House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, January 15, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Peter WELCH 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 8, 2018, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

TRUMP SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this week-end, the Republican leader, Mr. MCCARthy, went on “Face the Nation” and said the following: “It is unacceptable that 800,000 U.S. employees are not being paid.” He didn’t add, but he should have, that 40,000 of them are being made to work while they are not paid.

But I agree that it is unacceptable that 800,000 U.S. folks are shut out. It is unacceptable that Republicans and Donald Trump would shut down the government and deny paychecks to 800,000 Americans because they couldn’t get congressional approval for an expensive and ineffective border wall, even when they controlled all levels of government.

Let me repeat that. They didn’t get it done when they controlled all levels of government.

The Republican leader went on to say: “You know what we’re arguing over? One-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget.”

He is dead wrong on that. This isn’t about a wall, or healthcare, or the debt limit, or spending levels. It is about whether it is appropriate policy for a President to threaten shutdowns and take the country hostage to get what he wants.

It is malfeasant and malevolent to hold 800,000 Americans and, indeed, the millions they serve hostage to the demands of a President who, days before he shut down the government, told us that is exactly what he intended to do. That is why House Democrats, joined by several Republicans, passed six of the seven remaining appropriation bills for fiscal year 2019, all of which had bipartisan support in the Senate, and a continuing resolution to reopen the Department of Homeland Security on the first day of the new Congress.

It is also why, last week, House Democrats passed, on an individual basis, four of those same appropriations bills to reopen portions of government that the Senate approved by a vote of 92-6, over 90 percent, almost 95 percent of the Senators.

Our colleague from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) was concerned that these were not products of the House. He is right. So vote to open up a government with a CR, which you will have an opportunity to do three times, my Republican colleagues. Let’s conclude the appropriations process by passing bills agreed upon by the House and the Senate.

What we have been saying all along is: Reopen the people’s government. Shutting it down is an illegitimate, immoral act.

I disagree with the Republican leader’s characterization of Democrats’ position as taking a stand for a certain level of funding.

Just give us X amount of money for a wall. Republicans, the President say, and the shutdown will end.

This is not about a wall. It is about trying to gain an end by threat, rather than by democratic debate. One side cannot, must not, continue to threaten shutdowns to get its way in a democracy.

Our research does not show us another democracy in the world that shuts itself down. That is not how the system should work.

If Donald Trump is permitted to bully the American people and their representatives into giving him whatever he wants, does anyone think, for a second, we won’t be right back here in a few weeks, or a few months, with yet another shutdown over the next item on the President’s wish list?

Give me more tax cuts for the wealthy, or I will shut down the government, he will say. Cut Medicare and Social Security, or I will default on the debt.

This is about more than money to build a wall on our border. It is about whether to firm up the wall around our democracy.

We need to end this shutdown now, reopen the government first, and discuss, rationally, how best to secure our borders, an objective many of us have voted to do over the years, with substantial increases in our investment in security at all of our borders.

The only beneficiaries, very frankly, of this shutdown are Russia, China, Iran, and our other enemies and those who would like to see us fail. If this
shutdown continues, it will further weaken us on trade, on national security, on protecting our interests around the world, and in serving our people here at home. And it will continue harming our economy, which has already lost nearly as much in GDP as the President wants for his wall,” and President Trump to end it by taking up the bills the House has already passed to do so.

Mr. President, open our government for the people.

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

OPIOID EPIDEMIC IS PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I had the privilege of being in Kane, Pennsylvania, McKean County, Pennsylvania’s 15th Congressional District, for a film screening and a panel discussion about opioid addiction.

The 11-minute film is called “Eye of the Needle,” and it chronicles opioid addiction in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was produced in 2017 for the Light of Life Rescue Mission’s annual gala.

Light of Life is a homeless shelter in Pittsburgh whose clients are homeless, primarily due to addiction and mental health issues. Light of Life provides a home for the homeless; food for the hungry; and care for the poor, the addicted, the abused, and the elderly.

Like so many shelters in America, the opioid epidemic has greatly impacted them. They have been using this film as an educational tool. It has been screened at Carnegie Mellon University, Duquesne University, Point Park University, and Robert Morris University.

On Sunday, it was the first time the film was shown in a community setting. About 100 people gathered in the Kane Area Community Center for the viewing, which also featured a panel discussion.

I proudly participated on the panel, which featured several speakers from the community, including representatives from law enforcement and alcohol and drug abuse services.

Mr. Speaker, I know there isn’t a ZIP Code in the country that isn’t impacted by the opioid epidemic. We have seen the crippling effects of this epidemic, and we need to act with unified urgency to help those who are suffering.

It is considered by many to be the worst public health crisis of this generation. Overcoming it will not only take a community-wide effort, but a nationwide effort.

Through treatment and recovery, through prevention, by protecting our communities, and by fighting fentanyl and other ever-changing synthetic or counterfeit drugs, we will overcome this epidemic.

Heroin and pill addiction does not discriminate on age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status. Your neighbor could be using heroin, and so could the parent of a high school student. Unfortunately, the people of Pennsylvania have seen some of the worst. In 2017, the crisis surged when the Commonwealth experienced a 44 percent increase in opioid overdoses. Addressing this unprecedented rate of opioid-related deaths means that we must focus on nearly 2.2 million Americans who currently struggle with opioid addiction.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are on the front line. Through community conversations, like the one that took place in Kane this Sunday, we can continue the conversation on how to end this epidemic.

Congress has engaged many agencies, including the Department of Justice, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control, and Customs and Border Protection, just to name a few, to help combat opioid abuse.

This crisis has taken lives, torn apart families, weakened our workforce, and overstretched our healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, this is a modern-day plague and the public health crisis of our lifetime. We need to talk about it. We need to take action. And we need to find solutions.

LET’S HAVE SMART BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. DeFazio. Mr. Speaker, the President has really made his wall argument on the basis of stopping illegal drugs from coming into the country.

Last week, I talked about the Maginot Line in France, an impenetrable defense. The Germans went around it.

If drugs were being smuggled across the desert section of wall isn’t going to stop them. They will go around it. But that is not the way drugs are coming into the United States of America. They are coming through our legal border crossings.

I talked about that last week. We need more personnel. We need more technology there to inspect a larger number of the vehicles, all the vehicles coming across, with high technology, to find the human smuggling, the drug smuggling, and the weapons smuggling, if it is coming in that way.

But there is another way that drugs are pouring into the United States of America, and here is, last year, just one of the incidents that the Coast Guard intercepted. They intercepted $5.6 billion of illegal drugs being smuggled in through maritime pathways.

The recently retired commandant said that is only about 20 percent of the shipments. We could intercept far fewer if we had more personnel. If we had more fast-pursuit boats, we could stop a much larger percentage.

But today is a really special day. These brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard, the brave men and women of their paychecks today, the first time I know of in recent history that members of the uniformed are not being paid by their government.

41,000 Active Duty coasties won’t be paid. And guess what? The first of next month, 50,000 retired coasties won’t be paid. In addition to that, there are 8,000 Coast Guard critical civilian employees who are not being paid.

So if the President really wants to talk about intercepting drugs, and he wants to talk about real border security, he should be talking about giving more resources to the United States Coast Guard, not stiffing them on their paychecks and not making them fly ancient helicopters and 50-year-old cutters.

But he wants to waste $5 billion on a wall across part of the desert that you can go around, if that is the way they were smuggling in drugs. But as I said earlier, they aren’t.

Let’s have smart border security. Let’s use our precious tax dollars in an intelligent, 21st century way, not a vanity wall.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF PFC GARFIELD M. LANGHORN

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

Mr. ZELDIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of hometown hero and Medal of Honor recipient PFC Garfield M. Langhorn from Riverhead, New York, who, 50 years ago today, saved the lives of his platoon members, at just 20 years old, by throwing himself on a live grenade in Pleiku province in Vietnam on January 15, 1969.

PFC Langhorn served as a radio operator with Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade, when his unit attempted to rescue the crew of a downed American helicopter. Finding no surviving crew, PFC Langhorn and his unit were returning the fallen aviators when they came under heavy fire from North Vietnamese forces.

Under the cover of darkness, the North Vietnamese began to advance, throwing a hand grenade in front of PFC Langhorn. He threw himself on the grenade. The grenade was just a few feet from a few of his injured comrades.
It was in that moment, PFC Langhorn was so selfless, he chose a courageous act that President Lincoln once referred to as “the last full measure of devotion.” It was an act for his brothers, his fellow soldiers, and his country. In that moment, he “unhesitatingly threw himself on the grenade, scooped it beneath his body and absorbed the blast,” according to the Medal of Honor Citation and the firsthand accounts of his fellow soldiers he saved.

PFC Langhorn’s extraordinary act of bravery. PFC Langhorn received a series of awards, including the highest, most prestigious personal military declaration, the Medal of Honor. Most recently, the Riverhead Post Office was named in his honor. There is no doubt PFC Langhorn has earned these commendations, but they mean little if we forget to look beyond the declarations and forever remember and honor the actions of the 20-year-old man who earned them.

In his letter, his fellow soldiers, PFC Langhorn’s life was extinguished too soon, but as President Lincoln continued, “we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain.”

Today, we must challenge ourselves as Americans to pick up that torch, to embody the bravery, selflessness, and commitment to our great country. There is no memorial, no medal, and no post office that can bring back PFC Langhorn, but he can live eternally in all of us, in our actions and in our hearts.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McGovern). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. Welch) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I want to read part of a letter from Charles from Vermont:

I am a Marine Corps veteran and have spent the last 15 years guarding the national borders as a CBP officer. The government shutdown is unacceptable. January in Vermont is pretty cold. As a furloughed government worker, I have to choose whether to pay for fuel oil to heat my home or to make child support payments to support my ex-wife and my children. And without work and without pay, I am unable to do that.

He is one of 1,300 Vermont employees of the Federal Government who is working without pay. These include 900 employees at the Department of Homeland Security, 300 employees at the Department of Agriculture, and 100 employees of the Interior Department.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, I went to the shift change at the Burlington International Airport and met with our TSA personnel. They asked me a question. They had missed a paycheck. They had been showing up for work every single day. They had been doing, in their professional and cheerful way, processing all of us through security, keeping us safe, and they are very proud of their work. But they asked me a question that I couldn’t answer: Do you know of any other situation where an employer can require a person to work even when the employer has told that employee you are not getting paid?

That is what is happening. That happens nowhere. Where in your experience can an employer, whatever kind, tell the worker to show up, but we are not going to pay you?

That is what is going on, and it is having a ripple effect throughout our economy. It is the Federal workers, but it is also everyday citizens who depend on routine functioning of government in order to meet their obligations. Let me read a letter from Karie, a small business owner from the Northeast Kingdom. He talks about how this government shutdown has affected his business.

As the owner of Kingdom Construction, we employ nearly 30 full-time, year-round construction workers.

They were recently awarded a $2 million construction contract, but they cannot get permits signed because the permit signers are furloughed. Those folks are not going to work. That is real and unacceptable and inevitable when we have this government shutdown.

Now, every one of us has these stories, whether it is somebody who has a microbrewery and can’t get the FDA inspection, it is that construction company where they can’t get the sign-off on the permit, or it is a closing that can’t occur because the paperwork won’t be signed. This is going on, costing our economy about a billion dollars a week, and it is all because we are having this dispute that is quite resolvable.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the issue of border security is incredibly important and we all know that, but at the eleventh hour, because we have a dispute about one element of it, is that a reason to shut down our government? What not only does it do collateral damage to lots of innocent people, but it makes it more difficult for us to resolve the underlying issue about border security? Mr. Speaker, my suggestion is it is time for us to have a cooling-off period. Turn the lights back on in government.

We can have a temporary, short-term extension of the Homeland Security bill, get people paid, and then convene all of the relevant parties to have a negotiation about border security and about all of our immigration policies, including the Dreamers, including undocumented workers, and including the challenge we have about legal immigration and having people who can come here vetted to our country and contribute to our economy.

There is a price that is paid by individual workers not getting a paycheck; there is a price that is paid by individuals who are not getting the functions of government; but there is also a price that we are paying in the trust that is required to sustain a democracy.

We have to make off-limits the tactic of shutting down government in order to get your way. Our democracy depends on mutual trust; it depends on accepting certain norms that, as vigorous as we will be in advocating our point of view, we will not cause collateral damage to others to get our way.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL KEVIN MCCLOSKEY

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, I was proud to stand with our community and join Homes For Our Troops as a new house for an American hero was unveiled. On Saturday morning, Kevin McClosey and his wife, Bridget, received the keys to their new home in Upper South Hampton in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

On June 8, 2008, Corporal McClosey was severely injured in Afghanistan while he was on patrol. His vehicle struck an IED. He suffered critical injuries to both his legs and vision in his right eye, and he suffered severe burns and traumatic brain injury.

While Kevin has made significant progress in his recovery, everyday activities can still be challenging. The McClosey’s new home is retrofitted to make these tasks easier and more accessible for Kevin and Bridget.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin is a true patriot and an American hero. We thank him for his service, and we wish him and Bridget all the best in their new home. We are so proud to have them join our Bucks County family.

I would also like to thank Homes For Our Troops and their entire board for honoring those who sacrifice for our freedom.

RECOGNIZING PINEVILLE TAVERN

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a small business in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that has gone out of their way to help Federal employees who are not being paid due to this prolonged government shutdown.

For the duration of the government shutdown, Pineville Tavern has offered furloughed workers and their immediate family their popular 'pickle-brined chicken at no cost. At this time of so much unneeded uncertainty for our Federal workers, the charity of Pineville Tavern is deeply appreciated by our community.

Pineville Tavern chef Drew Abruzzese said that when he calls the current impasse “a political game of chicken.”

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to put aside our differences, fund our government, and get our Federal employees back to work.

I am grateful for Drew’s generosity and leadership, along with his father and the owner of Pineville Tavern, Andrew Abruzzese. Their dedication to our community is deeply appreciated.
Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a Bucks County icon who passed away on January 10 at the age of 87. Ed Burns embodied public service throughout his entire life and his storied career.

In 1972, Ed entered State government, serving as a State representative for the 18th District for nearly 20 years. Notably, Ed later became the first mayor of Bensalem, serving honorably from 1990 to 1994.

We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to Ed's wife, Joan; his son, Joseph F. Burns; and his two beautiful grandchildren.

Ed's legacy of public service to Bensalem and Bucks County has left an indelible mark on our community, one that will last for generations.

ANTISEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHRIER. Madam Speaker, I want to applaud my colleagues, especially Mr. ENGEL and Mr. MCCAUL, for sending a strong message with a vote on H.R. 221, the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism Act.

Jewish people enjoy freedom, acceptance, and assimilation in this country like we never have before. Sadly, in recent years, there has been a disturbing uptick in anti-Semitic rhetoric and acts both in the U.S. and Europe.

In the context of rising intolerance, hatred, and xenophobia in our country, we are witnessing emboldened normalization of anti-Semitic language and behavior. This includes anti-Semitic propaganda targeting many of us new Members of Congress. The tragic shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh was the deadliest attack on Jews in our Nation's history.

Bigotry is not unique to the Jewish community. What is, however, is that we don't have anyone monitoring and responding to the uptick in anti-Semitic acts and rhetoric.

This bill elevates the State Department's top position to that of Ambassador, reporting directly to the Secretary of State. The stature of this position sends the strong message that we are committed to combating anti-Semitism here and abroad.

As a Jewish woman, anti-Semitism is personal for me, but we need to understand this in the context of the larger issues of intolerance and White nationalism that are gaining traction in our country right now.

No minority is safe when any minority is targeted. We should all be on high alert when Muslims, Blacks, Latinos, and immigrants are cast as "the other," scapegoated, and dehumanized. We cannot sit idly by while people are targeted for how they dress, how they look, or how they choose to worship.

I ask my counterparts in the Senate to pass this bipartisan bill. Let's show the world that America takes this issue seriously and that hate has no place here.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I hope the President will start paying attention to the negative impacts of his pointless government shutdown when, in coming weeks, his actions deliver a devastating blow to some of America's most vulnerable families.

In 2018, 40 million Americans participated in SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, or about 12 percent of the population.

When the President and Senate Republicans let USDA's funding expire, the problem didn't just affect Federal employees; it extended to low-income families, farmers, and businesses.

If this shutdown continues, 40 million Americans will be at even greater risk of food insecurity as soon as March 2019, not to mention the millions of Americans who participate in child nutrition programs like school meals and other programs like WIC, the Women Infants and Children Food and Nutrition Service.

Last week, Secretary Perdue announced that USDA only has enough money to fund SNAP until the end of February. This means that in a few short weeks, millions of American families won't know where their next meal is coming from simply because the President wanted to throw a temper tantrum over building a wall.

Now, some may ask, why panic over something that won't happen for another month? Our timing on this is crucial. Just because we have time before SNAP, child nutrition programs, or WIC lose funding does not mean that we should wait until the last minute to fix the problem.

Nearly two-thirds of SNAP participants are children, elderly, or people with disabilities. In my home State of Massachusetts, over 760,000 people receive assistance. It is a program that is crucial for low-income, hardworking families.

SNAP is often just a supplement to a person's or family's monthly food budget. The average SNAP participant receives about $126 a month, which breaks down to a little over $1.40 per person, per meal.

Mr. Speaker is demanding for his wall could be used to pay for an entire month of food for all 40 million SNAP participants, and then some.

And while the SNAP funding problem starts with low-income families, depending on how long this shutdown continues, furloughed Federal employees themselves may temporarily need to rely on SNAP to keep food on the table.

The shutdown is also negatively impacting thousands of businesses that are seeking and updating their SNAP licenses, not to mention the negative impacts on thousands of farmers who are already feeling the backlash of the President's tariffs. These same farmers are facing further setbacks, because they will now face delays in processing and receiving the exact Federal aid that was promised to help subsidize their losses.

Mr. Speaker, none of this has anything to do with the debate over border security. The President should let these families hostage over this debate.

Last Thursday, the House passed a key spending bill to fund the USDA because we recognize the crippling effects that these funding gaps have on the American people. We have put programs like SNAP, WIC, and Federal farm loans for a reason: because they make a difference in people's lives.

We owe it to our constituents to listen to their voices and do the job they elected us to do, but we can't do it without the support of our Senate colleagues. Madam Speaker, our counterparts in the Senate ought to consider all that is at stake when they shut down our government. This isn't about partisanship. This is about acting in the best interest of our constituents.

Today marks the 24th day in what has become the longest Federal shutdown in our country's history, and we have nothing to show for it. We have lost the government so we can have an informed and rational debate about how best to secure our own borders.

Madam Speaker, I am not going to be silent while millions of families are caught in the crosshairs of a medieval solution to the real 21st century challenges this country is facing. Families, children, farmers, and small businesses don't elect us to do, but we can let this government shutdown get to a point where we fail to provide our most vulnerable citizens with the food assistance that they need to thrive. That is cruel.

Let us do the job we were sent here to do. Let's end this stupid shutdown. Let's stop families from going hungry, and let's end hunger now.
HONORING JOSEPH FARINA

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

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, at a time of dysfunction and rancor, it is useful to remember a time when America led the world because of the heroism of everyday Americans. I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Sergeant Joseph Farina of New Windsor, New York.

Joe was a regular guy who ran a bowling alley in Newburgh, New York. He was a 20-year-old and a member of the National Guard when America was attacked at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. That same night, Joseph volunteered for service.

During war, he was deployed to the Philippines and New Guinea, where his service earned him four battle stars, numerous other medals, and two Presidential citations.

Joseph passed away at his home last month at the age of 97. Next to him was his wife of 76 years, Elizabeth, whom he had married in Brisbane, Australia, at the height of the war in 1942. Joseph would actually work in Australia for many years and pioneer the sport of bowling there.

But his legacy is far broader than that, not only to his country during his service in World War II, but also to the veterans community in the Hudson Valley and across America.

He was active in many veterans organizations, the Catholic War Veterans, and he helped to cofound the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor in New Windsor, New York. The Hall of Honor is dedicated to collecting and sharing the stories of Purple Heart recipients. No comprehensive list of Purple Heart recipients exists, and the hall acts as an important archive and monument to their service.

Joseph, like so many in his generation, knew what it meant to serve others. Like so many in his generation, he worked in his community and was a person dedicated to something bigger than himself. What a powerful lesson for all of us to recall today. He was a model American citizen, and he will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR LARRY LANGFORD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of late Mayor Larry Paul Langford. Mayor Langford was a beloved mayor of Birmingham and Fairfield, as well as serving Jefferson County as its first African American president of the Jefferson County Commission. He devoted much of his time to big ideas for the people whom he loved in the communities that he served.

Mayor Langford will be remembered as a larger-than-life personality who broke barriers as the first Black reporter for the region at WBRC; the first Black mayor of Fairfield, Alabama; the first Black president of the Jefferson County Commission; and as mayor of Fairfield. A Vietnam vet, Mayor Langford served in public office in multiple capacities for nearly 23 years, and he will be greatly missed by our community.

On March 17, 1946, Larry Langford was born to John Langford and to Lilian Nance Langford as the oldest of six children. He was a proud graduate of Parker High School in Birmingham, Alabama. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, serving for five years during the Vietnam war.

Langford returned home with a renewed sense of community and a renewed sense of service. He quickly completed his college degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and he became the first African American male to become a news reporter for WBRC 6 News in its region.

The importance of this role was never lost on Langford. He knew that, after the tumultuous decade before, to have an African American man reporting the news in this area was an important sign of progress in the city of Birmingham. Langford did well as a reporter, using his charisma and outgoing personality. He was able to speak with the people of Birmingham and tell their stories.

Langford decided to run for his first political office. He was elected to the Birmingham City Council in 1977, where he quickly became known as the liveliest and most outspoken of city council members, as well as the most media savvy.

During his time on the Birmingham City Council, he also worked as a radio news director and contributed to the Birmingham Times. After an unsuccessful run for mayor of the city of Birmingham against fellow Councilman Richard Arrington, Jr., in 1979, Langford temporarily retreated from public life. But in 1982, Langford had a second chance. He re-entered the political field with a bang, serving for 20 years as mayor of Birmingham.

Nearly 17,000 elementary and middle school children received laptops that year.

Mayor Langford’s 23-year political career resulted in many successful public projects, his service was not without controversy. Mayor Langford’s tenure as mayor of Birmingham was cut short when a jury found him guilty of public corruption on October 28, 2009, and he was sentenced to 15 years. After serving 8½ years, on December 28, 2018, due to his failing health, Mayor Langford’s sentence was commuted by a Federal judge, giving him compassionate release. The next day, Mayor Langford was transferred from a Federal prison in Birmingham Hospital, where he remained until his death.

I want you to know, on a personal note, Mayor Langford was an outstanding mayor and his service will always be remembered and beloved by the community that loved him so much. I was honored to be a part of his funeral and to help him get his compassionate release. It is important that we remember the totality of his career.

I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Mayor Larry Langford.

