in Bath County, Virginia for some time, as well as being a dedicated disciple of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO
OF OREGON
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

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, on January 2, 2019, David Arian, a widely-respected community and city government 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 the 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—one who inspired not only me, but many of us, to rethink our positions, learn to defend 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 skeptics 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 Villaraigosa 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 young 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 its 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 Jadyn 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 VIEIT DAILY NEWS

HON. J. LUIS CORREA
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Nguyen Viet Daily News, the first and largest daily newspaper published in Vietnamese in the United States, and its 40 years of success.

Nguyen 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 printed 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 "Ngoung Viet Daily News" and was relocated to Santa Ana. In 2004, Nguyen Viet Daily News became the only Vietnamese newspaper to be audited and certified by the Verified Audit Circulation.

Today, Nguyen Viet Daily News also publishes other editions including: Nguyen Viet North-East, Nguyen Viet Houston, Nguyen Viet San Francisco, and Nguyen Viet Utah. Having its headquarters located in Westminster, Orange County and two other locations in San Gabriel and Gardena, Los Angeles, where many Vietnamese Americans reside, Nguyen 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, Nguyen 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 Nguyen Viet Daily News' 40th anniversary, it is with great pleasure that I commend Nguyen Viet Daily News for their devotion and contributions to the Vietnamese community.

HONORING THE WORK OF MR. BASELER

HON. SUZAN K. DeBENE
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Ms. DEBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Theodor Baseler, 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. His vision and leadership for Ste. Michelle, and the industry in general, fueled the evolution of the Washington wine industry.
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 regretfully 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. Page S146

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. Page S146

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 cloture 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. Page S146

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. Page S146

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. Page S146

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) Page S128

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.

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.

Recess: The House recessed at 11:18 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

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.

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

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 H430–32

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

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 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.

House Chamber


Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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