SENIORS HAVE EYES, EARS, AND TEETH ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD of California. Madam Speaker, as we begin this new Congress, I am proud to introduce the Seniors Have Eyes, Ears, and Teeth Act, with 78 of my colleagues. My bill would
reverse a longstanding Medicare prohibition on critical health services for our seniors.

Since its implementation in 1965, Medicare has excluded coverage for hearing aids and related audiology services, routine dental care, and routine eye exams and eyeglasses, despite the large number of older Americans who critically need these items and services.

The Commonwealth Fund reports that, among all Medicare beneficiaries who needed a hearing aid, only 75 percent did not have one. Of those who had trouble eating because of problems with their teeth, 70 percent had not seen a dentist in the past year. And of those who had trouble seeing, 43 percent had not had an eye exam in the past year. The reason for many seniors was affordability.

According to the latest statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation, more than half of Medicare beneficiaries live on incomes below $26,200 per year. For them to pay out of pocket creates extreme hardship.

Sadly, reliable data shows that neglect of all health, and even the lack of routine dental exams and cleanings, can deteriorate overall physical health and exacerbate serious and complicated health problems that increase with age.

It is also increasingly well documented that untreated vision and hearing loss diminishes quality of life and increases the risk of costly health outcomes, such as falls and resulting disabilities, depression, and dementia.

My bill would remove the restrictions currently prohibiting Medicare coverage of these basic healthcare necessities such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dental care. Expanding Medicare coverage for these services is a cost-effective intervention that will prevent falls, cognitive impairments, and increases in chronic conditions and oral cancer.

Madam Speaker, if we do not address these gaps in health coverage now, the overall health of our aging population will continue to suffer and the need for costly and avoidable services will increase. But most importantly, giving our older adults the gift of hearing, vision, and oral health would go a long way toward helping our seniors enjoy their golden years free from depression and social isolation.

It is time to recognize that total healthcare for our seniors must include adequate access to vision, hearing, and dental services. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Senators Have Eyes, Ears, and Teeth Act, and ensure a healthier future for all our seniors.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about what is now the longest government shutdown in American history, its impact on the hardworking men and women of Massachusetts, and the opportunity cost of the current impasse.

Over the last several weeks, I have heard heartbreaking stories from Federal workers and their families from across north central Massachusetts. During a meeting I had last week in Andover, when I asked employees about their prescriptions and parents worrying about putting food on the table.

One woman had just recently lost her husband and others were still recovering from last September’s gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley. A few days earlier, I spoke with an air traffic controller at Logan Airport who, after hearing the Federal/Trump’s assurances from the Oval Office that the budget standoff would not lead to a shutdown last month, felt comfortable splurging on Christmas presents for his wife and four children. Now, with the bills coming due and his pay stub reading zero, he is worried and concerned with anxiety and financial hardship.

Each of the over 800,000 Federal workers impacted by this shutdown, close to 7,500 in Massachusetts alone, has a story to share. I am the daughter of a union iron worker and the country’s biggest union, the AFL–CIO, has been saying: A fair day’s wage for a fair day’s work. We gain nothing from punishing the dedicated Federal workforce, nor do we position ourselves to recruit the best and the brightest if we can’t even keep the lights on.

Today, the majority in this Chamber continues to vote for legislation that endorses critical services, and makes Federal employees financially whole again.

As we continue to wait on the President and his party’s leadership in the Senate to do the right thing by approving House-passed legislation to end this shutdown, critical pieces of legislation languish as the American people wait anxiously for Congress to act on real issues and crises, not the manufactured one on the border.

Healthcare costs continue to rise. Our climate is rapidly changing as coastal communities suffer from more intense storms and more frequent flooding, while California has faced down some of the largest and deadliest fires in the history of the State.

Gun violence continues to rip apart families and communities, and more Americans died of an opioid overdose than died during the Vietnam war. There is so much more we should be focused on.

Madam Speaker, we cannot allow shutting down the government over a policy debate to become the new normal. I visited Newt Gingrich’s shutdown and remember feeling that it was an unprecedented event, never to happen again. Sadly, that feeling was wrong.

We were all elected to this body to debate issues that matter to the American people. It is what our constituents expect us to do. It is time to open the government and debate border security on the floor of the people’s House for all Americans.

Ensuring the safety and the security of the United States is among our most solemn responsibilities. I take it very seriously, but the only crisis right now is the one the President is making.

Each day that the government remains closed, it threatens the financial security of Federal workers, the people who process our taxes, inspect our food, and ensure airport security as well as all of the people who depend upon them.

Each day of the shutdown is a day lost supporting education, improving roads and bridges, and providing affordable healthcare.

We have sent bill after bill to the upper Chamber to provide border security and reopen the government. This week, we will do it again. If the President wants to improve border security, he should work with Democrats on real solutions.

Madam Speaker, I oppose a $5 billion wall. Experts say the wall won’t stop the flow of drugs or prevent visa overstays. The people who live at the border don’t want it. But when you stand on funding a border wall, holding Federal employees and their families hostage is unacceptable.

Madam Speaker, it is time to put people first, end this government shutdown, and get back to work.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF GDANSK MAYOR PAWEL ADAMOWICZ

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Poland, it is with a truly heavy heart that I rise this morning to express deep sympathy to your NATO ally, Poland, and its countrymen and women on the brutal slaying of visionary Gdansk Mayor Pawel Adamowicz.

Mayor Adamowicz had served his city since 1998 as it championed the values of liberty, equality, and democracy. I hold profound respect for his enduring dedication, perseverance, and honorable service to his community and nation. He loved Gdansk as a beacon for a Poland strong and free.

What a deep tragedy this is for his grieving family, his wife, his children, his associates, for the Polish nation, and for freedom-loving people everywhere.

Far too much blood has been shed on Polish soil for the world to ignore such a heinous crime that took his life.

I visited Gdansk in both 2009 and 2013, and through these visits, I gained an even deeper respect for its noble history and its place on Earth, including the location where Nazi shelling at Westerplatte began the catastrophic invasion of Poland starting World War II.

PUT THE PEOPLE FIRST AND END GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN) for 5 minutes.
This year, we will commemorate the 80th anniversary of that moment.

Then more recently, Gdansk’s re-demptive transformative role in world history with the courageous Solidarnosc worker strikes that tripped across the iron curtain of tyranny across Central Europe, imposed by the Soviet Union, ushering in the possibility of freedom for the millions who suffered under dehumanizing repression for over half a century.

In our modern era, Gdansk became that symbol of liberty. It formally partnered with the city of Cleveland, Ohio, which I am privileged to represent, along with Congresswoman Marcia Fudge, in a sister-cities relationship. As part of my own congressional district, I am deeply honored and proud of this relationship.

In Mayor Adamowicz’s memory, I and this Congress must stand ready to strengthen this alliance of liberty, certainly at this moment in history. In his memory, our Poland Caucus must pursue an annual liberty exchange in his name to nurture aspiring young Polish leaders who follow in his footsteps in pursuit of liberty and security for Poland. Let his death serve as a constant reminder of how precious freedom remains. I am certain Polish law enforcement officials will examine the circumstances surrounding the perpetrator’s actions with a diligent eye. They must ascertain whether there are any linkages that exist with outside influence or propaganda that might have catalyzed this heinous crime.

I know I speak on behalf of all Americans and of millions of Polish Americans across our country, including in Ohio, to remind all freedom-loving people that the United States stands with Poland now at this hour of mourning.

During these uncertain times, we must work to strengthen our transatlantic and NATO alliances through increased diplomatic, cultural, and military exchanges.

May the soul of Mayor Pawel Adamowicz rest in peace, and may the military exchanges. increased diplomatic, cultural, and Atlantic and NATO alliances through must work to strengthen our trans-Atlantic and NATO alliances through increased diplomatic, cultural, and military exchanges. that the United States stands with for Poland.

In Mayor Adamowicz’s memory, I and this Congress must stand ready to strengthen this alliance of liberty, certainly at this moment in history. In his memory, our Poland Caucus must pursue an annual liberty exchange in his name to nurture aspiring young Polish leaders who follow in his footsteps in pursuit of liberty and security for Poland. Let his death serve as a constant reminder of how precious freedom remains. I am certain Polish law enforcement officials will examine the circumstances surrounding the perpetrator’s actions with a diligent eye. They must ascertain whether there are any linkages that exist with outside influence or propaganda that might have catalyzed this heinous crime.

I know I speak on behalf of all Americans and of millions of Polish Americans across our country, including in Ohio, to remind all freedom-loving people that the United States stands with Poland now at this hour of mourning.

During these uncertain times, we must work to strengthen our transatlantic and NATO alliances through increased diplomatic, cultural, and military exchanges.

May the soul of Mayor Pawel Adamowicz rest in peace, and may the worth of his noble life inspire the young leaders of Poland to pursue his visionary leadership.

OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, today reflects two interesting commemorations. First, it is the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who lost his life in a fight for justice for public employees. I wonder what he would say on this day while we are in the longest shutdown that is really against the Nation’s proud and needed Federal employees across the Nation.

I think it is important for my colleagues to reflect that 80 percent of those impacted who work for the Federal Government are outside of the Capital of the United States.

The second commemoration is a founder’s day for Alpha Kappa Alpha. That is the group of young women who organized a women’s organization in 1908 and who joined with Howard University to stand for service to the Nation. They were African American young women. As I have said, in a segregated Nation, in the midst of Jim Crow-isms, these women stood up to be servants of change and good government.

As I mention this, I do it because of where we are today. It is important to note the tragic impact that we cannot see that are not the headlines of Federal employees, their families, but even those who are not Federal employees impacted by the lack of service, such as a disabled woman who may not get her payments from HUD and may be evicted from housing that she desperately needs.

So why are we here? It is interesting that for the 2 years that the President has served after convincing every voter in America that any wall will be paid for by the country of Mexico, our neighbor and our friend, he never found a path for that to happen. How he thought it was a fantasy, untrue, and it would never happen.

But in the 2 years that he had the Presidency, the Republican Party, the House and the Senate, he never made an issue of this wall. But when the Nation wanted a change and elected Democrats to the House of Representatives in the majority, all of a sudden in the close of the Mueller investigation and a number of other investigations going forward, indictments of various collaborators and close associates of the White House, all of a sudden the wall becomes a major national issue, rather than the crisis of dealing with the needs of the American people from gun violence, to jobs, to dealing with our disasters, it is that.

But, yet, we have worked as Democrats in the House to get the government open and to stop the Trump shutdown. When we first were sworn in, we voted on every bipartisan bill that the Senate had voted on to open the government. That was the week of January 3. We then, in the last week, voted for every Republican appropriations bill in order to send to the Senate for the government to open.

Then there were ideas of extending the homeland security funding for a short period of time to February 8, 3 weeks. We supported that. We were even eager to hear from the Senator from South Carolina to open the government and then begin the negotiations.

None of these suggestions were taken. In fact, the suggestion of the Senator from South Carolina, a Republican, was rejected out of hand on this past Monday. The President has not been able to provide his own solutions. He has not understood smart border security means we can sit down and devise ways to ensure more personnel, to be able to make sure there are TSO officers, Border Patrol officers, Customs and Border Protection, laptops, technology, drones, and scanners.

That is what the American people believe in. That is what the American people believe in. The American people are smart. They know that we can find a solution, and they also know the solution comes in many forms, an infrastructure of some sort.

Those of us on the border States have been to the border. It is our home. We have seen the 700 miles of border infrastructure. We have seen construction going on.

I just came back from the border again. I am from Texas. I was there in the place where Felipe, the little boy who died, came across. He came across with family members. They turned themselves in seeking asylum. More courts and more judges we need to ensure—

So there is a solution. In the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, I would simply say to let us be a warrior for justice and find the peace and solve the problem. Open the government to this White House.

THE PLIGHT OF AMERICAN WORKERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE) for 5 minutes. Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Over the last 5 years she was paid over $100 million, and her successor—who makes Ms. Rosenfeld look poor by comparison—Mr. Dirk Van de Put in 41 days was paid $42 million.

Now, $42 million for 41 days of work, $105 million for the last 5 years’ worth of work, you must think: What superstars these two are. What great achievements or great invention did these two CEOs come up with?

Here is what they have donetaking care?

They closed the factory in Philadel-phia in my district that employed hun- dreds of people for over 60 years. They closed a similar plant in Chicago that employed over 600 people. By the way, when I say employed, I am not talking about minimum wage jobs. I am talking about good, family-sustaining jobs.

Now, where did these jobs go? What to other part of the United States did they go?

Salinas, Mexico, where workers, instead of getting family-sustaining wages, are getting paid approximately $1.50 an hour. That is wrong. When you wonder why there is such angst in our
economy today, despite the historically low unemployment rate, this is why.

In case you think that Philadelphia and Chicago might be exceptions to this Nabisco business model, they have also done it in Pittsburgh, Houston, Niles, St. Elmo, Buena Park, and as I have mentioned, of course, Philadelphia and Chicago.

This is greed on steroids.

So the next time you crave an Oreo or crave Chips Ahoy!—both Nabisco brands—Madam Speaker, I urge you to take a look at the back of the package and see whether or not it was still made in the United States or if it is one of the products that is now made in Mexico.

Madam Speaker, I also urge you to do this: contact your Member of Congress and say that you are not going to accept trade deals and tax policies that allow this sort of disgraceful behavior to happen—the hollowing out of American middle class jobs.

It is wrong, and we the elected officials of this country have to stand up for the American worker.

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

☐ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

God of the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

It is Your nature to hold us in Your loving presence always. It is our nature to think of You or of others only momentarily or in passing.

Be with each of us, that we may be our very best and prove ourselves worthy of Your love and Your grace.

Bless the Members of this people’s House in their work and deliberations today, that they might merit the trust of the American people and manifest the strength of our republican democracy to the nations of the world.

Without You, O Lord, we can do nothing. With You and in You, we can establish a community of peace, goodness, and justice now and forever.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCANLON 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Joe Shuker, a Federal worker in my district.

I met with Joe on Friday after he reached out, looking for help for his colleagues, TSA agents who have been working for 3 weeks without pay. Their jobs are stressful, and many of them live paycheck to paycheck. Now they have the added stress of struggling to pay mortgages, rent, childcare, or even to put food on the table. Many can’t afford to get gas to get to their jobs.

Joe has gone door to door to get people to donate food and diapers to meet the most basic needs of his coworkers and their families. He told me about a family with a 3-month-old baby. They can’t afford baby formula—baby formula.

This is unacceptable.

Holding Federal workers hostage and shutting down our government is a failed tactic. The House has sent legislation to reopen the government to the Senate three times. We have done our job. The Senate needs to do its.

CONGRATULATING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY EAGLES MEN’S SOCCER TEAM

(Mrs. HARTZLZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. HARTZLZER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Central Methodist University Eagles men’s soccer team of Fayette, Missouri, in Missouri’s Fourth Congressional District, winner of the NAIA men’s national soccer championship.

Head coach Alex Nichols and the Eagles capped off a superb 22-2-2 season with a penalty shootout victory over Missouri Valley in the championship finale in Irvine, California.

This national soccer championship is the first ever for any team sport for Central Methodist University. It is the culmination of steady progress that saw the Eagles move from a top 30 ranking three seasons ago, to a top 20 ranking two seasons ago, to a top 12 ranking last season, and finally to the number one spot this past season.

I congratulate the Central Methodist University Eagles on winning the national championship. Your hard work, dedication, and determination paid off and left an example future teams will strive to follow.

Well done.

REOPEN OUR GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. SHALALÁ. Madam Speaker, I rise in solidarity with the thousands of Federal employees across my district and across this Nation who, because of the shutdown, haven’t received a paycheck.

I want to share the story of Robert Guevara, a Federal aviation safety inspector in my district who did not receive a paycheck this past Friday. He is tasked with overseeing the airline’s mechanics and repairing facilities so operations run smoothly and safely at Miami International Airport. He has one goal: aviation safety. He prides himself on keeping our travelers safe and ensuring that all inspections are as thorough and accurate as possible.

After 21 years of service in the Air Force, he told me he could barely recognize our country anymore. How can the greatest country on Earth tell its employees to work without a paycheck? How can we hold our patriots hostage?

Madam Speaker, no one wins in a shutdown. We must demand that this administration and the Senate leadership reopen our government.

AMERICA’S PARTNERSHIP WITH FINLAND

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, America is grateful for our alliance with Finland, a loyal NATO partner, to promote regional security.

Finnish Defense Minister Jussi Niinisto wrote an article in Defense News reviewing our partnership:

“Today, the Finnish Defense Forces are more capable and more interoperable than they have ever been. That makes [Finland] effective in looking after our own security and a solid partner for other EU member states and NATO countries.”

“During my time as the minister of defense of Finland, we have taken other steps to strengthen the trans-Atlantic link. A prime example is our bilateral defense relationship with the
United States. In October 2016, we signed our bilateral statement of intent on defense cooperation. This was later followed by a trilateral statement of intent between Finland, Sweden, and the United States in May 2018.

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

MOOCHER STATES

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to put on notice every State mooching New Jersey's tax dollars.

Last week, a new Rockefeller report revealed what we have known for too long: Some States, like New Jersey, are paying their own weight and paying their own way. Other States are not. They are mooching off the rest of us.

My district has historically received 33 cents for every dollar it sends to Washington, D.C., while other States, like Mississippi and Alabama, receive 7 to 12 times that amount, depending upon the study.

According to one study, the National Priorities Project report, as you see here, moocher States like Mississippi receive $1.38 for every dollar they send to Washington.

This news is only compounded by the fact that, come tax season, the tax hike bill, which gutted the State and local tax deductions, kicks in and will really start to hurt my district. That was a giveaway to the moocher States and was largely paid for by States like mine.

New Jersey is one of the top tax-paying States in the Nation, which is why we must cut taxes there for residents and businesses of all sizes and work with mayors to continue to do like I have done to claw back more dollars to the State. We are already up 16 percent.

Madam Speaker, as this new Congress begins, I am making it one of my core missions to reinstate the SALT deduction, stop double taxation, and fight against the moocher States who continue to rob us blind. It is time to fight to get more dollars back to States like ours.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, this month, we celebrate Human Trafficking and National Slavery Prevention Month, and I rise today to draw attention to the importance of combating this epidemic.

Human trafficking takes many forms, including sex, forced labor, and domestic servitude. Educating individuals about human trafficking is essential to thwarting this modern day form of slavery.

This need for increased awareness is why I have partnered with the Center for Prevention of Abuse in Peoria, Illinois, and also the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to host two human trafficking awareness prevention roundtables in my district, bringing together State, local, and Federal officials. We held valuable dialogues with those on the front lines of this crisis about ways to end human trafficking for good.

This week, I am proud to be joining my colleague, Congresswoman Val Demings from Florida, to introduce a resolution to formally recognize January as National Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Prevention Month in Congress.

As I have learned firsthand, combating human trafficking will take a multifaceted approach, but if we continue to educate and make resources available at all levels, important strides can be made and we can end this crisis.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, it has been 25 days, 25 days since over 800,000 Federal employees have either been going to work without pay or have been furloughed, all of them wondering: How am I going to pay my rent or my mortgage? How am I going to afford the bills that I need to pay to take care of my family?

I heard recently from Jay from the island of Maui, in my district of Hawaii, who is a TSA employee who has been working this entire time without pay, wondering how he is going to pay his mortgage, car, credit card payments, and life-saving medical care that he needs to provide for his daughter.

Jay is not alone. Our national parks are filling with trash. Our Coast Guard members are working without pay, being told they should hold garage sales or start babysitting to help pay the bills while the government is shut down.

Food stamps for tens of millions of Americans are at risk, while low-income housing subsidies aren't being renewed, impacting over 340,000 elderly and disabled veterans who depend on that rental assistance. The safety and security of our country is at risk.

We cannot turn our backs on our brothers and sisters. These are real people, real families, real lives, and real futures.

So, Senator McConnell and President Trump must pass the bipartisan legislation we have already passed and reopen the government now.

CELEBRATING SESQUICENTENNIAL OF JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

(Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate and pay tribute to my hometown of Johnson City, Tennessee, for its sesquicentennial.

In 1856, entrepreneur Henry Johnson opened a railroad station and a commercial business, the depot. Just 13 years later, in 1869, Johnson City was founded, holding its first election on January 3, 1870, when voters elected Mr. Johnson as the city's first mayor.

Today, Johnson City boasts a diverse economy, attracting national and regional companies while also supporting countless small business owners. The city is home to three major hospitals; to the James H. Quillen VA Medical Center, which serves more than 170,000 veterans; and to East Tennessee State University, recognized for the highly regarded Quillen College of Medicine and Gatton College of Pharmacy.

The city has become a thriving community of more than 66,000 residents, and I look forward to what is in store for Johnson City over the next 150 years. I doubt that I will be there.

Madam Speaker, I will include in the Record a more complete statement of Johnson City's history.
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hon. Nancy Pelosi,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 15, 2019, at 9:36 a.m.:

Appointments:
National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,
KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules or to order the yeas and nays, or to vote on an amendment or to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. Res. 27
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (division C of Public Law 115-245) is further amended by striking the date specified in section 105(3) and inserting “February 1, 2019”. This joint resolution may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LIVEAU

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.J. Res. 27, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we are now in the 25th day of the Trump shutdown, the longest Federal Government shutdown in United States history.

This past Friday, hundreds of thousands of dedicated Federal employees went without a paycheck. It is shameful that the stubborn whims of this President have harmed the security of America’s public servants. That includes Federal law enforcement officials at the FBI, the very Secret Service agents who protect the President, and those who work tirelessly to protect our air travel, our national parks, our environment, and public health.

The bill before us is the seventh—let me repeat, the seventh—piece of legislation Democrats have put on the House floor to end the Trump shutdown and get the government back to work for the American people. It will reopen government through February 1, providing time for Congress to come together to negotiate a full-year agreement without further jeopardizing vital services or the pay of Federal workers.

It is long past time that Senate Republicans join us to reopen the government, pay our Federal employees, and negotiate on border security and immigration policy. Madam Speaker, I hope that my colleagues across the Capitol come to their senses and end this shutdown.

I urge support for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.J. Res. 27, a continuing resolution providing funding through February 1.

I support the goal of reopening the government. There are many critical programs that are on pause which are important to my constituents and all of us, programs like TSA, Border Patrol, Coast Guard, and air traffic controllers.

Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today will not restart those programs or help our districts. That is because the agreement is not a comprehensive solution to resolve the government shutdown and fully address the security and humanitarian crisis we face on our southern border.

Criminals, terrorists, and drugs are flooding across our southern border. Tens of thousands of children, many of them, without their parents, make the dangerous trip to the United States every year. I have been to the border and to Central America, and I have heard the heart-breaking stories. This situation is unacceptable and it must be addressed. We can and we must do better.

Madam Speaker, again, I share the concern that parts of the government
remain closed and employees are not yet being paid, but moving this bill across the floor will not fix the problem. To put it simply, there is not a bipartisan consensus on this plan.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my good friend, an outstanding legislator, chair-designate of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairwoman LOWEY for the recognition and the opportunity to speak. Madam Speaker, this vote is a tribute to the thousands of Federal patriots who have shown up to work for the past 25 days, working with no pay. This must end today. I call on my colleagues in this body to vote to support our hardworking public servants.

This bill is a clean continuing resolution. It comprises short-term funding through February 1 for all the agencies and departments currently shuttered for no good reason. Those include the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the State Department, the Interior Department, the Agriculture Department, the Department of Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, and many more agencies.

The President is not serving this Nation; he is not serving it well as he uses his authority to harm our Republic. Civil servants are the bonds that hold our country together.

The Commander in Chief is hurting our Nation and holds our entire government hostage to his harebrained notion that you can stop drug trafficking and migration with a wall. The drug traffickers must be laughed up a storm. They already ship it here hidden in legal cargo. They dig tunnels under the 650 miles of border that already exists. And those that have been flying contraband material over our border. They send illegal contraband in here from our coastal ports, and they ship it from China through even the Postal Service, and we don't have a mechanism to detect fentanyl in the mail.

To secure our Nation and our border, our Nation first needs to open all our government agencies for the American people who are paying the bills, open those shelters, and pay those women and men who dedicate their lives to protecting our borders and protecting us. Once the government is open, we can spend the next weeks discussing how best to fund mechanisms that will truly improve our security. This could include thorough inspection of all cargo.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. This could include enhanced electronic surveillance between ports of entry. This could include additional personnel at all ports of entry to increase checks. And, frankly, in communities like I represent, it should involve increasing DEA agents to take care of the gangs that are trafficking in these illegal materials.

But most importantly, we need a President who understands you don't stop the drug trade or undocumented migration of individuals by shuttering the entire Department of Homeland Security or making them go to work with no pay. He has got the wrong answer for what America needs to address in border security.

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

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT).

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Madam Speaker, I think we all agree that the American people expect this legislative body to deliver solutions to the difficult challenges that face our Nation each and every day.

As a longtime member of the Appropriations Committee, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle over the years to try to reach agreements when we were trying to fund the Federal Government. What we have to do is try to find common ground.

The matter of how we fully fund the Federal Government for the remainder of FY19, of course, remains unsolved basically for one reason: My colleagues on the other side of the aisle won't negotiate. They have rejected requests to negotiate a deal. They need to come to the table with a counteroffer. Instead, they continue to kick the can down the road and continue to play politics with this issue.

Our colleagues reject the solutions required to fund the Federal Government. They are the ones who actually protect the border. By digging in a position which is political and not policy, ultimately, they are responsible for the shutdown of the government agencies.

However, this short-term CR, known as a continuing resolution, does not solve the problem. The Democratic leadership has said 100 percent no. This bill hits, basically, the snooze button for a few more weeks. I think it is time that the other side of the aisle wake up and negotiate and come back to the table to find a real solution.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), my good friend, who is the chair-designate of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to reopen the Federal Government and end this destructive Trump shutdown. For 23 days now, the Trump shutdown has inflicted financial pain and anxiety on families, businesses, and entire communities across the United States.

I've been inside a room with a full room of these victims. Aviation safety experts detailed for me how the Trump shutdown has ushered in an air travel system that, for now, is safe, but they are growing worried and concerned.

I heard from Federal workers who told me that the changes to tax laws ushered in during the Republican tax scam have left citizens scrambling for answers, yet workers are not there who can shepherd them through those changes.

□ 1230

A local leader who represents domestic violence shelters warned me, if the Trump shutdown drags on, as many as a third of the Florida facilities that women count on for refuge when they are victims of domestic violence could find themselves cutting services. Workers in the Postal Service have already done our job. We have passed half a dozen bills to reopen the government, yet Senate Republicans have decided to hide behind President Trump and his border boondoggle refusing to take ‘yes’ for an answer that could end this irresponsible shutdown.

While they are busy bowing to the President, Senate Republicans recklessly ignore that public safety is at stake. They downplay, and even dismiss, that 800,000 families are now living without a paycheck today.

Businesses, farmers, veterans, restaurant workers, domestic violence victims, and many more are all feeling real pain from this unnecessary shutdown. We need to do our job. We need to work together and actually be the coequal branch of government that the Constitution describes.

So today, House Democrats will do just that and give our economy and those affected another option to get us out of this latest Trump trap and offer this bill that would reopen all closed Federal agencies through February 1. This bill would allow time for us to negotiate border security and immigration reform, but without inflicting further economic harm on our families and our businesses. It is the smart, reasonable, and compassionate thing to do.

I ask my colleagues to pass this bill today without delay.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, it is once again disappointing to witness my Democratic colleagues pull political stunts rather than make serious efforts to find a compromise to reopen the government.

This legislation that we have before us today has only seen the light of day for 20 minutes. Democratic leadership is abusing the suspension list—something usually reserved for bipartisan, noncontroversial legislation—to
play politics with this government shutdown.

Let me be clear: This legislation will not reopen the government. This has, once again, as we have seen for 3 weeks in a row now, House Democrats using valuable time on the floor of the House of Representatives to play political games rather than to do our job to find a real solution to reopen shuttered agencies.

It is being reported that President Trump has invited several House Democrats to the White House today to discuss the government shutdown and potentially find solutions for compromise. Unfortunately, it is also being reported that several of my fellow House Members have rejected that invitation. If that is true, it demonstrates a serious neglect of our duties as representatives of the people.

As my friend from California, Jackie Speier, rightly said just this morning on cable news: “I think when the President is demonstrating his willingness to compromise, I sincerely hope my Democratic colleagues will heed the invitation and come to the table with a real offer. Any rejection of this invitation is a shameful disregard of the seriousness of the situation before us.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, in opposition to H.R. 27. I thank Ranking Member GRANGER for allowing me to speak on this very important issue, and I thank my distinguished colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Mrs. LOWEY is a friend from New York. We have served together.

Madam Speaker, this situation is frustrating. We have come to a place right now where we received a phone call last night from the Commandant of the Coastal Guard, Admiral Schultz. He talked about the wonderful men and women who are serving so well and so hard and who are not going to get a paycheck because of this situation.

We all want border security; I believe that. But I also believe that President Trump is right, that we need a wall, a barrier.

I happen to represent the people of the Third District of Tennessee—wonderful people, east Tennessee—and they tell me time and time again: Build a wall; keep our border and keep us safe; but we also want the government open.

And when I look at the polling data, when I look at the phone calls, it is high time that we get back to work, open the government, but keep us safe.

In our districts, we all represent Republicans and Democrats and Independents. Hopefully, most of the people vote. But even people who pay their taxes wisely do not vote, they count on the American Representatives, our House, to work, and they count on the Senate.

With all due respect, H.J. Res. 27 is dead on arrival in the United States Senate. We know that. The American people know that. The President knows that. We need a compromise on this wall issue right now that will satisfy security, that will keep the American people safe, and, yes, that will open the government.

Compromise is not a dirty word in this scenario. It is what we need to do, and we need good faith. I am not alleging bad faith on anyone in this body. I am saying it is time to call a timeout and get back to work and do the people's business.

They sent us here to govern. We need to govern. We need a wall. We need border security, and we need the government open. It is high time that we get there.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill. Another week has gone by and we find ourselves with another exercise in futility. As I said last week, these CRs are a waste of everyone's time and a waste of countless hours of hard work by members of staff on both sides of the aisle.

While we waste floor time and the American citizens' time, there are 800,000 families—and more—that are feeling the negative effects of the gamesmanship on the other side of the aisle. These effects are not limited to government employees. Contractors, small businesses, and the American families at large have been suffering for weeks.

Just the other day, in Jacksonville, I spoke with the father of a government subcontractor who explained to me how much this shutdown has hurt his son's livelihood.

Now, this idea that once the government is opened back up and government employees are going to receive their backpay, as I am sure most eventually will, there are many across this country who will not. His son is one of them.

And just to prove how ridiculous this entire thing is, due to the recalcitrance of Democrats, experts say that this shutdown has already cost our economy more than the President's request for the wall.

My colleagues on the other side of aisle want to score political points by denying our duly-elected President a campaign promise, a simple promise to protect the American citizen.

Rather than focusing energy on reaching a compromise with the Senate and the President to reopen the government and get Federal workers their paychecks, we are spending time on our bills, bringing bills to the floor that have absolutely no chance of becoming law.

Here is my message to the House majority: Stop using working-class Americans as leverage and come to the table to find a compromise on behalf of the American people.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: If the Speaker is serious about opening the government and getting people back to work, bring a bill to the floor that the Senate will pass and the President will sign.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this continuing resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, it is time to end the Trump shutdown. Let’s vote “yes.”

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, it is time to end the Trump shutdown. Let’s vote “yes.”

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 135) to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

**H. R. 135**

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 “Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

Section 102 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), to read as follows:”

“(4) accountability in the enforcement of Federal employee rights is furthered when Federal agencies take appropriate disciplin action against Federal employees who have been found to have committed discriminatory or retaliatory acts”; and
(2) In paragraph (5)(A)—
(A) by striking “nor is accountability” and inserting “but accountability is not”; and
(B) by inserting “for what by law the agency is responsible” after “under this Act”;

SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION.
Section 202 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) NOTIFICATION OF FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—
(1) Not later than 30 days after a Federal agency takes final action or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issues an appellate decision involving a finding of discrimination or retaliation prohibited by a provision of law covered by paragraph (1) or (2) of section 201(a), as applicable, the head of the agency subject to the finding shall provide notice for at least 1 year on the agency’s internet website in a clear and prominent location linked directly from the agency’s internet home page stating that a finding of discrimination or retaliation has been made.
(2) The notification shall identify the date the finding was made, the date or dates on which each complaint was filed, the complaint number for the action in the employee’s personnel record, and the provisions of law violated.

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.
(a) ELECTRONIC FORMAT REQUIREMENT.—
(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 203(a) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(B) by inserting “before Governmental Affairs” and “before Government Reform”; and
(C) by inserting “in an electronic format prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management” after “annual report”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1)(C) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the effective date in paragraph (2).

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—Section 203 of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) DISCIPLINARY ACTION REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which a Federal agency takes final action or a Federal agency receives an appellate decision issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission involving a finding of discrimination or retaliation in violation of a provision of law covered by paragraph (1) or (2) of section 201(a), as applicable, the employing Federal agency shall submit to the Commission a report stating whether disciplinary action has been initiated against a Federal employee as a result of the violation.

SEC. 5. DATA TO BE POSTED BY EMPLOYING FEDERAL AGENCIES.
Section 301(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (9)—
(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” and adding “and”;
(B) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
(C) by adding at the end the following: “(C) for each such finding counted under subparagraph (A), the agency shall specify—
(i) the date the finding was made;
(ii) the affected agency;
(iii) the law violated; and
(iv) whether a decision has been made regarding necessary disciplinary action as a result of the finding.”;
(D) by adding at the end the following: “(11) "Not later than 60 days after the date on which a complaint is filed, the Equal Employment Opportunity process and shall establish a system to track complaints of employment discrimination and retaliation arising in the Federal administration and shall establish a model Equal Employment Opportunity Program that—
(1) is not under the control, either structurally or practically, of a Human Capital or General Counsel office;
(2) is devoid of internal conflicts of interest and ensures fairness and inclusiveness within the organization; and
(3) ensures the efficient and fair resolution of complaints alleging discrimination or retaliation.

SEC. 402. NO LIMITATION ON HUMAN CAPITAL OR GENERAL COUNSEL ADVICE.
“Nothing in this title shall prevent a Federal agency’s Human Capital or General Counsel office from providing advice or counsel to Federal agency personnel on the processing and resolution of a complaint, including providing legal representation to a Federal agency in any proceeding.

SEC. 403. HEAD OF PROGRAM REPORTS TO HEAD OF AGENCY.
“The head of each Federal agency’s Equal Employment Opportunity Program shall report directly to the head of the agency.

SEC. 404. REFERRALS OF FINDINGS OF DISCRIMINATION.
“(a) EEOC FINDINGS OF DISCRIMINATION.—
Not later than 30 days after the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission issues an appellate decision involving a finding of discrimination or retaliation within a Federal agency, the Commission shall refer the matter to the Office of Special Counsel.

“(b) REFERRALS TO SPECIAL COUNSEL.—The Office of Special Counsel shall accept and review a referral from the Commission under subsection (a) for further disciplinary action under its authority against a Federal employee who commits an act of discrimination or retaliation.

“(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Office of Special Counsel shall notify the Commission in a case in which the Office of Special Counsel initiates disciplinary action against a Federal employee for an alleged act of discrimination or retaliation referred by the Commission under this section except in accordance with the requirements of section 1214(f) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 405. COMPLAINTS.
“Each Federal agency is responsible for the fair, impartial processing and resolution of complaints of employment discrimination and retaliation arising in the Federal administration and shall establish a model Equal Employment Opportunity Program that—

(1) is not under the control, either structurally or practically, of a Human Capital or General Counsel office;
(2) is devoid of internal conflicts of interest and ensures fairness and inclusiveness within the organization; and
(3) ensures the efficient and fair resolution of complaints alleging discrimination or retaliation.

SEC. 406. NOTIFICATION AND FEEDBACK TO EMPLOYEES.
“Not later than 30 days after a Federal agency initiates disciplinary action—
(A) the agency shall specify—
(i) the date the finding was made;
(ii) the affected agency;
(iii) the law violated; and
(iv) whether a decision has been made regarding necessary disciplinary action as a result of the finding.

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) an estimate of the total number of plaintiffs joined in the complaint if known;
(D) the current status of the complaint, including whether the class has been certified; and
(E) the case numbers for the civil actions in which discrimination or retaliation has been found.”;

SEC. 6. DATA TO BE POSTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION.
Section 302(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended by adding after section 206 the following:

“SEC. 207. COMPLAINT TRACKING.
“(1) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act of 2019, each Federal agency shall establish a system to track each complaint of discrimination arising under section 202(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and adjudicated through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission process from inception of the complaint, including whether a decision has been made regarding necessary disciplinary action as the result of a finding of discrimination.

SEC. 208. NOTATION IN PERSONNEL RECORD.
“If a Federal agency takes an adverse action covered under section 7512 of title 5, United States Code, against a Federal employee for an alleged act of discrimination or retaliation prohibited by a provision of law covered under section 202(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, and adjudicated through the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission process from inception of the complaint, including whether a decision has been made regarding necessary disciplinary action as the result of a finding of discrimination, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission shall notify the appropriate Federal agency, the Commission shall refer the matter to the Office of Special Counsel, or the Office of General Counsel, as applicable, for further disciplinary action under its authority against a Federal employee who commits an act of discrimination or retaliation.

SEC. 209. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 2301 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting after the item relating to section 206 the following:

“Sec. 207. Complaint tracking.
“Sec. 208. Notation in personnel record.”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“TITLE IV—PROCESSING AND REFERRAL
“Sec. 401. Processing and resolution of complaints.
“Sec. 402. No limitation on Human Capital or General Counsel advice.
“Sec. 403. Head of Program reports to head of agency.
“Sec. 404. Referrals of findings of discrimination.

SEC. 8. NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT LIMITATION.
Section 302(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13)—
(A) by inserting “or the Office of Special Counsel” after “Inspector General”; and
(B) by adding after subparagraph (A), as added by paragraph (1)(B), and preceding the flush left matter that follows paragraph (13), the following:

“(A) implement and inserting “(A) implement”; and

(2) by striking the period that follows the quoted material and inserting “; and”;

(B) by adding after subparagraph (A), as added by paragraph (1)(B), and preceding the flush left matter that follows paragraph (13), the following:

“(A) implement or enforce any nondisclosure policy, form, or agreement, if such policy, form, or agreement prohibits or restricts
During our committee’s bipartisan investigations of several different agencies—including the Forest Service, the Park Service, and the Transportation Security Administration—we have seen firsthand the consequences that employees can face when agencies fail to operate model EEO programs or when they do not handle complaints of harassment and discrimination in a fair, timely, consistent, and thorough manner.

We have also seen how employees who file complaints with their agencies’ EEO programs can be victimized again if appropriate steps are not taken to prevent the disclosure of complainants’ identities and personal information.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Madam Speaker, today I am very pleased to bring to the floor six bills from the Committee on Oversight and Reform. Each bill, I am very glad to say, enjoys bipartisan sponsorship. These measures will strengthen protections for Federal employees and for congressional interns and enhance accountability and improve the Federal procurement and grant processes.

The first measure we are bringing today is H.R. 135, the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act. This bill is essentially identical to legislation that has passed the House in each of the two previous Congresses. In the 114th Congress, the measure passed by a vote of 463-0; and in the last Congress, it passed by voice vote.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues—Representatives MEADOWS, NORTON, SENSENBRINER, and JACKSON LEE—for working with me on this measure.

During our committee’s bipartisan investigations of several different agencies—including the Forest Service, the Park Service, and the Transportation Security Administration—we have seen firsthand the consequences that employees can face when agencies fail to operate model EEO programs or when they do not handle complaints of harassment and discrimination in a fair, timely, consistent, and thorough manner.

We have also seen how employees who file complaints with their agencies’ EEO programs can be victimized again if appropriate steps are not taken to prevent the disclosure of complainants’ identities and personal information.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. Madam Speaker, today I am very pleased to bring to the floor six bills from the Committee on Oversight and Reform. Each bill, I am very glad to say, enjoys bipartisan sponsorship. These measures will strengthen protections for Federal employees and for congressional interns and enhance accountability and improve the Federal procurement and grant processes.

The first measure we are bringing today is H.R. 135, the Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act. This bill is essentially identical to legislation that has passed the House in each of the two previous Congresses. In the 114th Congress, the measure passed by a vote of 463-0; and in the last Congress, it passed by voice vote.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues—Representatives MEADOWS, NORTON, SENSENBRINER, and JACKSON LEE—for working with me on this measure.

I thank them for their leadership and their commitment for improving our Federal equal opportunity programs.

Let me also thank Tanya Ward Jor- dan, Paulette Taylor, and all the members of the Coalition 4 Change, known as C4C, for their work on this measure and their years of perseverance as we have worked to try to get this measure enacted into law.

One of my highest priorities as chair-
man of the Oversight Committee is to protect the right of every single Fed-
eral employee, every Federal job appli-
cant, and indeed of every citizen, to equality of opportunity. While the clear majority of Federal workplaces are in compliance with the standards for a model Equal Employment Opportunity program promulgated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, sadly, some still are not. It is past time for these failures to be cor-
corrected.
Finally, the bill bars agreements that would keep employees from disclosing any kind of Federal violation, as well as fraud, waste, and abuse. The latter provision is normally called a whistleblower provision.

Madam Speaker, I particularly appreciate that the chairman has brought this bill to the floor—I am sure it is noncontroversial—but he has brought it at a time when Federal employees are experiencing the longest shutdown in U.S. history. This bill cannot and does not purport to make up in any way for the effects of the shutdown. But this bill sends a message to Federal employees that they are particularly valued, and so far as I can tell, it sends it in a unanimous fashion, just as the shutdown should have a unanimous resolution.

It happens that around 62,000 Federal employees live in my own district, because this is the mention of a certainty—no, not the number. The number involves a number. The number that the President clings to is $5 billion. I don’t think that number can think of endless ways—and I am sure every Member can—to compromise. The number that the President clings to is $5 billion. I don’t think that number can think of endless ways—and I am sure every Member can—to compromise.

When I was a tenured professor of law at Georgetown University Law School, I taught negotiations. We usually worked with a number of issues in a negotiation at the same time. However, the easiest compromise to reach is one that involves a number. The number that the President clings to is $5 billion. I don’t think that number can think of endless ways—and I am sure every Member can—to compromise that number.

So in the name of a mounting number of Americans who are beginning to feel the consequences of the shutdown, they are not Federal employees—not to mention the Federal employees themselves—I am asking even for my side to make a more concerted effort to reduce the number, even though the polls show that the American people are with the Democrats on this issue.

As a suggestion, I ask that the Democrats appoint a subcommittee and that the administration sit down and hammer out an acceptable compromise. For more than two centuries now, we have operated under a separation-of-powers government to make tyrannical rule nearly impossible. Even Trump is hesitating to declare an emergency to get his border wall. That throws the ball in our camp, we who are Democrats who control this House. I ask that we accept it, use it, run with it, and settle the matter.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would like to make the gentleman from Maryland aware that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from the District of Columbia has 8 minutes remaining.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from Maryland. I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.
I support this legislation because it works to expand accountability within the federal government as federal agencies take appropriate disciplinary action against federal employees who have been found to have committed discriminatory or retaliatory acts.

In 2012, federal agencies and applicants for employment filed nearly 16,000 EEO complaints; most of which were handled accordingly, but some federal agencies still have not met the standards of a model EEO program set forth by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). This legislation would require each federal agency to ensure its EEO program is not under the control of the agency’s human resources or general counsel offices and that the head of the program reports directly to the agency head.

Madam Speaker, this bill would also expand the notifications that agencies are required to provide when discrimination is found to have occurred, and it would require agencies to track and report whether necessary disciplinary action has been taken.

Additionally, H.R. 135 would prohibit policies, forms, or agreements that prohibit or restrict an employee from disclosing to Congress, the Office of Special Counsel, or any Inspector General any information that relates to any violation of any law, rule, or regulation or any discrimination, fraud, or abuse.

Fighting discrimination is a commitment the federal government needs to make, beginning with their own employees at home and abroad.

Men, women, of every race and religion deserve equal treatment and protection under the United States government, and in order to fulfill the requirements of their job to the best of their ability, their right to not be discriminated against needs to be upheld.

In 2013, Texas employers received almost 10 percent of the nation’s federal employment discrimination, harassment and retaliation allegations, at about 9,000 total charges.

I support this legislation because I support the rights of federal employees to feel safe and represented in their working environments, and obtain the correct protection they desire and deserve.

For these reasons, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 135 to strengthen the policies surrounding work place discrimination in the federal government.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 135.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

FEDERAL INTERN PROTECTION ACT OF 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 136) to amend title 5, United States Code, to protect unpaid interns in the Federal Government from workplace harassment and discrimination, and for other purposes.

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 “Federal Intern Protection Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICES.

(a) In general.—Section 2302 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g)(1) All protections afforded to an employee under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of subsection (b)(1) shall be afforded, in the case of a section 2302(g)(1) violation, to an intern and an applicant for internship.

“(2) For purposes of the application of this subsection, a reference to an employee shall be considered a reference to an intern in—

“(A) section 717 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16);

“(B) sections 12 and 15 of the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 631, 633a); and


“(3) In this section, the term ‘intern’ means an individual who performs uncompensated voluntary service in an agency to earn credit awarded by an educational institution or training the trade or occupation of the agency internship.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3111(c)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting “(section 2302(g))” (relating to prohibited personnel practices), before “chapter 81”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 136.

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

There was no objection.

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

The bill before us, the Federal Intern Protection Act, would close a loophole in Federal employment law that currently leaves unpaid interns open to discrimination and sexual harassment without any legal recourse.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform has held multiple hearings about sexual harassment and retaliation occurring in various Federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service.

During these hearings, both my Republican colleagues and I expressed our disgust at the exploitation of female employees and interns, and we demanded action to prevent future abuse.

Unfortunately, the act of harassing unpaid interns on the basis of race, religion, age, or sex is not currently prohibited by Federal law. Under existing law, victims rely on the discretion and integrity of managers to prevent this behavior.

One witness who testified before our committee told us that managers do not always address the problem as they should and may actually be, in fact, a part of the problem.

We saw at our hearings that allowing this kind of behavior to go unchecked can have serious consequences on the lives and careers of those who are interested in government service. Our bill will give Federal interns the same protections already provided to Federal employees.

This measure passed the House in previous Congresses, and I urge my colleagues to join me in ensuring that this legislation passes our Chamber once again today.

I want to speak to the Congressional Intern Protection Act, related legislation I introduced, which gives protections to congressional interns and paid interns who was passed at the end of the last Congress as a part of a package of reforms to the Congressional Accountability Act.

This is a great start, but more must be done. Along with the Federal Intern Protection Act, I introduced the Unpaid Intern Protection Act, which would provide these protections to interns in the private sector.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 136, the Federal Intern Protection Act. The Federal Government is well served by interns who provide invaluable assistance to agencies. Many of the staff here in Congress itself began as interns, and I know my office, over the years, has been extremely well served by interns who have gone on to become a real credit where they have found themselves employed.

Interns work alongside career Federal employees, helping to conduct agency business on behalf of American people. Federal internship programs help agencies identify and develop the next generation of Federal employees. In exchange, interns gain valuable work experience.

Unfortunately, there are students who benefit from the opportunity to develop experience in a field they might hope to enter upon graduation. Some students even receive credit they can apply at their institution of learning.

Unfortunately, there are no existing provisions in Federal law that protect interns working at Federal agencies from harassment or discrimination.
In O'Connor v. Davis, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit upheld the district court decision, finding an intern could not bring sexual harassment claims under Federal law. The court reasoned that the intern was not an employee and she was, therefore, not covered by existing law.

The court concluded that: "It is for Congress, if it should choose to do so, . . . to provide a remedy."

H.R. 136 provides the remedy. The Federal Intern Protection Act ensures interns working for the Federal Government receive the same protections as employees. The bill prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability for interns working at Federal agencies.

Discrimination disadvantages eager-to-work interns, but discrimination also disadvantages Federal agencies by interfering with the selection of the best possible interns.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and for his leadership and commitment to protecting interns who work for the Federal Government, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill, Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

As I close, I want to be clear that this bill responds to very real instances of interns being victimized within the Federal Government. Without this bill, victims will be further and still required that any contractors or suppliers who required access to our facilities also agree to be bound by those policies. We not did not do this out of legal obligation, but because it made our workplaces and employees safer and more productive.

I respectfully submit that we should do the same in this body. To be sure, it may be difficult for us to obligate anyone in our offices to be fully bound by our policies. But surely we can provide a safer workspace not only for our paid and unpaid employees but also for contractors and staff from other Members’ offices, as well as visitors.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 136.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 202) to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978 relative to the powers of the Department of Justice Inspector General.

The Clerk reads the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the ”Inspector General Access Act of 2019”.


(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and paragraph (3)”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (4); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (4), as redesignated, by striking “paragraph (4)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “, except with respect to allegations described in subsection (b)(3)”,.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.
Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker. I rise today in support of H.R. 202, the Inspector General Access Act of 2019. Inspectors general perform a critical oversight function with regard to misconduct at their respective agencies. This committee, the Oversight and Reform Committee, has a long history of advocating for IGs to have timely and complete access to all the information they need to fulfill their oversight and investigative functions.

In continuity of that mission, H.R. 202 removes an unnecessary and outdated statutory hurdle that prevents the inspector general from investigating certain misconduct at the Department of Justice, DOJ.

Current law requires the DOJ IG to refer misconduct allegations to Department attorneys to the Office of Professional Responsibility, or OPR, rather than initiate an investigation himself. The OPR existed prior to the statutory creation of the DOJ IG in 1988. At the time DOJ IG was created, OPR was created specifically with the authority to investigate allegations of misconduct against any of the DOJ’s many attorneys; this role is restricted. Congress and this committee consistently supported the need for independent and transparent oversight of Federal agencies and programs. The current bifurcation of investigative authority at DOJ is inconsistent with this committee’s history of supporting the notion of an unencumbered IG.

The DOJ IG is not without its own oversight. The IG is confirmed by the Senate, accountable to the public, and is only removable by the President after notification to Congress. Further, the IG has statutory reporting obligations to both agency leadership and Congress.

The OPR, in contrast, lacks such independence from the agency it is obligated to investigate. The director of OPR is selected and appointed by the attorney general, answers to the attorney general, and can be removed or disciplined only by the attorney general. The IG’s independence is critical to the value of its work.

Also critical to the value of the IG’s work is transparency. The IG maintains transparency by publishing its reports on a public website. The website also contains information about the IG’s operations and functions and a full archive of completed and ongoing work. This standard of transparency does not apply to OPR. Adverse findings by OPR against a DOJ lawyer are subject to review by the Department’s leadership and can be overruled by the Department’s leadership without any transparency.

It is important to note that this division of authority is a unique situation amongst the Federal IG community. The need for this legislation has also been discussed in multiple hearings before the Oversight and Reform Committee and in reports by watchdog groups.

The DOJ IG, Michael Horowitz, testified before the Oversight and Reform Committee on the importance of eliminating this discrepancy. Congress’s own watchdog, the Government Accountability Office, has issued reports with recommendations to empower the DOJ IG.

This is a good bill, Madam Speaker, and I urge my colleagues support it. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from the State of Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge Congress to pass the Inspector General Access Act of 2019. This act, I am pleased to underscore, enjoys broad bipartisan support from this body now and has in the past, but its approval is more urgent now.

The actions, for example, of former U.S. Attorney Alex Acosta have drawn intense scrutiny since new revelations surrounding a plea deal he offered to a serial pedophile came to light. As recently as August, a report and documents and a group of brave women who came forward to share their stories, it appears that Acosta gave a sweetheart deal to a wealthy and well-connected sex offender and hid it from his victims, some of whom were still in the midst of coming forward.

Acosta is now the U.S. Secretary of Labor, a position that handles workplace harassment and sex trafficking policies, yet he has refused to discuss the new allegations. This IG Access Act would explicitly allow the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General to investigate allegations of such alleged misconduct.

It is a power that the IG office—as has been pointed out by both the chair and ranking member here, it is a power that the IG office already has when it comes to investigating allegations made against any of the DOJ’s many law enforcement agents, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the U.S. Marshals Service.

This act has received broad bipartisan support, both in successive Congresses and from the Government Accountability Office, but because of an unusual carve-out, the DOJ’s inspector general is believed to be, as the ranking member said, the only Federal agency that has no explicit power to review the conduct of its own attorneys.

If professional misconduct was involved in Acosta’s handling of Jeffrey Epstein’s plea deal, potentially dozens of victims of this connected multi-millionaire have a right to know. Acosta’s seemingly unethical decision to drastically reduce the criminal penalties against this vile sexual predator and to shield his other coconspirators is simply unacceptable.

The American people and the victims of these horrific crimes deserve to know why justice was not served in this disturbing case, and the lack of transparency still cloaking it is deeply disturbing.

Giving the DOJ’s inspector general more explicit and independent power to probe the deal on Acosta’s sweetheart deal goes to the heart of transparency and accountability that this office stands for and that this bill would insist upon.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, again, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

On November 29, 2018, DOJ Inspector General Michael Horowitz sent a letter to the Oversight and Reform Committee in support of the Inspector General Access Act, and this is what he wrote: “Providing the OIG with authority to exercise jurisdiction in attorney professional misconduct cases would enhance the public’s confidence in the outcomes of these investigations and provide the OIG with the same authority as every other inspector general.”

I include Mr. Horowitz’s letter in the RECORD.
same reasons, in 1994, the then-General Accounting Office, now the Government Accountability Office (GAO), issued a report that found that preventing the OIG from investigating misconduct with respect to Section 8E(b)(3) of the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) was inconsistent with the independence and accountability that Congress envisioned under the IG Act. A similar concern was shared by the IG, which has long questioned this carve-out because OPR lacks statutory independence and does not regularly release its reports and conclusions. Moreover, to enhance our public confidence in the outcomes of these investigations and provide the OIG with the same authority as every other Inspector General.

Alleged professional misconduct by DOJ prosecutors, like any alleged misconduct by DOJ agents, should be subject to statutorily independent oversight.

Over fifteen years ago, the Department and Congress recognized the importance of statutorily independent oversight. DOJ law enforcement components (FBI, DEA, USMS, and ATF) when Attorney General Ashcroft authorized the OIG to conduct additional department oversight. Congress legislated it in 2002. Yet, allegations against Department prosecutors for professional misconduct continue to be handled exclusively by OPR. As a result, precipitously, if an allegation of misconduct is made against the FBI Director, it is reviewed by the OIG; by contrast, if an allegation of professional misconduct is made against the Attorney General, it is handled by OPR, a Departmental component that the Attorney General supervises.

The rationale supporting independent oversight for alleged misconduct by law enforcement applies with equal force to alleged wrongdoing by federal prosecutors, regardless of the nature of the alleged misconduct. There is no principled reason to have two standards of oversight at DOJ—one for federal agents, who are subject to statutorily independent oversight over the OIG, and one for federal prosecutors, who are not for allegations of professional misconduct. This is particularly true given the extraordinary authority that Department prosecutors have to charge individuals with crimes, to seek incarceration, and to pursue the seizure of assets and property.

The OIG’s independence, established by statutory authorities and protections, facilitates objective and credible investigations of misconduct allegations, as well as unclassified reports that identify and make useful recommendations for improving the Department. The OIG is headed by a Senate-confirmed Inspector General, who can only be removed by the President, with prior notice to Congress. The OIG’s statutory independence is bolstered by the OIG’s dual obligation to report findings and concerns both to the Attorney General and to Congress. The independent OIG is able to make critical investigative and audit findings without fear of reprisal.

Conversely, OPR has no statutory independence or protections. The OPR Counsel is appointed by and answers to the Attorney General and is removed or disciplined by the Attorney General. Although a November 28, 2018 letter from DOJ’s Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) on H.R. 3154 states that “OPR is an independent Office that does not point to any protections, statutory or otherwise, that exist to ensure OPR’s independence from the Attorney General, nor has DOJ proposed strengthening OPR’s independence by adding such protections. Instead, the letter fails to explain or even address why it is necessary to provide a non-statutorily independent entity handle attorney professional misconduct cases rather than a statutorily independent organization, as is the case for government professional misconduct allegations.

The OIG’s independent and transparent oversight enhances the public’s confidence in the DOJ’s programs and improves its operations:

- In addition to independence, the OIG considered its role allowed for enhanced oversight of FBI’s actions involving the professional conduct of FBI agents, FBI lawyers, and FBI supervisor. In particular, the actions involving its former agent Robert Hansen, the FBI’s activities related to “Whitey” Bulger, the DEA’s oversight of its former agent, the DEA and other components’ handling of sexual misconduct and harassment cases, the operation of the FBI laboratory, ATF’s actions involving Operation Fast and Furious, and the FBI’s use of its national security authorities (National Security Letters, Patriot Act Section 215, FISA Amendment Act Section 215).

- Each of those and many other reviews resulted in independent and transparent findings by the OIG, and resulted in changes to Department operations that enhanced their effectiveness and thereby increased the public’s confidence in those programs. Moreover, OIGs throughout the government, including at the Department of Homeland Security and the Securities and Exchange Commission, have authority to investigate misconduct allegations made against attorneys at DOJ and have demonstrated that they are fully capable of dealing with such matters covering a wide range of complex legal issues. The DOJ OIG is the only OIG, to our knowledge, that is barred from investigating professional misconduct allegations to Department lawyers in a manner that is entirely consistent with its oversight authority over Department non-attorneys.

- The present oversight system that applies to allegations made against any DOJ non-lawyer, as provided for in the IG Act and Department regulations, is an unnecessary oversight mechanism that the Access Act seeks to apply to Department lawyers. Specifically, under the current system for DOJ non-lawyers, all non-frivolous misconduct allegations must be provided to the OIG for the OIG’s review and determination as to whether it is of the type and nature that warrants prior to the initiation of an independent OIG investigation. Given the OIG’s limited resources, the OIG handles only those allegations that warrant an independent OIG investigation, and the OIG retains, or refers less serious misconduct allegations to Department components, such as the FBI’s Inspections Division and the DEA’s OPR, for their investigation and resolution. Moreover, matters that the OIG retains, when the OIG completes its investigation, it sends its report to...
the component so that it can adjudicate the OIG’s findings and take disciplinary action, as appropriate. The Access Act creates a similar practice, by maintaining the Department’s OPR to handle misconduct allegations that do not require independent outside review as determined by the OIG, much as the internal affairs offices at the FBI, DEA, ATF, and USMS remain in place today.

We are unaware of any claims by Department leaders that this approach has resulted in “innovative investigative standards,” “decrease[d] efficiency,” or “inconsistent application” of legal standards. There is no evidence that it has impacted the components “ability to defend any significant discipline decision before the Merit Systems Protection Board.” Yet this parade of horrors is precisely what the OLA letter claims. If attorneys are treated in the same manner as Special Agents and non-attorneys at the Department, rather than continuing to receive the special oversight treatment granted to them under the current carve-out provision under the IG Act. This argument is meritless. Indeed, the disciplinary processes at the FBI and the DEA have substantially improved since the OIG obtained statutory oversight authority over those components in 2002, in significant part due to the greater transparency and accountability that has resulted from the OIG’s oversight.

I very much appreciate your strong support for my Office and for Inspectors General throughout the House. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Horowitz,
Inspector General.

Mr. Cummings. On December 25, 2018, the New York Times editorial board wrote: “It makes sense to give Mr. Horowitz’s office oversight authority over the activities of Justice Department lawyers—as other inspectors general have over lawyers in their departments. Doing so would aid the cause of justice and strengthen the public’s trust in an institution charged with defending it.”

On December 30, 2018, the Miami Herald also published an editorial in support of the Inspector General Access Act. I hope the Senate will follow the quick and bipartisan action this body took last year and pass this bill so that we can get it to the President’s desk for his signature as soon as possible.

With that, Madam Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to vote in favor of this very important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Richmond. Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman Cummings for bringing this important legislation to the Floor.

In 2005, shortly after Hurricane Katrina, a group of New Orleans police officers opened fire on a handful of unarmed African American civilians walking across Danziger Bridge, killing two and injuring four.

This occurred during the heart of the Hurricane Katrina aftermath and left deep scar[s] on our community.

Years later five officers were convicted on a variety of charges for these actions.

However, their convictions were vacated in 2013 due to misconduct by Department of Justice prosecutors.

In my efforts to find out what happened and why, and to also get transparency for my constituents, I received a DOJ report that was heavily redacted and missing crucial facts.

I also learned that the DOJ Inspector General lacked the authority to investigate those actions.

The DOJ was being left to investigate itself in situations where American people were being left without the full story.

That ultimately led to the victims and their families never receiving the full measure of justice they were owed.

This bill grants the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice the authority to investigate alleged misconduct committed by Department of Justice attorneys when they act in their capacity as lawyers.

Currently, the OIG has jurisdiction to review alleged misconduct by non-lawyers in the DOJ, but the DOJ’s own Office of Professional Responsibility exercises jurisdiction over alleged misconduct committed by DOJ attorneys when they are litigating, investigating, or providing legal advice.

From fiscal year 2002 through fiscal year 2013, the Office of Professional Responsibility documented more than 650 violations, including allegations that federal attorneys intentionally misled courts and alleged abuses of the grand jury or indictment process.

In most of these matters—more than 400—OPR categorized the violations at the more serious end of the scale: recklessness or intentional misconduct as opposed to error or poor judgment.

However, the DOJ does not make public the names of attorneys who acted improperly or the defendants whose cases were affected. As a result, the DOJ, its lawyers, and the watchdog office itself are protected from meaningful public scrutiny and accountability.

This simple change in jurisdiction will ensure that people facing federal charges get a fair day in court and that the U.S. government is properly represented in disputes with corporations where taxpayer dollars are on the line.

We must ensure that innocent people are not wrongly convicted and sent to prison, and that tainted cases do not cause convictions of guilty parties to be thrown out.

With stakes this high, it is essential that DOJ attorneys be held to highest possible standards of accountability.

While the Office of Professional Responsibility’s investigations and actions are notorious for their secrecy, the OIG’s independence and transparency will enhance the public’s confidence in DOJ’s operations.

For these reasons, and for the victims of the Danziger Bridge shootings and their families, I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Cummings) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 202.

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.

ALL-AMERICAN FLAG ACT

Mr. Cummings. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 113) to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 113

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 “All-American Flag Act”.

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR AGENCIES TO BUY DOMESTICALLY MADE UNITED STATES FLAGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 41, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end of the following new section:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Except as provided in subsections (b) through (d), funds appropriated or otherwise available to an agency may not be used for the procurement of any flag of the United States, unless such flag has been 100 percent manufactured in the United States from articles, materials, or supplies that have been grown or 100 percent processed or manufactured in the United States.

“(b) AVAILABILITY EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the extent that the Attorney General determines that satisfactory quality and sufficient quantity of a flag described in such subsection cannot be procured as and when needed at United States market prices.

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PROCUREMENTS.—Subsection (a) does not apply to the following:

“(1) Procurements for vessels in foreign waters.

“(2) Procurements for resale purposes in any military commissary, military exchange, or nonappropriated fund instrumentality operated by an agency.

“(3) Procurements for amounts less than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(d) PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the requirement in subsection (a) if the President determines it is necessary to comply with any trade agreement to which the United States is a party.

“(2) NOTICE OF WAIVER.—Not later than 30 days after granting paragraph (1), the President shall publish a notice of the waiver in the Federal Register.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘executive agency’ in section 102 of title 40.

“(2) SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“§ 6310. Requirement for agencies to buy domestically made United States flags.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 6310 of title 41, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to any contract entered into on or after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) each will control 20 minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous content.

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

There was no objection.

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

The All-American Flag Act is a commonsense bill that all Members can support. It would require that all Federal agencies purchase American flags that are manufactured right here in the United States using materials grown or produced in the United States.

Under current law, the requirement applies only to the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs. It should be extended to all Federal agencies.

As under current law, the bill would provide limited exceptions that allow agencies to purchase American flags made elsewhere if they are not available in sufficient quantity or quality from American manufacturers. I urge support of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 113 is a bipartisan bill to ensure government agencies buy United States flags made only from 100 percent American-made materials.

Most Americans may think American flags purchased with taxpayer money for the government are made here at home by Americans using only U.S. materials. Surprisingly, this is not a uniform requirement in current Federal acquisition laws and regulations.

Requirements in current law are inconsistent when it comes to the content of American flags purchased by executive agencies. The Department of Defense and the military departments generally are required to buy American flags made entirely of U.S. materials, but civilian agencies are currently permitted to buy flags that are manufactured in the U.S. consisting of only 51 percent American-made material, or sometimes even less than that.

This bill brings all executive agencies under a single rule about the content of American flags bought by the Federal Government. The bill harmonizes and integrates this single rule with existing laws that require domestic content of U.S. flags purchased by the government.

Rather than impose new rules and exceptions for DOI and civilian agency flags, the All-American Flag Act recognizes and essentially adopts current DOD requirements and exceptions. The bill makes those flag purchasing standards permanent law and applies the rules to civilian agencies that buy U.S. flags.

H.R. 113 contains limited exceptions that recognize practical realities such as domestic nonavailability. These exceptions reflect those contained in current law relating to the purchase of textiles, including U.S. flags.

I thank Representative Bustos and the many cosponsors who are leading this effort to honor America’s greatest symbol of freedom, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I think this is a very important bill. The American flag is so near and dear to so many people, and, quite often, folks think that it is being manufactured here in the United States and being manufactured with materials grown here; but the fact is, quite often, that is not the case. So I think it is only fitting that, when we wave that flag and when we salute that flag, we know that it has been produced here in our country.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. S. E. Well). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 113.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two hours and twenty minutes after noon) the Speaker declared the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 113, carried.

FEDERAL CIO AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 247) to amend chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, to make certain changes relating to electronic Government services, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 247

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 “Federal CIO Authorization Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. CHANGES RELATING TO ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

(a) CHANGE OF CERTAIN NAMES IN CHAPTER 36 OF TITLE 44.

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3601 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking paragraph (1);

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (1) through (7), respectively; and

(C) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by striking “E-Government Fund” and inserting “Federal IT Fund”.

(2) OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.—Section 3602 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT” and inserting “OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(C) in subsection (b),—

(i) by striking “an Administrator” and inserting “a Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end of the following: “a Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(E) in subsection (d), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(F) in subsection (e),—

(i) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “E-Government Fund” and inserting “Federal IT Fund”;

(iii) in paragraph (16), by striking “the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(iv) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(18) Oversee the Federal Chief Information Security Officer’’; and

(H) in subsection (g), by striking “the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(3) CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS COUNCIL.—Section 3603 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(C) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(ii) in paragraph (5), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(D) in the heading, by striking “E-GOVERNMENT FUND” and inserting “FEDERAL IT FUND”;

(E) in subsection (a),—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “E-Government Fund” and inserting “Federal IT Fund”;

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “Administrative” each place it appears and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(E) in subsection (d), by striking “the Federal Chief Information Officer’’; and

(F) in subsection (e), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(4) E-GOVERNMENT FUND.—Section 3604 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking “E-GOVERNMENT FUND” and inserting “FEDERAL IT FUND”;

(B) in subsection (a),—

(i) by striking “an Administrator” and inserting “a Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(ii) by striking “E-Government Fund” and inserting “Federal IT Fund”;

(C) in subsection (b), by striking “the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(D) in subsection (c), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(E) in subsection (d), by striking “the Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(F) in subsection (e), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer’’;

(5) PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT
SERVICES AND PROCESSES.—Section 3605 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “the, the Federal Chief Information Officer,”; and

(C) in subsection (c), in paragraphs (2)(B) and (3), by striking “The Administrator and” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

and

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “The Administrator” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

(ii) by striking “proposals submitted to the Administrator” and inserting “proposals submitted to the Federal Chief Information Officer”;

and

(2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “an E-Government status report to the Committee on Government Reform” and inserting “an E-Government status report to the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(2) E-FAIR SERVICES AND PROCESSES.—Section 3606 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “E-Government” and inserting “Annual”;

(B) in subsection (a), by striking “an E-Government status report to the Committee on Government Reform” and inserting “an E-Government status report to the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(3) TREATMENT OF INCUMBENT.—The individual serving as the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government under section 3602 of title 44, United States Code, of the date of the enactment of this Act, may continue to serve as the Federal Chief Information Officer commencing as of that date, without further appointment under such section.

(4) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government in any law, regulation, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be deemed to be a reference to the Federal Chief Information Officer.

(5) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) TABLE OF SECTIONS FOR CHAPTER 36 OF TITLE 44.—The table of sections for chapter 36 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(i) by striking the item relating to section 3602 and inserting the following new item:

“3602. Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(ii) by striking the item relating to section 3604 and inserting the following new item:

“3604. Federal IT Fund.”;

and

(iii) in the item relating to section 3606, by striking “E-Government” and inserting “Annual”.

(B) PRESIDENTIAL INNOVATION FELLOWS PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD.—Section 3172(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(C) POSITIONS AT LEVEL III.—Section 5314 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(D) POSITIONS AT LEVEL I.—Section 3171(b) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Office of Management and Budget” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(E) OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT.—Section 507 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in the heading, by striking “OFFICE OF ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT” and inserting “OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER”;

(ii) by striking “Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer” and inserting “The Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(F) PROGRAM MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL.—Section 1126(b)(3)(A)(I) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “The Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(G) ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES.—Section 3605 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “The Federal Chief Information Officer”.

(H) COUNCIL.—Section 1126(b)(3)(C) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended by striking “the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

(I) RESOURCES, PLANNING, AND PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT.—Section 3131(b) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking “Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government” each place it appears and inserting “Federal Chief Information Officer.”


(K) E-GOVERNMENT REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on status of establishing the process described in section 3608(b) of title 44, United States Code, as added by paragraph (1).

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by or under this Act.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act and the amendments made by or under this Act.


The E-Government Act of 2002 (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended by striking “the President” and inserting “the Federal Chief Information Officer.”

SEC. 6. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 7. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 8. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 9. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 10. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 11. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 12. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 13. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 14. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 15. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 16. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 17. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 18. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 19. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 20. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 21. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 22. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 23. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 24. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 25. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 26. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 27. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 28. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 29. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 30. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 31. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 32. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 33. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 34. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 35. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 36. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 37. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 38. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 39. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 40. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 41. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 42. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 43. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 44. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 45. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 46. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 47. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 48. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 49. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 50. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 51. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 52. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 53. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 54. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 55. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 56. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 57. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 58. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 59. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 60. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

SEC. 61. TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLANNING AND OVERSIGHT PROCESS.
to the Federal Chief Information Officer, and it would require direct reporting of that individual to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. It is very, very important.

Second, it would establish the position of the Federal Chief Information Security Officer, who would report to the Federal CIO and assist OMB in the cybersecurity efforts.

Finally, this very important bill would require the Federal CIO to submit a proposal on consolidating IT across Federal agencies, especially smaller agencies, through the use of shared services.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD), the chief sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. HURD of Texas, Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for yielding time to me on this important piece of legislation.

It should come as no surprise to anyone in this Chamber that technology is integrated into every facet of our daily lives. We have come a long way since the bill that established the role of the Federal Chief Information Officer, the e-Government Act, was originally passed.

Less than 50 percent of the U.S. population had home access to the internet in 2001 when this was first passed. Now, nearly every American has access to the internet.

Just 62 percent of Americans had cell phones when the original bill was passed. Now, 95 percent of Americans own cell phones, and 77 percent of those are smartphones.

Mobile apps were nonexistent in 2002. Today, over 2.2 million apps are available to consumers.

This bill recognizes how far technology has come. It codifies the position of the Federal Chief Information Officer and elevates the office to report directly to the head of the Office of Management and Budget.

The bill also establishes the role of the Federal Chief Information Security Officer, FCISO, who reports directly to the Federal CIO and will lead OMB cybersecurity efforts.

Empowering CIOs at the Federal agencies is consistent with the principles of one of the signature pieces of legislation on IT reform, the Federal IT Acquisition and Reform Act. The Federal CIO should be treated no differently. The Federal CIO must have the statutory and organizational authority to succeed, and this bill achieves just that.

The bill does more than just rename the office. It makes a clear statement that the Federal CIO is in charge of coordinating IT policy across the government.

This bill passed the House last Congress by a vote of 391–0, and I want to thank my friends—Representatives ROBIN KELLY, MARK MEADOWS, and GERRY CONNOLLY—for their continued support for this important initiative.

And I would like to thank Chairman CUMMINGS and Ranking Member JORDAN for making sure this important piece of legislation comes to the floor.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina, Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I think this piece of legislation is in the spirit of what Congress needs to be doing in terms of updating where we are in dealing with technology and the need for adequate oversight. This bill acknowledges that Federal technology policy has not kept up with the pace of technology integration by our Federal agencies.

This bill codifies the position of Federal CIO, emphasizing the importance of the role of a Cabinet official in providing a governmentwide technology policy; and this bill promotes organized, cost-efficient, and secure technology used throughout the Federal Government.

I would like to again thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HURD) for introducing this bill, along with the many bipartisan supporters of it.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, vote for it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to join my colleague, Congresswoman FOXX, in thanking Mr. HURD, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Congresswoman KELLY for all the hard work that they put into this legislation.

So often in our Congress, we are blessed to have somebody like Mr. HURD, who is very, very familiar with these very complex issues, and he brings just a reasonable approach to coming up with bipartisan solutions to the problems that are facing our country and, just as significant, bringing solutions that will prevent problems from happening. So I want to thank him for working so hard on this, along with our colleagues, Mr. CONNOLLY and Ms. KELLY.

Again, Madam Speaker, I urge all of our Members to vote in favor of this bill. It is a significant piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 247, the Federal CIO Authorization Act of 2019, introduced by my colleague, Congressman Will Hurd. I am happy to co-sponsor this bill, which the House of Representatives passed last year under suspension of the rules.

This bill rebrands the Office of Electronic Government (OEA) (OMB) and helps bring it into the 21st century by renaming it the Office of the Federal Chief Information Officer. This new name more appropriately characterizes the important role the Office plays across the federal government in coordinating federal information technology (IT) policy and providing guidance to agencies. Currently, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government is informally called the Federal Chief Information Officer (CIO), so it is long overdue for Congress to make this change in statute, as this bill will do. H.R. 247 will also rename the E-Government Fund, the “Federal IT Fund” which better describes the purpose of the account.

More importantly, this bill establishes the Federal Chief Information Security Office (CISO) within the office of the Federal CIO. The Federal CISO (pronounced SISSO) will be appointed by the president and be responsible for carrying out the cybersecurity duties of the OMB Director, including the responsibilities under the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA). This position was created by President Obama to address the increasing risk of cyberattacks and the need to better protect our government’s data and information across the federal government. However, it was not until a year and a half into the Trump Administration that the President named Grant Schneider the permanent Federal CISO. My hope is that this position will foster effective coordination of cybersecurity policy across the federal government, providing agencies with guidance to secure their IT systems and better defend against cyber-attacks.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 247.

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.

GRANT REPORTING EFFICIENCY AND AGREEMENTS TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2019

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 150) to modernize Federal grant reporting, and for other purposes.

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.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2019” or the “GREAT Act”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) modernize reporting by recipients of Federal grants and cooperative agreements by creating and imposing data standards for the information that grants and cooperative agreement recipients must report to the Federal Government;

(2) implement the recommendation by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, under section 5(b)(6) of the Federal Financial Accounting Standards Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note), which includes the development of a “comprehensive
taxonomy of standard definitions for core data elements required for managing Federal financial assistance awards; (3) reduce burden and compliance costs of recipients of Federal grants and cooperative agreements by enabling technology solutions, existing or yet to be developed, by both the public and private sectors, to better manage data and records already provide to the Federal Government; and (4) to strengthen oversight and management of Federal grants and cooperative agreements by agencies through consolidated collection and display of and access to open data that has been standardized, and where appropriate, transparency to the public.

SEC. 3. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.

(a) Amendment.—Subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 63 the following new chapter:

"CHAPTER 64—DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING"

"SEC. 6401. DEFINITIONS.

"(a) In general.—In this chapter:

"(1) AGENCY.—The term ‘agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 552(f) of title 5.

"(2) CORE DATA ELEMENTS.—The term ‘core data elements’ means data elements that are not program-specific in nature and are required by agencies for all or the vast majority of Federal awards.

"(3) DATA ELEMENTS.—The data standards established under paragraph (2) shall include, at a minimum:

"(A) standard definitions for data elements required for Federal grants and cooperative agreements;

"(B) unique identifiers for Federal awards and entities receiving Federal awards that can be consistently applied Governmentwide;

"(C) specifications established under subsection (a) shall include core data elements and may cover any information required to be reported by recipients of Federal awards including audit-related information reported under chapter 75 of this title.

"(4) REQUIREMENTS.—The data standards required under subsection (a) shall, to the extent reasonable and practicable—

"(1) render information reported by recipients of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards fully searchable and machine-readable;

"(2) be nonproprietary;

"(3) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies;

"(4) be consistent with and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles; and


"(b) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the data standards under subsection (a), the Secretary and the Director shall consult with, as appropriate—

"(1) the Secretary of the Treasury, to ensure that the data standards incorporate the data standards established under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

"(2) the head of each agency that issues Federal awards;

"(3) recipients of Federal awards and organizations representing recipients of Federal awards;

"(4) private sector experts;

"(5) members of the public, including privacy experts, privacy advocates, and industry stakeholders; and

"(6) State and local governments.

"SEC. 6402. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Director shall establish Governmentwide data standards for the following financial assistance awards:

"(1) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal award’ means the transfer of anything of value for a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, including financial assistance and Government facilities, services, and property.

"(2) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"(3) FEDERAL AWARD.—The term ‘Federal award’ means the transfer of anything of value for a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States, including financial assistance and Government facilities, services, and property.

"(4) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"(5) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the head of the standard-setting agency.

"(6) STANDARD-SETTING AGENCY.—The term ‘standard-setting agency’ means the Executive department designated under section 6402(a)(1).

"(7) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

"SEC. 6402. DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this chapter, the Secretary and the Director shall designate the Executive department (as defined in section 101 of title 5) that issues the most Federal awards in a calendar year as the standard-setting agency.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—Not later than 4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish Governmentwide data standards for information reported by recipients of Federal awards.

"SEC. 6403. GUIDANCE APPLYING DATA STANDARDS FOR GRANT REPORTING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Director shall issue guidance to all agencies directing the agencies to use the data standards established under section 6402 to all applicable reporting by recipients of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards; and

"(b) GUIDANCE.—The guidance issued under this section shall—

"(1) to the extent reasonable and practicable—

"(A) minimize the disruption to existing reporting practices for agencies and for recipients of Federal grant and cooperative agreement awards; and

"(B) provide opportunities to implement modern technologies within Federal award reporting;

"(2) allow the Director to permit exceptions for categories of grants if the Director publishes the exceptions, including exceptions for Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations consistent with the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act; and

"(3) take into consideration the consultation required under section 6402(d)."
private-sector experts, and members of the public, including privacy experts and privacy advocates.

(c) PUBLICATION AND REPORT ON DETERMINATIONS—Not later than the earlier of 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act or the date on which the Secretary and Director establish data standards pursuant to section 601 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 3(a), the Secretary and the Director shall publish and submit to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report explaining the reasoning for the determination made pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the terms "agency," "Director," "Federal award," and "Secretary" have the meaning given those terms in section 601 of title 31, United States Code, as added by section 3(a).

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to require the collection of data that is not otherwise required pursuant to any Federal law, rule, or regulation.

SEC. 8. ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act and the amendments made by this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) each will control 20 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 150, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, the Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act, introduced by Representative CONNOLLY last Congress on the Congress of nonproprietary identifiers for grants and grants. She, too, has worked in a hard, bipartisan way to bring solutions to problems, to bring practical solutions to problems.

The bill before us would allow this issue to be carefully considered to ensure it is workable.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate very much the comments made by my colleagues from Maryland and appreciate particularly the emphasis this afternoon that has been placed on bipartisan bills and efficiency and effectiveness in the Federal Government. Those are values that should not be assigned to any particular party. They are important for our country. They are important for what we do.

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), who has been waiting patiently to speak on this bill.

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 150, the Grant Reporting Efficiency and Transparencies Act. Madam Speaker, in 1787, Patrick Henry spoke at the Virginia Constitutional Convention, where he said: "The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them."

Transparency in government is an important principle for the preservation of our Republic, and it has been a priority for me during my tenure in the Virginia House of Delegates, where I was the first legislator to put the entire State budget in a searchable online database.

In a similar vein, H.R. 150 would require that data on more than $600 billion in Federal grants be standardized and published on a single online portal. This legislation would modernize the way the Federal Government does business by simplifying grant reporting information into a searchable, more manageable system. Nonprofit, State and local governments, and small businesses will no longer be forced to spend meaningful work hours on filling out duplicative paperwork.

In return, this will not only make the grant reporting process more transparent but will make it more efficient and accessible to everyday Americans, thus saving taxpayer dollars and helping to fulfill the vision of another Virginian, Thomas Jefferson, who in his first inaugural said: "A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government."

Madam Speaker, I support this bill and urge its passage.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Virginia sharing his comments with us, and I would like to continue my remarks by thanking Representative JIMMY GOMEZ for helping author this piece of legislation, the Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act, or GREAT Act.

Representative GOMEZ has been an outstanding partner on this bipartisan bill to create more transparency, efficiency, and accountability in the Federal grant reporting process, and I think him for his hard work in this area.

Madam Speaker, in 2017, the Federal Government awarded $662.7 billion in grants funding to State agencies, local and Tribal governments, agencies, non-profits, universities, and organizations. This is a lot of hardworking tax dollars, even in terms of Washington-speak.

Within our Federal Government, there are 26 agencies awarding Federal grants, and all of them continue to rely on outdated, burdensome, document-based forms to collect and track grant dollars. Society has moved into a new age of information and technology, and it is time that our government follows suit.

The GREAT Act represents bipartisan legislation to modernize the Federal grant reporting process. It does so by mandating a standardized data structure for information that recipients report to Federal agencies.

Adopting a governmentwide open data structure for all the information grant recipients report would reduce complianc e burdens; provide instant insights for grantors and Congress; and enable easy access to data for oversight, analytics, and program evaluation.

Digitizing and, therefore, automating the reporting process would have a twofold effect. First, it allows grantees to maximize every dollar they receive...
from the taxpayers to ensure it goes back into communities, supporting local businesses, organizations, and education.

Lastly, the GREAT Act has received broad support from an array of good government and progressive government coalitions. The Coalition for the GREAT Act includes the Bipartisan Policy Center, American Association of Law Libraries, American Library Association, Association of Government Accountants, Association of Research Libraries, Data Coalition, Government Accountability Project, Government Information Watch, Grant Professionals Association, National Grants Management Association, National Taxpayers Union, Native American Finance Officers Association, the Project on Government Oversight, R Street Institute, Senior Executives Association, and the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition.

In order to fix the way Federal grants are administered, we must move from a document-centric reporting system to a data superhighway. I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to support the GREAT Act and bring grant reporting into the 21st century.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this bill is intended to reduce the burden on applicants for Federal grants by enabling a more streamlined electronic process for completing grant applications. It would require HHS and OMB to develop uniform data standards for common application elements, such as the name and address of the organization and the name of the grant.

This will, hopefully, lead to the development of a uniform grant application that could be used across all Federal agencies. This will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the grant application process immensely.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this measure, and I hope that the Senate will quickly pass it.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues again, along with Mr. CUMMINGS, to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I again thank Ms. FOXX for this very important legislation and all of the bipartisan efforts that made it happen.

This bill and the others that we have dealt with today, where there was such great bipartisanship to get it done, I hope that these will serve as a model of what this Congress can do.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 150.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken.

H.R. 150

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

REJECTING WHITE NATIONALISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I move to reject the resolution (H. Res. 41) rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution is rejected.

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2019, Representative Steve King was quoted as asking, “White nationalist, white supremacist, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?”;

WHEREAS a 2006 Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI) assessment defined a White supremacist as follows: “White supremacists believe that the white race is superior to all other races and was created to rule them. They view non-whites as subhuman and usually refer to them in derogatory terms”;

WHEREAS the same 2006 FBI intelligence assessment defined a White nationalist as follows: “To be a white nationalist is to be pro-white. The domestic white nationalist movement seeks to promote, honor, and defend the white race. They believe the white race is under attack from Jewish interests that dominate the government (referred to as the Zionist Occupied Government, or ZOG), the media, banking, and entertainment industries and act to the detriment of the white race. White nationalists view multiculturalism, diversity, and illegal immigration as direct assaults on the white race and are extremely hostile to white genocide. They hope to appeal to mainstream whites, believing that the majority of white people do not understand the imminent or long-term threat to their race. Many contend that a race war, often referred to as RAHOWA, or Racial Holy War, is a certainty”;

WHEREAS White supremacy and White nationalism are contrary to the ideals of the United States of America, which was established according to the principle stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created equal, a principle that was updated in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New York, to include all people;

WHEREAS while our country has often fallen short of these ideals, patriotic Americans have sought to form a more perfect Union by including all people;

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2019, the Speaker of the House delivered an address entitled “White Supremacy: An American Flagrant and Obvious Plight” and called for unity and understanding to address the challenge posed by White supremacy and White nationalism;

WHEREAS President Reagan observed in a 1988 speech, “Anyone, from any corner of the earth, can come to live in America and become an American... This, I believe, is one of the most important sources of America’s greatness. We lead the unique phenomenon among nations, we draw our people—our strength—from every country and every corner of the world. And by doing so we continuously renew and enrich our nation. While other countries cling to the stale past, here in America we breathe life into dreams. We create the future, and the world follows us into tomorrow. Thanks to the flood of new arrivals to this land of opportunity, we’re a nation forever young, forever bursting with energy and new ideas, and always on the cutting edge to the next frontier. This quality is vital to our future as a nation. If we ever closed the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would soon be lost”;

WHEREAS according to FBI statistics, hate crimes nationwide increased in 2015, 2016, and 2017, the three most recent years for which data is available;

WHEREAS the perpetrator of the shooting that killed 9 African-American worshippers at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 17, 2015, was motivated by White supremacy and White nationalism to carry out this act of terrorism, and stated that he would “be rescued by white nationalists after they took over the government”;

WHEREAS the perpetrator of the shooting that killed 11 Jewish worshippers at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018, accused Jews of “waging a propaganda war against Western civilization” and “committing genocide” against White Americans by promoting immigration and refugee resettlement, and accused the President of being “a globalist, not a nationalist” because of the “infestation” of Jews;

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2019, a joint resolution signed into law on September 14, 2017, rejects “white nationalism, white supremacists, the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and other hate groups”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives, once again rejects White nationalism and White supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to the values that define the people of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this resolution stands for one very simple proposition: White nationalism and white supremacy are hateful expressions of intolerance that have no place in the United States of America.

Unfortunately, what should be an obvious statement in 2019 has been challenged in recent days, and not for the first time, by one of our own colleagues. As those elected to represent all of America, Members of Congress should stand together to repudiate these hateful ideologies, which are the source of so much violence, so much hatred, and so much divisiveness throughout our Nation's history. These hateful ideologies are diametrically opposed to what America is supposed to be.

But, as the New York Times reported last week, Mr. King of Iowa was quoted as saying: "White nationalism, white supremacy, Western civilization—how did that language become offensive?"

Well, I will tell him, and anyone else who may be confused.

This language has always been offensive. We fought a civil war to establish that. But this language and the philosophy it represents persisted. It motivated the Ku Klux Klan to terrorize African Americans; it sparked Jim Crow laws that oppressed African Americans through institutionalized racism; it inspired the murder of nine Black worshippers in a Pittsburgh synagogue; and it inspired racists, anti-Semites, and other assorted bigots at the Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that spread fear, hatred, and, ultimately, violence in celebration of white supremacy.

These hateful ideologies are dangerous, not because they too often lead to violence. These noxious views can also infect the policies that govern our Nation, sowing more division, and lead to our path out of darkness that feeds racism, and, ultimately, violence. We try to build walls to keep out those who may be confused. As the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to use my time to consider with my colleagues how firmly America has stood, and continues to stand, against white supremacy. It is a basic human flaw that our eyes operate slowly and close on wickedness too quickly. Today, we have the opportunity to renew our gaze at the truth about our fellow men and women, and that each of them is created with untold dignity and worth.

As a result, we recognize that white supremacy and white nationalism peddle lies about our brothers and sisters in dignity. We reject these lies, and we stand with the Americans who have gone before us in rejecting white supremacy and racism.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., observed, "When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution with the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men—yes, Black men as well as White men—would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Dr. King’s words are historical fact rooted in universal truth.

America’s Founders gave us an incredible inheritance in the Declaration of Independence, in which they said "all men are created equal." This declaration helped the Founders and all Americans who have lived after them identify the many ways that we disregard the citizens of the United States from all further participation in those violations of human rights which have been so long continued on the unoffending inhabitants of Africa.

George Washington said, "There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do to see a plan adopted for the abolition of slavery."

John Adams wrote that "Every measure of prudence, therefore, ought to be taken for the absolute extirpation of slavery from the United States . . . " and "I have, through my whole life, held the practice of slavery in . . . abhorrence."

Benjamin Franklin believed "Slavery is an atrocious debasement of human nature."

Alexander Hamilton cited racial prejudice as something that "makes us fancy many things that are founded neither in reason nor experience."

And James Madison wrote that "We have seen the mere distinction of color made in the most enlightened period of time, a ground of the most oppressive dominion ever exercised by man over man."

The words of our Founders indict anyone who would believe that white supremacy or actions born out of that world view is in any way defensible. It does all Americans good to revisit our path out of darkness that feeds racism, and, ultimately, violence. We try to build walls to keep out those who may be confused. As the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to use my time to consider with my colleagues how firmly America has stood, and continues to stand, against white supremacy. It is a basic human flaw that our eyes operate slowly and close on wickedness too quickly. Today, we have the opportunity to renew our gaze at the truth about our fellow men and women, and that each of them is created with untold dignity and worth.

As a result, we recognize that white supremacy and white nationalism peddle lies about our brothers and sisters in dignity. We reject these lies, and we stand with the Americans who have gone before us in rejecting white supremacy and racism.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., observed, "When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution with the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men—yes, Black men as well as White men—would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Dr. King’s words are historical fact rooted in universal truth.
slavery in America. In the 1850s, Abraham Lincoln cited the Northwest Ordinance frequently to show that the Founders opposed the expansion of slavery. And, in the 1860s, these States, along with a number of their fellow States, formed a coalition that elected Lincoln President, won the Civil War, and abolished slavery nationwide.

The principle that all men are created equal and have a fundamental right to liberty gave the emancipation movement its foundation.

As James Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers, defending the ratification of the Constitution, the Constitution was grounded on "the fundamental principles of the reign of the Nation, namely, "the transcendental laws of nature and of nature's God" and "the rights of humanity announced in the Declaration of Independence.

Our first Republican President, Lincoln, was a young man, he said the Founders established "political institutions, conducting more essentially to the ends of civil and religious liberty, than any of which the history of former nations tell us".

In the Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln explained that America was "conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal." As Lincoln argued to his opponent, Stephen Douglas, this equality applies to all human beings, regardless of race.

When President Lincoln spoke of America's earlier days, he said, "I will remind you that the United States, formed the coalition that elected Lincoln President, won the Civil War, and abolished slavery nationwide. In the 1860s, these States, along with a number of their fellow States, formed a coalition that elected Lincoln President, won the Civil War, and abolished slavery nationwide.

The principle that all men are created equal and have a fundamental right to liberty gave the emancipation movement its foundation.

As James Madison wrote in the Federalist Papers, defending the ratification of the Constitution, the Constitution was grounded on "the fundamental principles of the reign of the Nation, namely, "the transcendental laws of nature and of nature's God" and "the rights of humanity announced in the Declaration of Independence.

"The other term used by Mr. King in his comments to the New York Times; and we saw in Charlottesville, Virginia, the right rally, where they chanted the Nazi phrase, "blood and soil."
Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. I rise today to speak out against white supremacy. As a Christian, I live my life by the guidance and teachings of Jesus Christ and by the many great lessons which it will, that we will stand together, with every person as we wish to be treated. This is why I stand here today to say that there is no place for white supremacy, anti-Semitism, racism, or bigotry of any kind in Congress.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. NADLER for yielding me the time. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Republican leadership, Mr. MCCARTHY and company, who have condemned white supremacy and white nationalist language.

It is important that we come together and condemn this language because, unfortunately, in Charlottesville, Virginia, we had Ku Klux Klan people and neo-Nazis marching and shouting: "Jews will not replace us in this country." They believe in a "blood and soil." Our President said that there were fine people on both sides. I use that word because it is true, and it is just, and so is what I have stated here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 11½ minutes remaining.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I beg to differ with my good friend from Iowa. I do believe that we are all created equal with certain inalienable rights. What I would say to him is that Western civilization is what we all are. There is no denigrating of Western civilization. It is what America is.

We are the greatest leader of Western civilization. We are the greatest leader of the free world. But what we are talking about is, of course, the words "white nationalism" and "white supremacy," for it is clear that the FBI makes a direct point between dehumanizing and derogatory comments, which come from white nationalists and white supremacists, to the idea that it generates, as you have heard here on the floor of the House. It generates the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. It generates Charlottesville. It generates Charleston, South Carolina. It generates hateful acts that result in death.

This is the kind of tolerating of this that we cannot suffer and the intolerance that we cannot suffer. Because the idea of white nationalism, as supremacist, and in the words of The New York Times, is what America is. We are the greatest leader of the free world. But what we are talking about is, of course, the words "white nationalism" and "white supremacy," for it is clear that the FBI makes a direct point between dehumanizing and derogatory comments, which come from white nationalists and white supremacists, to the idea that it generates, as you have heard here on the floor of the House. It generates the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. It generates Charlottesville. It generates Charleston, South Carolina. It generates hateful acts that result in death.

This is the golden rule, that we treat everyone as we wish to be treated. This is why I stand here today to say that there is no place for white supremacy, anti-Semitism, racism, or bigotry of any kind in Congress.
in support of this resolution, which, again, rejects white nationalism and white supremacy as hateful expressions of intolerance that are contradictory to our values that define the people of the United States.

I call on my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to denounce racial and religious bigotry of all stripes.

Like many, I do have some personal insight into this problem. It doesn’t come as a surprise to many that, being from Utah, I am a Mormon. And my church, as many know, was founded in New York in the early 1800s. We were driven further and further west as members of my church were targeted, harassed, and killed for their sincerely held religious beliefs, culminating in the murder of their leader and subsequent decision to relocate to Utah.

My own ancestors were targeted in this bigotry. They lost their possessions. They lost their lands. They lost their freedom. And in some cases, they lost their lives. Unfortunately, such hatred still exists today.

Three years ago, we witnessed the tragedy in Charleston, where a derailed individual motivated by white supremacy shot and killed nine Black worshipers and injured many others. We remember the riots in Charlottesville, where a white nationalist struck and killed a White woman who was protesting, once again, white supremacy.

But the problem is more widespread than just these individuals who advocate for white supremacy. We also need to condemn anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and ashamedly, anti-Muslim.

Last October, a perpetrator shot and killed 11 Jewish worshipers at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, which we all remember.

All of these should be condemned by all of us here in this body: Black, White, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, or Jewish. We are all, I believe, children of the same God.

I hope that the majority is sincere in ushering in this resolution to the floor not as just an opportunity to shame one party as irredeemably racist, but as a united statement against bigotry.

When bigotry goes unchallenged, it festers and rears its ugly head in ways that test our Nation’s greatest triumphs in shedding these shameful practices of slavery and other types of racial and religious intolerance. This is something that must unite this body. I hope that it does, and I believe that it will.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Mr. CLYBURN’s resolution condemning white supremacy and white nationalism.

Congressman King’s recent comments asserting that terms like “white supremacist” should be acceptable have rightly drawn strong condemnation from both sides of the aisle in this Chamber. Sadly, these comments are part of a well-documented history of embracing the far right and making racist and anti-immigrant remarks for more than a decade.

As I told my colleagues, more and more people are feeling emboldened today to publicly voice bigoted and evil views like these. We have seen it in discussions around Charlottesville, the current debate on immigration, and in criticisms of players silently and peacefully protesting police brutality.

These views are contrary to our country’s founding values of fairness and equality. America was found on the simple but powerful idea that all are created equal and are worthy of dignity and respect.

White nationalism and white supremacy are a vile assault on that magnificient ideal. These views belong on the ash heap of history. That is exactly where this resolution will put them.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), who is a freshman.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 41, a resolution rejecting white nationalism and white supremacy.

As a lifelong resident of southwestern Pennsylvania, I was devastated by the shooting that killed 11 Jewish worshipers and wounded six others outside of the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018. This despicable act of domestic terrorism reminded us that evil is alive in this world and must be confronted in a spirit of courage.

The day after this cowardly act of violence, I stood in solidarity with Americans of all religions, all races, and all ethnicities at a vigil honoring the victims of this heinous crime. There is no place for this kind of thinking in our country.

When the rights of any community are under attack, all of our rights are under attack. We must come together as a nation to stand up against hatred, white nationalism, and bigotry in our country.

I commend the leadership of my party for their strong response to any comments that divide our country, and thank my colleague from South Carolina for introducing this important resolution.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS).

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, it is surely a shame that it is necessary in the year 2019 for the U.S. Congress to denounce white nationalism in Congress.

As a police officer, I worked white supremacist rallies. The words alone hurt enough, but as a police officer, I also saw vicious acts of violence by those inspired by those hateful words.

Words do have consequences, and if you promote hateful, ignorant beliefs, then you will be held accountable. Certainly, Congress should lead the way.

This week, the ignorance of white nationalism was defended by one of my colleagues. Today, as we recognize Dr. King’s birthday, I am reminded that Dr. King called on all Americans to enlist in a crusade finally to end the race question and make it an ugly relic of a dark past. But still we know hate crimes are on the rise. We understand why.

Madam Speaker, if we are who we say we are, a great nation, one nation with liberty and justice for all, then we all must exercise our power and take a stand so strong that even the white supremacists cannot ignore it.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, it has been an open secret for too long that Representative STEVE KING of Iowa has made his trade in saying and promoting fundamentally racist and unacceptable ideas. While I am glad that my colleagues on the other side are speaking out and have taken this important act of striping Mr. King of his committees, let us be very clear that those of us who have served with Mr. King on the Judiciary Committee, those of us who are African American, Latino, immigrant, those of us who are Caucasian and steeped in our country’s history of slavery and racism, we all know that the record of these kinds of comments is long.

In 2013, Mr. King said that, for every Dreamer who is a valedictorian, there are another 100 undocumented immigrants who have calves the size of cantaloupes because they are hauling 75 pounds of drugs across the border.

In 2017, he said that we couldn’t restore civilization with “somebody else’s babies.” Madam Speaker, how dare he. I was born in India. I am somebody else’s baby, and I am a proud American.

Just last year, Mr. King met with a Nazi-linked party in Austria. He is a Member of Congress who continuously makes these comments that cause the deepest of harm to real people, physical harm in the form of hate crimes, and psychological harm.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentleman from Washington an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, all of us, whether African American, people of color, immigrants, we are not other categories of people. We are not somebody else. We are America, all of us.

The terrible truth is that racism and xenophobia escalates when racism and white supremacy are permitted here in
Congress and all the way up to the White House to be issues with both sides. There are no both sides when it comes to white supremacy.

So, Madam Speaker, I hope that this is just the start of a definitive party-wide turn away from racism for all of us on this floor.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. SWALWELL).

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to reject white nationalism, to reject white supremacy, and to reject anyone who supports these immoral ideas.

I reject STEVE KING. So does America.

Do you know what? So do the people of Iowa’s Fourth Congressional District.

How do I know that? Because I was born there to a police officer as a father and a mom who raised four boys. The way that they raised us is the way that every family in cities like Ames, Algona, and Sac City raised their kids: to love God, to love each other, to work together, and to believe that, in a community, we come together and that love always conquers. They reject the bigotry that they hear day after day from their Representative.

I want to make sure that every person in the United States knows that what was expressed by our colleague is an exception and does not define the hardworking people of western Iowa.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to distinguished gentleman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman NADLER for yielding, and I also want to thank Majority Whip CLYBURN for his leadership in putting this resolution together.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, which sends a clear message that we will not accept hate or bigotry within this House.

Let me be clear: While Congressman KING’s comments condoning white supremacy were abhorrent, they were not a surprise to many of us. In years past, Congressman KINo has implied that Dreamers are drug dealers; he has endorsed far right, authoritarian, and neo-Nazis sympathizers; and he has repeatedly reiterated the belief that multicultural communities are a threat to our society. These racist beliefs should not be espoused by anyone, let alone a United States Congressman.

I grew up in the Jim Crow South. Madam Speaker, I know that racism and discrimination don’t just cause pain. When these beliefs become policies, which Congressman KING votes on and writes, they institutionalize a vicious system that people of color have to deal with as it relates to being denied equal rights and equal respect. These are the consequences of white supremacy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired. Madam Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on this resolution.

Mr. NADLER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. JUDY CHU).

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, as one of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise to reject white nationalism and white supremacy. These philosophies divide us, teach fear, and lead to violence. They are to blame for the worst of American history, from slavery and Jim Crow to the fatal shooting of Sikhs at an Oak Creek gurdwara and Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue.

White nationalism led to the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, forcing Chinese immigrants like my grandfather to be condemned to life as a second-class citizen. But today, his granddaughter stands here as the first Chinese American woman in Congress.

I am not alone. This is the most diverse and representative Congress in our history.

The message is clear: diversity has a place in Congress, prejudice does not. But white nationalism is finding a home in politics once again through racist rhetoric and xenophobic misinformation aimed at immigrants and others. Any attempt by politicians at any level to encourage fear of those who look different must be rejected.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this resolution.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM).

Mr. CUNNINGHAM of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Res. 41 rejecting white nationalism and white supremacy.

Today, on what would have been Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s 90th birthday, I am honored to join Majority Whip CLYBURN in denouncing the racist remarks of Representative STEVE KING and condemning white supremacy and white nationalism in all forms. Hatred and bigotry should have no home in America, and certainly not one in the Halls of Congress.

Dr. King was one of the finest citizens this country has produced: a champion for justice and a fearless crusader for equality. Today and every day, we must honor the life and legacy of Dr. King, while also acknowledging the work which remains. We must strongly condemn hateful expressions of intolerance wherever and whenever we see them.

America is strongest when we stand together. From the Lowcountry to the heartland, I believe that today is a promising start.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, but I also believe that the House of Representatives should go one step further, and I believe we should institute a censure for Mr. KING to signal to this country and to our children that this behavior is unacceptable.

The underlying premise is that we have had leaders at the highest levels down the street from here condone and continue to perpetuate race-baiting and white supremacist language that is not good for this country. We need to come together. We are a weaker country today because we are so divided.

What this is all about is whether the United States is going to move forward saying that we are a united country, that we respect diversity—and not only recognize but recognize that our diversity in this country is our greatest strength. It is our greatest cultural strength, and it is our greatest economic strength. This House needs to take this resolution one step further.

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED) for a unanimous consent request.

(Mr. ALLRED asked and was given unanimous consent.)

Mr. ALLRED. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the resolution against white nationalism and against white supremacy.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, may I inquire the time I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia has 3 minutes remaining.
Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, we have heard from many here today, and I think we have all come to a common theme, and the common theme goes back to the simple rule of the Gentlemen from Iowa, that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but it may be as simple as in kindergarten—you hold hands; you look after each other; you treat people with respect no matter where they come from, what they look like, what the color of their skin is, what their gender may be, or what religion they may practice.

What is true on the floor today and what should be true in the hearts of every American—and, frankly, not just every American, but those around the world—is that we realize that we have been given a gift by God, that we have been given the strength by God, and we have been given the hope by God to treat each other with dignity, respect, and love. When we understand that, then it takes away.

But we also, Madam Speaker, today have realized that, when we as Members speak, people pay attention and people hold us accountable. We have talked about that in many ways, and that cannot continue in the way that we have seen it.

White supremacy is wrong. White nationalism is wrong. Anti-Semitism is wrong. When we divide ourselves and we classify ourselves against each other, we bring ourselves down, not those whom we go after.

As long as we ever have anyone in this country who believes that they can climb to the top on the backs of others because they make fun of their race, their gender, their ethnicity, or any other thing, then we devalue the very breath that God gives us. We cannot, as I said earlier when I opened this up, there is not anyone we face today, anyone we come in contact with today who is not inherently and deeply loved by God. And it is pretty simple; He breathed life into them. I believe it with all that I am here.

And if I can believe that God created each and every person I see and everything we see around us, how can I not value that creation? How can I stand against anyone who would tear that down, especially if there was ever a thought in this country from anywhere, anywhere, to take and say this is a Christian value? Then I challenge them and say there will be a judgment. It is already written down that no man stands that way.

So today it is pretty simple. Place a ‘yes’ vote on the floor. We support this resolution because it is not an American value; it is not what we stand for.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY) to close the debate on our side.

Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise on Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday to urge passage of H. Res. 41 and to reject white nationalism and supremacy in all its forms. I applaud both sides for taking up this resolution in support of rejecting white nationalism.

But today, Madam Speaker, I ask one question: Where does President Trump stand on this resolution? Will President Trump do as we are doing and reject white supremacy in all its forms? So far, we have heard nothing but silence. I ask him to act and do the same: reject white supremacy and white nationalism today.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, while I strongly countenance white supremacy and white nationalism, my position remains unchanged. Anything short of censure is shallow. STEVE KING has made a career of making racist statements. That is the only thing he is known for and this pattern of rabid racism must be confronted head on by the House of Representatives. This resolution just restates the obvious. It does not address STEVE KING’s violent, vitriolic, and rabid racism. This Democratic resolution is an insult to the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. as we recognize his birthday. We must proceed with a vote to censure him with the same zeal that the House used when censuring Charlie Rangel. Yesterday, the notice I provided of my privileged resolution to formally censure the Member from Iowa, started the clock for a floor vote to punish him for his bigotry and racism. We need to be clear to the American people that we use condemnation to express our disapproval of those not in the House. We use censure for those in the House, STEVE KING is a sitting member.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, Jo King’s spirit of courage, as I said earlier when I opened this up, there is not anyone we face today, anyone we come in contact with today who is not inherently and deeply loved by God. And it is pretty simple; He breathed life into them. I believe it with all that I am here.

And if I can believe that God created each and every person I see and everything we see around us, how can I not value that creation? How can I stand against anyone who would tear that down, especially if there was ever a thought in this country from anywhere, anywhere, to take and say this is a Christian value? Then I challenge them and say there will be a judgment. It is already written down that no man stands that way.

So today it is pretty simple. Place a ‘yes’ vote on the floor. We support this resolution because it is not an American value; it is not what we stand for.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motions to suspend the rules and:
Pass H.J. Res. 27; Agree to H. Res. 41; and Pass H.R. 135; in each case by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 27) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.
Mossrs. ZELDIN, DAVIDSON of Ohio, BLIRIKAS, and BROOKS of Alabama changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. MOORE changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds not being in the affirmative) the motion was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

REJECTING WHITE NATIONALISM AND WHITE SUPREMACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41) rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 41).

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 242, nays 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 32]
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 272) to amend the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 to strengthen Federal antidiscrimination laws enforced by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and expand accountability within the Federal Government, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill, "The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill. This is a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 0, not voting 9, as follows:

**FEDERAL EMPLOYEE ANTIDISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2019**

H580

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

January 15, 2019

**NOT VOTING—9**

DesJarlais
Huizenga
Jones
Jones

**NAYS—1**

Rush

**YEAS—424**

Abraham
Adams
Adherolt
Agular
Allen
Allred
Amash
Armstrong
Arnttington
Axne
Babin
Baird
Barragán
Banks
Barr
Beattie
Beatty
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Biggs
Bilirakis

**COMMISSIONER OF NAME AS CO-SPONSOR OF H.R. 272**

Mr. PETEINSON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 272.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ESCOBAR). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

**COMMUNICATION FROM CASE WORKER/FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, THE HONORABLE JACKIE SPEIER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Ms. ALTFEIN, Case Worker/Field Representative, The Honorable Jackie Speier, Member of Congress:

**CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WASHINGTON, D.C., January 9, 2019.**

Hon. NANCY PELOSI, Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the Supreme Court of the State of California for the County of San Mateo, in a criminal proceeding involving an alleged threat of violence against our office personnel.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.
PCN for 25 years of outstanding coverage of the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Pennsylvania Cable Network, now called PCN, was organized August 29, 1979, as a nonprofit corporation by Pennsylvania cable companies. PCN marked the first use of cable television for distance education, and it was the first educational cable television network in the Nation. PCN was on the air before CNN, ESPN, FOX News, MSNBC, and nearly all other nationally distributed cable networks.

In November 1983, PCN began providing public affairs programming in prime time to provide viewers coverage of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In 1994, it expanded beyond government and covered every aspect of the annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. This year, PCN exclusively delivered the Pennsylvania high school championships rodeo, the sale of champions, the celebrity rabbit hopping contest, the grand champion junior market goat and lamb show, the draft horse competitions, the mini-horse pull, square dancing competitions, and much more.

Madam Speaker, I commend PCN on 25 years of exclusively delivering the Farm Show to viewers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and I congratulate PCN on this outstanding achievement.

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate all the Members of the Arizona Legislature who took their oaths of office to begin a new term this week.

The start of each legislative session is exciting: an opportunity to keep promises made to constituents and make Arizona a better place to work and raise a family.

As ever, legislators will face challenges that will impact Arizonans. I look forward to working with my former colleagues, especially those in the east valley, for the benefit of our constituents.

I recognize and give special congratulations to incoming Senate President Karen Fann and House Speaker Rusty Bowers. I wish everyone in the Arizona Legislature, including staff, a productive legislative session in the months to come.

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I can’t even account for this historic and devastating Trump shutdown. When I say I can’t account, I can’t believe that the government is now in the mix of a shutdown that has such far-reaching proportions of impact, negative impact: not only my constituents who work for so many Federal agencies, from TSA to Border Patrol, to customs and Border Protection, to air traffic controllers, but those around the Nation—the two Federal employee families that is now going into their son’s scholarship fund, the young mother who now needs food assistance, those who are on the SNAP program, those who live in public housing, those who are disabled.

Is there any empathy or sympathy in the White House to begin intelligent and informed negotiations, allowing us to negotiate border security after the fact but open the government now so that people can be paid?

Madam Speaker, people are asking me whether their healthcare coverage is going to lapse because they are not being paid. People are asking about whether or not the credit scores that are impacted by not being able to pay your bills, how they are going to make ends meet for that; about the mortgages or the rent to landlords who are being insensitive.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line: Open the government, Mr. Trump, for the American people.

BORDER WALL FUNDING

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of President Trump’s request for border wall funding.

OPEN THE GOVERNMENT

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I can’t even account for this historic and devastating Trump shutdown. When I say I can’t account, I can’t believe that the government is now in the mix of a shutdown that has such far-reaching proportions of impact, negative impact: not only my constituents who work for so many Federal agencies, from TSA to Border Patrol, to customs and Border Protection, to air traffic controllers, but those around the Nation—the two Federal employee families that is now going into their son’s scholarship fund, the young mother who now needs food assistance, those who are on the SNAP program, those who live in public housing, those who are disabled.

Is there any empathy or sympathy in the White House to begin intelligent and informed negotiations, allowing us to negotiate border security after the fact but open the government now so that people can be paid?

Madam Speaker, people are asking me whether their healthcare coverage is going to lapse because they are not being paid. People are asking about whether or not the credit scores that are impacted by not being able to pay your bills, how they are going to make ends meet for that; about the mortgages or the rent to landlords who are being insensitive.

Madam Speaker, the bottom line: Open the government, Mr. Trump, for the American people.
Yes, we are a nation of immigrants. I know firsthand. My grandparents emigrated from Sweden to the Upper Peninsula to start a new life in the 1890s, but Congress has a constitutional duty to provide for the safety and security of our citizens. Right now, our immigration system is broken, making entry into the U.S. a common occurrence rather than a random act.

President Trump is right to call this a crisis. It is a crisis of our own making, and it is time for Congress to do our job.

We are on day 25 of the longest and most avoidable government shutdown in U.S. history. Those most vital to protecting our borders, coasts, and ports have now missed at least one paycheck, with little to no progress being made in Washington.

It is time to end this shutdown, secure our borders, and get our government open and working for the people. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting efforts to build a wall.

A SHUTDOWN IS NOT THE ANSWER
(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Speaker, President Trump is forcing more than 37,000 Californians, including many veterans, to go without pay. From Coast Guard members at Naval Base Ventura County and Channel Islands Harbor to local air traffic controllers, Ventura County residents and their families are trying to make ends meet without their paychecks.

On the first day of this Congress, I joined my Democratic colleagues to pass legislation to reopen the government and provide for sensible border security.

The President should not use people’s lives and our economy as hostages to build a campaign slogan. The President closed the government. A shutdown is not the answer.

Mr. President, reopen our government now.

OKLAHOMA INAUGURATION DAY
(Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of the inauguration of Oklahoma’s Governor Kevin Stitt, Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready, and State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister. These leaders come from Oklahoma’s First Congressional District and will represent Tulsa well in our capital.

Governor Stitt, like our President and myself, is an entrepreneur. He created a business that has a vision for Oklahoma to be a top ten State, shaking up the status quo in Oklahoma City and turning the State around.

Lieutenant Governor Pinnell is, likewise, a business owner and has been an advocate of the Republican Party and conservative agenda in our State for many years.

Commissioner Mulready is a long-term insurance professional and businessman, most recently serving in the Oklahoma House of Representatives as the majority floor leader.

State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister, another business owner, is beginning her second term in the role and will continue to work hard for Oklahoma’s students.

A new day is dawning in Oklahoma with the leadership of Governor Stitt, Lieutenant Governor Pinnell, Commissioner Mulready, and Superintendent Hofmeister. I congratulate them on this accomplishment and wish celebration and joy this week.

KEYSTONE TAILORED MANUFACTURING PLAN CLOSURE
(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight yet another grim economic headline: another broken promise on jobs and trade from President Trump to the people of northern Ohio, and more pink slips by another factory shuttered.

KEYSTONE TAILORED MANUFACTURING will close by March. Approximately 150 employees will lose their jobs.

KEYSTONE has made men’s suits at the site since 2015. Before that, it was a Hugo Boss men’s suit plant. Since 2010, workers fought to keep the facility from closing twice. There won’t be a third time.

As Mark Milko, the area director for the Workers United union put it: “It doesn’t look like there is anything to fight to save.”

Madam Speaker, this company plans to shift these jobs to Canada. There they can save $15 a suit on imported buttons, zippers, shoulder supports, and tariffs—because Canada isn’t involved in a trade war with China that the President has started. Under NAFTA, they can then turn those suits right back around to sell here in America for nothing.

This President’s trade strategy is a disaster. American workers suffer the ultimate sacrifice. Our Nation must put someone in charge who knows what they are doing.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL TEAM
(Mr. ARMSTRONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam Speaker, the North Dakota State University football team brought home their record seventh FCS championship trophy in 8 years.

On January 5, the Bison defeated the Eastern Washington Eagles, 38-24. The Eagles are a good team and attempted several comebacks, but the Bison held strong for the win.

Quarterback Easton Stick led the Bison with a spectacular performance. He had five touchdowns—two passing and three rushing—for a combined 319 yards.

The Bison players were cheered on by 17,426 dedicated NDSU fans who traveled over 1,000 miles south to Frisco, Texas, for what has become an annual journey.

Victory also sealed Coach Klieman’s place in college football history. In his fifth seasons, he has coached the team to four national championships and just four conference losses.

Madam Speaker, this incredible achievement is the result of months of hard work and preparation. Congratulations to all Bison players, coaches, and fans. They earned it.

AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY
(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, we had an important victory for democracy. A Federal judge in New York ordered the Trump administration to remove a planned citizenship question from the 2020 Census in response to a lawsuit filed by the State of New York, which was joined by 17 other States in support. I am proud to have led an amicus brief of 126 Members of Congress, also in support of this lawsuit.

The court affirmed what we already knew: adding a citizenship question was an attempt to scare away noncitizens and their families in order to undercount this community.

Fortunately, the court agreed, but there will likely be an appeal. That is why I will be introducing legislation to remove the citizenship question. We must act quickly.

Our democracy depends on a full and accurate count of our Nation, and we cannot allow the Trump administration to compromise that.

END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN
(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to object to the administration’s threat to issue a national emergency declaration and reprogram money that has been allocated for Hurricane Harvey.

I join a bipartisan group of Texas legislators in opposition to this diversion,
including my former colleagues from the Texas Senate. This administration is seeking any funds or any means to go around Congress to build his wall.

Congress is a coequal branch of government, Madam Speaker, with a duty to appropriate funds for Hurricane Harvey. To deliver those funds, we must consider the options those funds puts at risk and potentially displaces people from their homes, many in my own district in Houston.

We must do more to mitigate the damages caused by flooding. Diverting disaster funds to pay for a wall will not accomplish that goal.

I am proud of the bipartisan opposition to this effort, and I hope that we can work together in that same spirit to end this Trump shutdown.

OPEN OUR GOVERNMENT

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, day 25. There is no reason for President Trump to keep the government shut down over his demands for an ineffective border wall. On day one, the Democrats passed legislation to reopen our government. Today, we are taking further action, bringing forward a continuing resolution to fund the government through February 1, giving the President and the Senate GOP yet another opportunity to end the shutdown, while allowing time for us to do our work and negotiate.

President Trump should stop holding the health, the safety, and the paychecks of the American people hostage.

We need border security, and Democrats stand strong on that issue, but we will not waste taxpayers’ dollars. We will not waste billions of taxpayer dollars on an ineffective wall.

Mr. President, Congress, open our government.

END THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I think I just heard that we are in the 25th day of the shutdown. I see one of my good Republican friends over there, and perhaps we ought to engage in a debate about the wisdom of this shutdown.

Can anybody find any good reason for the shutdown?

Mr. MEADOWS. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GARAMENDI. At the moment, Mr. Meadows, perhaps I would yield and you can give me a 30-second explanation of why the shutdown makes sense, but let’s talk about the shutdown.

Let’s talk about the reality that the President proposed in his budget for 2019 that we should spend somewhere around $1.6 billion for border security, not specifying walls or all of it, but just border security.

We, of course, do what we always do. We took that, and we put it through the ringer. We came out with $1.6 billion for border security, including some wall in there.

But we didn’t finish the task, so we did a continuing resolution last September and kicked the ball down the road, which is what we really do best, boom, boom, boom, bounce down the road until right after Thanksgiving.

Then we hadn’t quite completed it, so in a day when none of us were here, by unanimous consent, again, we kicked the ball down the road until December 11.

Then the Senate sent over a piece of legislation that was unanimously passed in the Senate by voice vote, and it wound up over here, the President decided that he needed $5 billion for a border wall.

Now, perhaps there was a discussion of appropriation during that process. I don’t know. But in any case, it was in none of the bills. Suddenly, we had a $5 billion addition to border security. All of that happened overnight.

At the same time, the President calls into his Oval Office the leadership, and he says that he will shut down the government, and he will take the mantle of the shutdown.

So, my good friends from the Republican side of this aisle, here we are on day 25.

A lot of things are going on out there. There is not much going on around here, unfortunately. But what is going on out there?

I got a phone call from a mayor of one of the small cities that I represent down in the agricultural part north of Sacramento. He said: Can you help us? One of the veterans in my district, a World War II veteran, is in hospice, and, over the years, he lost his Purple Heart for injuries that he suffered in World War II. We would like to get that back for him before he dies, but we can’t. We can’t help him.

We can’t get that Purple Heart back for the veteran dies because the National Archives is shut down. Normally, we would make our request, and we would go to the National Archives. Somehow we would find the record, and we would get a replacement Purple Heart. We can’t do that now. The National Archives is shut down.

Another one of my constituents wants to start a new business in one of the towns that I represent west of Sacramento. It is a little restaurant coffee shop. He needs an SBA loan. He worked it all through the bank. The bank is ready to make the loan. The papers can’t be signed. SBA is shut down.

How long can he hang on? How long will that escrow remain open before this deal tanks? Well, it is 25 days thus far. Apparently, the deal is still in place. But businesses all across this Nation are not moving forward.

Recent estimates indicate that two-tenths of a percent of the economic growth of this Nation in this 25-day shutdown has been removed from this economy. We are looking somewhere just north of 2\%, 3 percent, in that range, but two-tenths of a percent has now gone as a result of this shutdown.

Let us remind ourselves: This is entirely the making of the President who parachuted—no, bombed into our negotiations process here, $5 billion in the 12 hours between the passage of a compromised, unanimous vote by the Senate to keep government going and the arrival of the bill here on this floor.

Mr. President, Congress, open our government. We think it is really important that those veterans across this Nation who want to get their records are able to do so, and those men and women who want to start a small business are able to get their Small Business Administration loans approved.

How about Foreign Service officers? Oh, yes, the State Department isn’t funded. Foreign Service officers are not able to get the training they need.

They go through a whole course before they are sent off to some part of the world—language, culture courses. None of that is happening, to say nothing of the fact that about a third of the appointments in the State Department have never been filled to begin with.

Department of the Interior? Some of us stuck around here over the weekend. Normally, we would go down to the Smithsonian and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, or maybe the National Museum of American History. Maybe we would go watch one of the presentations that are made at the national parks. No, that doesn’t happen either. We are here in Washington, but all across this Nation, the national parks are shut down.

Fish and wildlife, now, we have a real problem here. The fish and wildlife refuge in California, and we are approaching the end of duck season. Oh, my goodness. You mean we can’t go duck hunting, as we might want to do, at the fish and wildlife refuges? That is right. You are not going to duck hunt at the refuges. Wildlife refuges, as you have normally done, even though you put your kid in and you had January 15 for your date to hunt ducks at the refuge. Nope, can’t do that.

Transportation, the Department of Transportation is shut down.

You tell me it is a small portion of the Federal Government. Well, it is a
small portion of the budget, but it is 85 percent of the activities of the Federal Government that are shut down: Department of the Interior, Department of Agriculture, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Transportation, and the Internal Revenue Service.

Don't worry, we can't collect taxes. That is a good thing, right? My conservative friends say you can't collect taxes until that is all right. No, I want my tax refund, and I can't get that either.

EPA, there are those who would argue that that is all good. Well, I don't think so, not if you are concerned about air and water, the ability to swim in the rivers or to drink the water.

Let's just say you are going out for your first tranche of funding. You need SEC approval. Well, you are not going to get it. The Securities and Exchange Commission is shut down also.

Eighty percent or more of the activities of the Federal Government are shut down.

There was a big headline in The New York Times, the failing New York Times, about the President and whether he is compromised. Well, I don't know. That will prove itself out one way or the other with the Mueller investigation and all that is going on.

But I do know this, that if Putin wanted to harm America, he would shut down the American Government. That is precisely what the President did. He shut down the American Government for 25 days. What greater gift would Putin want than an American Government that is not functioning?

Oh, the military is still there, but the fifth branch of the military is the Coast Guard with 40,000-plus Coast Guard members who are out there on the water protecting the borders of America. By the way, the Coast Guard has confiscated 10 times the amount of drugs that are confiscated on the Mexican border. They are working without pay. Essential services, yes, they are.

But the back-office services are not working. They are laid off. Contractors who have contracts to get a paycheck from the Department of Transportation on the road that they are supposed to be building or have built, it is not going to happen.

It is time for us to open this government. It is time for us to open the government and put America back to work. Put the essential services back to work.

The Food and Drug Administration is shut down. Who is checking? Many of my colleagues here have young grand-children who is checking the quality, the safety, of infant formula? The answer: No one.

Here we are. We are for border security. We Democrats are for border security. We have been for more than 20 years. We voted for walls in the past. We voted for improving the security of the border in every way possible, and we will continue to do so.

But to hold America hostage, to hold our government hostage, to hold 800,000 government employees and 40,000-plus coastguardsmen and -women without pay? No way.

To simply come in at the very last moment in a negotiation that had been going on for weeks, excuse me, it is $5.7 billion now; there seems to have been an escalation—a $5.7 billion border wall on our process, it is unconscionable.

We can open the government. Bills have been passed here, not with the help of our Republican friends, but with the new majority. We have passed legislation day after day after day to fund the government. Some of it is short term, as we did just an hour ago here on the floor, a short-term CR to open government until February 1 to get people back to work and negotiate, negotiate border security.

The President wants a wall. Where does he want the wall? What kind of a wall does he want: cyclone fence, steel spikes, concrete? Where? For what purpose? What is its effectiveness? What is he trying to stop? Where is he trying to stop that incursion into America? None of that is available today.

I have been on the Armed Services Committee for 8 years, 9 years now. We would not build a hangar for the Air Force unless we knew what its purpose was, unless we knew where it was, what it would cost, why it was necessary. But the President wants a $5.7 billion slush fund to build or have built, it is $5.7 billion now; there seems to have been an escalation—a $5.7 billion border wall on our process, it is unconscionable.

The communities in Texas, California, the Carolinas, Florida, and the Gulf Coast don't want this to happen again.

How do we save them from this ever happening again?

It is to use the money that we have appropriated for disaster relief to repair the levees so that flooding is less likely to happen. But the President decides that he is going to create an emergency declaration, and he is going to go into the Army Corps of Civil War programs that were allocated as a result of the appropriations from last spring's disaster relief legislation and rip $2.5 billion out of those appropriations.

Some of us have reason to suspect with some evidence that he intends to go after Puerto Rico and California. It turns out that the projects in California may be of interest to some of my Republican friends, particularly the minority leader, because one of the projects is Lake Isabella just upstream from Bakersfield, California.

So, Madam Speaker, we say to the President: A, there is no emergency; B, the shutdown of government is one of your own making; and C, you don't have the power to appropriate money yourself. Particularly, it is shameful to take money that we have allocated to protect Americans in Florida, Texas, California, Puerto Rico, the Carolinas, and even Missouri so that their levees and so that their flood control projects can be updated and improved and so that safety of those communities can be enhanced.

Here is what we want: we want government opened. It is inexplicable that after 25 days this government is shut
down because the President is demanding $5.7 billion for a border wall without even telling us where that is going to be built. Oh, excuse me. That is a misstatement. It is going to be built on the Mexican-American border.

What? Is it going to be built where there is a real need?

What kind of a wall will it be?

That seems to change every 12 hours because there are no plans worthy of our—we are presumably responsible for the taxpayer dollars—consideration as to where, what the effectiveness would be, what the usefulness would be, what the cost would be, or even what the color will be.

Open our government. Pass the legislation in the Senate. The President said he will veto it. Okay. Put it on his desk. Let him veto it. He already says he is wearing the mantle of the shutdown. Let him put on another coat, another mantle of a veto, so that the American people knows precisely who is responsible for this shutdown.

We have done our job here. We have passed the legislation to fund this government—all but one department—for the remainder of this fiscal year until September. We have done that multiple times now, and we have left the issue of the Department of Homeland Security in which the issue of the border fence resides on a short-term leash so that all of us would be forced to come back to negotiate border security.

Democrats would undoubtedly go for improvements in the ports of entry. One out of five cars is not checked at the border. Maybe we ought to deal with that. Only a few of the containers arriving at our ports are checked. Most are not. Maybe we ought to deal with that. Maybe we ought to look at our airports where we know most presumed terrorists arrive.

So, what are we doing here?

We are shutting down—we. Excuse me. We are not shutting down. The President is shutting down this government for 25 days.

I can only imagine the joy in the Kremlin. Consider for a moment Mr. Putin, saying: Oh, my God. The American Government is shut down.

He couldn't do it by himself. Only our President would do it to us.

We have got to do something. I notice one of my colleagues, Mr. Levin, has arrived, and I know he wants to join us on this issue in a few moments. In the meantime, I have got a few more things to say.

To my Republican colleagues who will soon follow me on this floor when this hour is done, I can get pretty heated about some things, and maybe I have been, but I want them to think about what is actually happening here in America and why we are in this situation.

My Republican colleagues had the power over the last 2 years to build any wall they wanted to build anywhere they wanted to build it—Canadian border, Mexican border. They had the power. They didn't do it. Excuse me. That is not right. I think 22 miles of new wall have been built in the last 3 years. That is okay. I think the appropriation was somewhere less than $50 million for that. Now here we are.

I would love to hear my Republican colleagues explain to the American public how it came about that we are in this situation when they had 2 years to build what one wall they thought the President might want to build. It didn't happen.

I heard a wonderful and foolish—a wonderful argument, because it was so foolish—that gee whiz, $5.7 billion is just a very small part of the total American budget for expenditures. That is true. It is a small part. That is $5.7 billion.

Madam Speaker, $5.7 billion would provide a year and a half of funding for all of the tuition for every student at the University of California and the 23 State universities in California—more than 1 million students. Madam Speaker, $5.7 billion is no small amount of money.

How many kids could you educate? How much relief could we supply to people who are hungry here in America or somewhere else in the world? How much help could we provide to the poor?

By the way, my Republican friends did create a massive deficit when they passed the tax bill last December—a massive deficit. It will approach over $900 billion this year. It just about doubles the annual deficit with that piece of legislation. I used to say the deficit hawks migrate in December. My guess is they are going to come back as we deal with the new appropriation bill, and as we do that, I would hope they would keep in mind the $5.7 billion for an unspecified wall in an unspecified location of an unspecified height to carry on an unspecified purpose—$5.7 billion.

So let us continue for a moment. I want to deal with one other thing. This is the kind of thing that probably, Madam Speaker, you have to see this picture. This picture is worth maybe 500 words, but I would go this far: I am going to use 250 of them.

This is a picture of the President of the United States and the Governor of California at the Paradise fire. Some place around 16, 17,000 homes were destroyed. Eighteen American citizens were killed in that fire. An entire community of some 25, 30,000 people is gone. It just doesn't exist anymore. It is gone. It is ash. It is rubble.

Fortunately, my colleague, the American Government, you and I and others and those who preceded us, developed a program called the Stafford Act which provides the generosity of Americans to help rebuild families and communities affected. California; or Redding, California which also suffered a few thousand homes burned and destroyed, not nearly as many deaths fortunately.

Madam Speaker, the Stafford Act is what we know as FEMA. Federal Emergency Manage-
Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Madam Speaker, I appreciate Mr. GARAMENDI’s leadership on this issue.

I don’t think there is—I have not been able to find—another democratic nation in our world that shuts down its government over policy arguments, wasting $1.2 trillion of GDP a week for no purpose.

Madam Speaker, I want to share a few stories of the impact of this senseless shutdown on workers, on people in my home State.

When we went home on Friday, I organized a meeting at our airport, Detroit Metropolitan Airport, with a range of Federal workers who have been affected. We just wanted to listen to them and hear their stories.

We invited FROM URRUTIA and my Democratic colleagues from Michigan, and those who traveled home were able to make it.

I just want to share a few of those stories.

There is Dave, a biologist at the NOAA research lab in Ann Arbor. He has been furloughed, not getting paid. They study the water currents in the Straits of Mackinac.

Line 5, our locally famous pipeline that literally is leaking oil in the water in the bottom of the Great Lakes underneat the Mackinac Bridge, if that breaks or has a rupture, the research of this group is what determines how we would fight that oil spill, which would devastate the economy of the Great Lakes.

That supercomputer is shut off. It is just not working. And if we have that, if there was an accident there, the whole Midwest would be out of luck.

They run an experimental weather computer that supplements the basic work of the National Weather Service and contributes to our weather forecasting. God forbid we have a huge storm somewhere in the United States where we just don’t know what’s going on because they are not doing their work; they are not able to work. Just imagine some huge pileup of cars on one of our interstates that happens because we are not doing our best weather forecasting.

We heard from Mark, who is the president of his local. He works at the EPA lab in Ann Arbor. That lab is shut down.

They are the ones who determine the fuel efficiency of the cars you buy. Our auto manufacturers are not able to move their cars forward toward the market because they cannot begin to sell a car until it has the EPA rating.

That EPA lab also does enforcement of fossil fuel companies in our region. That is not happening.

We heard from Wananvira, a TSA agent for the last 2½ years. She is a veteran. So many of these people were veterans. She is a veteran. She was a Detroit cop for 10 years, and now she is a TSA agent.

She had to go to the food bank to make sure she had food for her family because she is not getting paid. She is being forced to work without pay.

We heard from Jennifer, another TSA agent. She and her husband—I forget which was which—one of them is 11 years and one of them is 16 years working for TSA. Friday was a pay-less payday for the whole family, no income coming in at all.

Her comment was: We have got this week figured out. But next week—meaning, the week we are in right now—they don’t know how they are going to put food on the table.

We heard from YOUSEF, who works for the Customs service. He said his friends think he is on vacation because he has been furloughed by our government. But his comment was that he didn’t think a vacation included calling your mortgage lender and your car loan creditor to beg for a month of forbearance. He never thought that he would get rich as a public servant, but he also didn’t think he would have trouble paying for his 5-month-old daughter.

We heard from Angel, a computer programmer for the IRS. She has twin girls in college. They just started a new semester. She has no money to buy their books. She has no money to buy their other supplies. She is another veteran.

She herself has student loans. She tried to go on ed.gov to figure out if she could get a month off. Website closed.

So we need to work hard to break through to the Secretary of Education to work with her to give forgiveness for student loans for Federal employees who are affected by this.

And, finally, I have got to share the story of Tim. It is a frightening one because he inspects our planes, and half of them are working and half of them are furloughed, and they are not inspecting our planes to the extent that they normally do.

This is no joke. I do not want this shutdown to end because our friends finally come to their senses after some horrible thing happens to a plane, our cars, or our food something that isn’t being inspected.

But Tim is a Navy vet who went to work for General Motors. He lost his job in the Great Recession.

Madam Speaker, in a previous life, I created and ran something called No Worker Left Behind. I ran the workforce system of the State of Michigan, and I created, essentially, the largest experiment by any State in actually putting working school who were unemployed or underemployed.

We put 162,000 Michiganders back to school. This gentleman, Tim, was one of them. He studied IT. And out of that program in Oakland County, Michigan, he got a job with the FAA. And here he is, working without a paycheck now. And so many of his coworkers are furloughed.

He just wants to serve his country. He has two kids in college, again, and they need funding for tuition, books, and so forth.

Madam Speaker, there is no reason that 820,000 Federal workers are forced to work for no pay or are simply off without their livelihood. And so many more government contractors are being victimized, and so many small businesses who run a restaurant or a barber shop near a government facility are robbed of their income.

The economic effects are devastating. There is no reason for it.

I appreciate Mr. GARAMENDI’s leadership on this. I just wanted to come here and join him in calling on our colleagues in the Senate to join us in voting to reopen our government right now. After all, we passed what they had passed, what our Republican friends had passed. It is not our appropriations, how we would want them, as Democrats. We passed their appropriations.

And in a bipartisan spirit, let’s reopen our government, and we can have all the negotiations we want over policy matters.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing our attention to the real-life problems that these employees have personally and that are being created for Americans, where it is the broken pipeline or an airplane that wasn’t inspected. It is very important that we all know those things. I thank the gentleman for joining us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), my colleague, and ask him to please share with us his thoughts on the government shutdown.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I applaud the gentleman from California for leading on this issue.

I find that there is a false perception when it comes to Federal workers that they are all based in the Washington, D.C., area. We even heard some comment to that effect from the President not so long ago.

In fact, so much of our Federal workforce is spread throughout the country. In the Philadelphia area, that I represent, we have the fifth highest number of Federal workers in the country. Furthermore, there are all those who actually are impacted in some way by this government shutdown, not just the 800,000-plus who are going right now without a paycheck.

My ask is very simple. I want the Senate majority leader to allow a vote on the same bill that passed unanimously—unanimously—in the Senate just a few weeks ago. That bill would provide funding for all Federal workers who are going right now without a paycheck.

On that Wednesday, it passed on voice vote unanimously in the Senate. We were here on Thursday morning, prepared to vote on that same legislation.

But what happened between Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning? The President received a great deal of criticism from his base, and then suddenly the bill that passed unanimously from the Senate less than 21 hours before did not go forward, and now here we are, stuck in the longest government shutdown in American history.
I also want to make this point, because all of us in government so often have gone from crisis to crisis to crisis. This is a real systemic problem in which we—all of us, regardless of party—are shooting ourselves in the foot and actually reducing much-needed economic growth. GDP growth over the next year, completely needlessly. Almost every Western democracy does not do it this way.

Once we get beyond the shutdown, a bipartisan group of legislators should look to continue to fix to this and the other sort of major way in which we shoot ourselves in the foot, which is when we actually come into danger of not raising the debt ceiling and playing really with fire.

These are mechanisms that most other Western democracies don’t have. They certainly have their partisan fights; only, instead of two parties, often, it is more than two major parties.

So I do think that once we get beyond this crisis, we do need to figure out a way to prevent this from ever happening again.

There are going to be different legislators in these seats, inevitably all of us will be gone. There will be the switch of party control that has happened multiple times in this century and will happen.

We need to figure out a way to avoid these needless government shutdowns in the future that are only costly. They hurt real people who are living paycheck to paycheck—people, by the way, who are Democrats, Republicans, Independents, and nonvoters. And there is really nothing to be gained out of these government shutdowns.

So let us work together to end this government shutdown. It is completely unnecessary. It could end tomorrow if there were willingness in the White House and on the Senate side. And then let’s also work together to ensure that this is not only the longest government shutdown in American history, but also the last.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The gentleman is quite correct about the nature of the shutdown and the impact that it has on Americans.

Can I be optimistic and encourage him to figure out how to stop these from ever happening again? And when he grows a very gray head of hair and a gray beard, perhaps he will have figured it out. It just hasn’t happened.

I was around for the 1995 shutdown. I was the Deputy Secretary at the Department of the Interior, number two, and that massive Department which I spoke of earlier, the parks, the Fish and Wildlife services, all of those organizations—gone.

At that time, we did not have the requirement that now services would have been provided; there was just the body working. And that went on for, I think, 23 days, which until this week was the longest. It was a long time ago, and here we are once again and in between. I think there are ways.

I notice many of my colleagues on the Republican side are here, will soon have the opportunity to take the floor and will probably debate many of the points that I agree with many of the points that I have. I have tried to talk about the children that were separated. That will get me off on another thing that wouldn’t be helpful now. But that takes time, and you and I know that we need to solve that problem.

So let’s start our government today, tomorrow. Let’s prove to the world that it really is an American Government—not shut down but operating, all of its good and all of its extraordinary ability, makes us better because it makes us. And it is not operating now.

And then let’s take the time over the next 30 days, 60 days, whatever you want to put on it, to negotiate real border security, dealing with the immigration issues, dealing with DACA, dealing with fences and border ports of entry, the kind of technology that is necessary to know what is inside that container, the kind of technology that is necessary, and the kind of personnel necessary to check not one of five cars but every car and every truck and every plane and every ship. We ought to do that. But right now we are in the heat of this, and we are not getting anywhere.

So as he takes the floor in the next hour, I will listen and our team will listen. I would ask him to encourage his colleagues, our colleagues in the Senate, to pass the legislation that has been sent to them, which is actually the Republican appropriations bills, take a very significant major step towards reopening government, and then let’s take the time to thoughtfully, properly address a very complex, very long-lasting problem in America: immigration, border security. I know most of them, and I think that is what they would really like to do.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Speaker and avoid engaging in personalities toward the President.

THE CRISIS AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about the crisis at the border, what is happening now, and what we can expect if we don’t resolve this issue.

I can’t help but comment on a few things that my good friend, the gentleman from California, said. And just in case he wasn’t paying attention, we are talking about 234 miles of border security fencing or wall or barrier of some sort as enumerated by the Secretary of Homeland Security—not the President; the Secretary of Homeland Security.

So when he says it is unspecified where it will be and what it will be, it is very close to the very particularly specified by the Secretary for the President, and it is the 10 worst sites along the border where there is no barrier now.
Let’s get on with the other business of the afternoon.

Madam Speaker, I am here this afternoon with nearly a dozen of my colleagues in the House Freedom Caucus who will lay out the case, with specificity, for the President’s policies on border security and whether to fund the construction of a border wall on points along our southern border.

Right now, our immigration is our single greatest policy failure, a failure that is a manufactured one. It was created from political cowardice, short-termism, and self-interest, but it is a moral, legal, and human catastrophe of epic proportions.

The President is fighting to fix it, and the Freedom Caucus is fighting to fix it right alongside him. Squarely in our way is a party gripped by denial, their political equivalent of hear no evil and see no evil.

We learned as children that putting your head in the sand doesn’t change the reality of the situation, the facts are. They don’t have a political position. It is not about how we feel or what we wish the facts are. They are what they are.

Let me quote a recent Vox article, a publication, mind you, that is no friend to conservatives or the Trump Administration:

Hundreds, or even thousands, of migrant families are set to be released from government detention along the U.S.-Mexico border over the next several days. But while the mass release of families may cheer critics of the Trump administration’s treatment of immigrant families, the government’s new plan will probably lead to hundreds of families getting dropped off en masse at bus stations—literally out in the cold.

Now the U.S. Border Patrol is so jammed that it had to release these illegal aliens without even questioning them on Christmas Eve. And that is not the Border Patrol’s fault; it is an activist judge in California who said that Customs and Border Protection must release these individuals. But there is nowhere for these families to go. Charities at the border are full. Detention facilities at the border are full. Some more quotes from the same article:

But over the summer and fall of 2018, it became clear that there really is a crisis at the border—because more families are coming to more places than U.S. officials have ever been capable of dealing with.

During the peak of unauthorized migration into the U.S., circa 2000, the overwhelming majority of migrants were single men; only 10 percent of Border Patrol apprehensions were of families or unaccompanied children.

In November 2018, 57 percent were families or children. More families crossed the U.S.-Mexico border without documentation in November than in many months since Department of Homeland Security started tracking family apprehension separately.

More children and families crossed in November 2018 than crossed during the peak of the “border crisis” in June of 2014. This is Vox, mind you. This is an analysis from a liberal publication. Let me repeat the line.

But over the summer and fall of 2018, it has become clear that there really is a crisis at the border.

Again, this is from Vox.

Now, let me quote the Washington Post, as you know, another great fan of our President. This is an article from January 5:

In recent weeks, so many parents with children have been among the 2,000 unauthorized migrants who are being taken into Federal custody each day that authorities have resorted to mass releases of families onto the streets of El Paso and other border cities. U.S. agents are bringing dozens of migrants, children included, each day to clinics and hospitals after stays in jam-packed holding cells where children sleep on concrete floors and huddle in plastic sheets for warmth.

If this isn’t a crisis, can someone tell me what is? To all reporters hyperventilating in TV studios who fact-check the Freedom Caucus and the President, I am sure it is not a crisis; but to those print reporters at Vox and The Washington Post who did their jobs and reported the news, this is a crisis.

The agency tasked with basic Federal responsibility in this situation, Customs and Border Protection, lacks the legal resources to do its job humanely and effectively. They lack the legal resources. They lack the financial resources.

This is the current status quo. This is why we are here. This is why nothing is happening in Washington, D.C., about ending this shutdown, because some folks on the other side of the aisle, in both this body and the one across the Capitol, refuse to deal with the lack of resources.

I ask my Democratic colleagues: Is this what you support, this status quo? Do you support leaving illegal foreign nationals, human beings, on the streets of the United States at bus stations and by the side of the road?

Do you support incentivizing them to journey through one of the highest intensity drug trafficking zones in the world, where dangers of horrific things occur? Do you believe this is moral? I don’t. Neither does the President, who requested another $5 billion for detention beds so we can protect our borders and the illegal aliens who violate them. It is in writing in this letter from Director Vought at OMB, which I will include in the RECORD.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

Washington, DC, January 6, 2019.

Hon. Richard Shelby,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Dear Mr. President,

The President continues to stress the need to pass legislation that will both reopen the Federal Government and address the security and humanitarian crisis at our Nation’s Southwest border. The Administration has previously transmitted budget proposals that would address this ongoing humanitarian crisis, which has not been ameliorated by the areas and activities funded by the current and previous Congresses. Those areas and activities are inadequate to fully address these critical issues. Any agreement this year should satisfy the following priorities:

Border Wall, Customs and Border Protection (CBP): The President requests $5.7 billion for construction of a steel barrier for the Southwest border. Central to any strategy to achieve operational control along the southern border is physical infrastructure to provide requisite impedance and denial. In short, a physical barrier—creates an enduring capability that helps field personnel stop, slow down and/or contain illegal aliens. In concert with the Corps of Engineers, CBP has increased its capacity to execute these funds. The Administration’s full request will fund construction of a total of approximately 30 miles of physical barrier and fully fund the top 10 priorities in CBP’s Border Security Improvement Plan. This would require an increase of $4.1 billion over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.

Immigration Judge Teams—Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR): The President requests at least $636 million for 75 additional Immigration Judges and support staff to reduce the backlog of pending immigration cases. The Administration appreciates the efforts of the Senate’s FY 2019 bill that provides this level of funding, and looks forward to working with the Congress on further increases in this area to facilitate an expansion of in-country processing of asylum claims.

Law Enforcement Personnel, Border Patrol Agent Hiring, CBP: The President requests $2.1 billion to hire 750 additional Border Patrol Agents in support of his promise to keep our borders safe and secure. While the Senate’s FY 2019 bill supports additional Border Patrol Agent hiring, fulfilling this request requires an increase of $100 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.

Law Enforcement Personnel, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE): The President requests $571 million for 2,000 additional law enforcement personnel, as well as support staff, who enforce our U.S. immigration laws and help address gang violence, smuggling and trafficking, and the spread of drugs into our communities. This increase includes an increase of $571 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.

Detention Beds, ICE: The President requests $2.2 billion to support 52,000 detention beds. Given that in recent months, the number of people attempting to cross the border illegally has risen to 2,000 per day, providing additional resources for detention and transportation is essential. This would require an increase of $706 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.

Humanitarian Needs: The President requests an additional $571 million for border aid to address urgent humanitarian needs. This includes additional funding for enhanced medical support, transportation, consumable supplies, and funding for the temporary facilities for processing and short-term custody of vulnerable.
population, which are necessary to ensure the well-being of those taken into custody.

Counter-narcotics/weapon Technology: Beyond these specific budgetary requests, the Administration moves forward by working with Congress to provide resources in other areas to address the unprecedented challenges we face along the Southwest border. Specifically, it would provide Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology at in-bound lanes at U.S. Southwest Border Land Port of Entry (LPOE) would allow CBP to deter and detect more contraband, including narcotics, weapons, and other materials that pose nuclear and radiological threats. This would require an increase of $831 million over the FY 2019 funding level in the Senate version of the bill.

In addition, to address the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied alien children (UACs), Democrats have proposed in-country asylum processing for Central American Migrants. This would require a statutory change, along with reallocation of State Department funds to establish in-country processing capacities at Northern Triangle consultates and embassies. Furthermore, for the new procedure to achieve the desired humanitarian result, a corresponding statutory change would be required to ensure that those who circumvent the process and come to the United States without authorization can be promptly returned home. Without the latter change, in-country processing will not reduce the unauthorized flow or successfully mitigate the humanitarian crisis.

These investments in physical barriers and technology, as well as legislation to close loopholes in our immigration system, will reduce illegal immigration, the flow of illicit drugs entering our country and reduce the long term costs for border and immigration enforcement activities.

The Administration looks forward to advancing these critical priorities as part of legislation to reopen the Government.

Sincerely,

RUSSELL T. VOUGHT,
Acting Director.

Mr. PERRY. The President has asked for $800 million for things like medical care for these migrants, for transportation, for meals, and for short-term custody facilities to deal with the in-flow of illegal aliens our laws have caused.

He has asked for 57 new immigration judge teams to process these people, hear claims with merit, and deal with claims that do not.

And, yes, he asked for the wall to cover the 10 worst sites, as described by the Department of Homeland Security, to prevent entrants from pouring across the border, especially in the dead of winter and the extreme heat of summer.

These are rational measures, and they are humanitarian measures.

The cheap and disingenuous moralism of the Democrats in Congress has brought us to this point. They have opposed these proposals to improve this system, not only in this Congress, but in every Congress before. This is the same posturing that is worsening this crisis, and I will say it again: This is a crisis.

Now, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have a clear choice to make. They can bow to the demands of their radical base that believes there is no difference or distinction between citizen and noncitizen, or they can come to the table to work with the President, which is our job; to protect the vulnerable, including the 30 percent of women who are sexually assaulted on the trek to the U.S.-Mexican border, the children who are preyed upon by human traffickers, the innocent who are trying to make a better life for themselves but live in fear of the drug cartels and many others; to protect our borders; and to protect American citizens.

This Administration stands with the President, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues to make the case to the American people. Madam Speaker, we will next hear from Mr. CHIP ROY on the effectiveness of walls, and then we will hear from Mr. BROOKS from Alabama on the danger of these uncontrolled border policies to Americans, followed by Mr. BIGGS from Arizona on what it is like to live in an unsecured border because he lives in Arizona.

We will hear from Mr. HICE on opioids and the way our porous borders contribute to that crisis that is affecting every single town in the country.

We will hear from Mr. YOHO; Mr. MEADOWS, our great chairman, the gentleman from North Carolina; as well as Mr. CLOUD from Texas.

This evening, we are going to get beyond the typical soundbites and specifically lay out our case.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Madam Speaker, as a proud Texan, I am proud to give my first remarks on the floor of the United States House of Representatives today on the important issue of border security, critical to my district and critical to the State of Texas and our Nation.

Hundreds of thousands of people seek to come to this country, both legally and illegally, each year. They are drawn to the hope of the greatest free society the world has ever known. But we are in danger of losing that which separates us from the other nations of the world, the rule of law. Nowhere is that more pronounced than the chaos and the lawlessness of our southern border.

Freedom cannot flourish in chaos. Prosperity cannot emerge from fear. Yet, we have failed to secure our Nation because Members on both sides of the aisle have buried their heads in the sand over the last several decades, talking instead of doing. Americans are weary of our opinions and ready to see us do the job we were sent here to do.

This isn't about numbers or statistics. It is about people. It is about Jared Vargas, a vibrant young college student studying computer science with dreams of working in the cybersecurity field. His life was cut tragically short when he was brutally murdered by an illegal alien in San Antonio last June.

Jared’s mother, Lori; his twin brother; and his younger sister don't care if I personally believe fences would be more effective than drones, or vice versa. And they don't care if any of my colleagues believes that 2,028 homicide charges against illegal aliens in 2018 is not enough to justify a border wall. For them, one matters enough.

The Vargas family does care that Jared’s murderer has crossed the border twice and had been arrested for a DWI and released just a month before he killed Jared.

This current debate before us has a face. It has a name. That name is Jared. And his family wants justice for Jared.

But it is also about the little girl who, today, will be exploited by drug cartels who know that sex trafficking can be more lucrative than trafficking drugs.

It is about the young woman in Central America who saves money and pays every last dime she has to someone who promises to take her to a better life in America, only to be forced into a shipping container. She wakes up in Greece to find that she has been sold into the sex trade, and there is no one around her who speaks her language.

According to Doctors Without Borders, roughly one out of five women making their way across the border are victims of sexual assault. I am old enough to remember, as a Senate lawyer, when Senator Tom Coburn spoke on the Senate floor in 2007 about rape trees. I find it unacceptable that today, a decade later, we are still moving forward with the clothes of new victims because we have failed to do anything as a body, as a Congress.

In my visits to the border, one thing is clear: Dangerous cartels are calling the shots. I was talking to a Border Patrol agent last summer. He said:

I am down here at night. I am by myself. I have no cell, no radio. I can't see the river...
through the thick cane. I can’t drive along the river. And the cartels have operational control of the border.

That is what we are sending our guys down on the river, in the Rio Grande, to do to defend this Nation. So let’s put an end to this partisan ship aside and secure our border. Fences, cameras, radios, cell phones, more Border Patrol agents, additional immigration judges, cleared cane, navigable roads along the river, we need all these tools.

To be clear, that is what is in the President’s plan. That is what we are fighting to get. To be clear again, fences are a vital and necessary part of that security.

It is absurd for anyone to argue that fences do not work, take your pick of an example throughout history, from the walls around medieval fortresses to the fencing around the White House and our military installations today. Ask yourself whether leaving your yard open, monitored by drones, will save you from liability if a child falls in your pool.

The truth is, fences have worked since the dawn of time. Currently, we have 46 miles of reinforced fencing along the San Diego sector of the border. Before construction began in 1986, there were 630,000 arrests. Compare that to almost 32,000 arrests in 2016.

Fences work. Yet, 10 years ago, I heard members of the Senate Judiciary Committee argue that fences don’t work because migrants then shifted from California to Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas.

Only in Washington is that logic passable. Fences don’t work because they worked? That may have been the first time, though it won’t be the last, that I heard someone say fencing is a 1st or 3rd or 18th century solution for a 21st century problem.

But in El Paso, in Yuma, in Tucson, in Isla del Agua, fencing was put in place, and we have seen reductions of up to 90 percent or more in illegal crossings.

This body has repeatedly authorized foreign assistance to our allies to help them secure their borders. But, at the same time, the House is crippled with inaction at securing our own.

We have repeatedly authorized fencing for the United States of America, but we are here today trying to actually get it funded and get it built. It is time for the United States of America to demonstrate, and the urgency that is needed on the other side of the fence.

I can tell you, the President, 16 blocks from here, was sitting here over Christmas and over New Year’s, and, indeed, the fence was last weekend. When 30 of my colleagues from across the aisle went to Puerto Rico on a junket with lobbyists to talk about how important the government shutdown must be to them.

Well, I can tell you that the biggest fallacy in all of this is that all the perils that my colleagues oppose seem to demonstrate, and the urgency that is there, I haven’t seen the urgency.

We come to work, we work through and what happens? They go home. The second weekend, what happens? They go to Puerto Rico.

Even today, while the President invites Democrat colleagues to go 16 blocks from here and negotiate on how we may solve this, what do they do? They turn down the President.

Now, I can tell you, Madam Speaker, that there are a lot of things that are said on this particular House floor, but more important than today when we have our colleagues who were suggesting that this is easy to fix. They are exactly right. It is easy to fix. All we have to do is provide a little funding for border security and build a wall, because we have at stake are the lives of innocent people.

Madam Speaker, I looked in the face of moms today who had lost their kids. It truly broke my heart to think that, here we are debating this issue, and yet, for someone, my colleagues opposite won’t give a single dime.

Let’s find a single Democrat who is willing to give any amount of money to border barriers, and let’s have a negotiation.

But you know what? You can’t find them. You can’t find them, not because they are in Puerto Rico. You can’t find them because they have built a wall between us and сделать compromise.

So, Madam Speaker, I am here today to suggest that we are here willing to negotiate. We are here willing to open back up the government, but not until the Democrats are willing to meet us halfway.

I can tell you, this President stands ready to make a deal, but, quite frankly, it has been only one side of the equation willing to negotiate.

I thank the gentleman for his leadership. I thank all my colleagues for being willing to stand up.

Let’s get this done right. Let’s secure the border once and for all. And let’s, indeed, make America safe again.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS).

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, in 2018, more than 2,000 illegal aliens were apprehended by Federal law enforcement officers for homicides committed on American soil; that is roughly 2,000 dead in just 1 year. And that does not count some number of the 70,000 Americans whose lives are shattered out each year byHz, much of which is shipped illegally into America across our porous southern border.

Americans would know more about these horrific killings if the media diverted just a fraction of the time it spends on extolling illegal aliens and attacking our brave border patrol and ICE officers and agents to telling the stories of American lives needlessly ended by illegal aliens and our porous southern border.

Today I share a few stories about those who died solely because of illegal aliens and our porous southern border. Louise Sollowin was a beloved mother, wife, and grandmother. Louise spent 50 years helping her sister fire up the oven at Omaha, Nebraska’s, Orsi’s Italian Bakery, where she worked well into her 80s.

In 2013, after 93 years of life, Louise was brutally raped and beaten to death by an illegal alien. To make matters even more horrific, Louise’s daughter found her bleeding, battered, and dying mother with a naked illegal alien passed out on top of her.

In 2010 in Houston, Texas, 14-year-old Shatavia Anderson was shot in the chest and killed by two illegal aliens. Shatavia loved her family and loved talking on the phone. She proclaimed that one day she was “gonna be somebody.” Shatavia was robbed of that dream by illegal aliens.

In July 2018 in my hometown of Huntsville, Alabama, two drug-cartel related illegal aliens took Oralia Mendez and her 13-year-old granddaughter, Mariah Lopez, from their
home in the dark of night. Oralia was stabbed to death while her teenage granddaughter, Mariah, was forced to watch. Later, and in order to eliminate a witness, the illegal alien drug cartel members then beheaded Mariah and abandoned her body in the woods, not far from where Murillo’s decaying body was not found for weeks. Mariah was a special needs student at Challenger Middle School. Her teachers described her as a “sweet little girl” who “had a lot of friends.”

I have read in the newspaper, Ms. HICE, a Hampton staff member, Michaila Lindow, who well remembers being baby-sat as a young child by family friend, Tad Mattle. In 2009 in Huntsville, Alabama, then 19-year-old Tad Mattle was driving home with his girlfriend from a church social. While stopped at a traffic light, an illegal alien, who was fleeing the scene of yet another crime and whose blood alcohol content was three times the legal limit, rear-ended Tad Mattle’s car. ThisIAL. It exploded three feet from Tad Mattle’s car exploded on impact, tragically killing Tad Mattle and his girlfriend. Tad, the oldest of three children, enjoyed making music and served as percussion leader in the Grissom High School marching band. Three days before he was killed, Tad was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he planned to pursue an engineering degree.

Mr. Speaker, each of these horrific deaths have one thing in common: none of these lives would have been stolen from us, but for illegal aliens aided and abetted by Democrats who protect, promote, and prefer the lives of illegal aliens to the lives of American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, these killings on American soil will continue if America does not secure our porous southern border. As for those who support amnesty and sanctuary, they exploit many Americans who want their loved ones back. They exploit many Americans who want our porous southern border to be secured. They exploit many Americans who want our borders to be secure. They exploit many Americans who want us to be safe.

We have all heard the statistics. Nearly 90 percent of heroin coming into our country comes into our country from our southern border. 90 percent. Sadly, stories like Victoria Stevens’ are becoming all too common; we are hearing these stories on a daily basis.

I am honored to be a part of this group dealing with a problem that we all know is a reality and yet so few seem to be willing to do anything about.

We have thousands of new aliens entering our country every day, and this surge of illegal immigrants flooding across our porous borders puts our Nation at risk in more ways than one.

In 2017 alone, more than 900 Americans died every week from the opioid-related crisis and overdoses. Every American, everyone in this chamber knows personally someone who has been affected by this, be it a family member, a friend, a coworker, a neighbor; where the opioid crisis has penetrated into these lives. And its advancement continues to march down the streets of our Nation.

The story of the opioid epidemic certainly begins many times with prescription pain medications, pharmaceutical companies, pill mills, overprescribing, all of these kinds of ways, but today we see the opioid crisis being driven by the widespread availability of cheap, powerful drugs like heroin, often laced with synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Make no mistake about it: this is a human tragedy. It is a family tragedy. It is a national tragedy. It is a national crisis that we are facing right now, largely because of loopholes that we have in our immigration laws, but also unscrupulously because of the physical barriers that don’t exist. As a result, we have illegals continuing to storm into our country and bring with them all sorts of illegal activity.

Earlier today, I stood alongside my colleagues and met many angel families whose life was taken from this world, are watching communities that have become vulnerable and susceptible to crime.

I am convinced that they are becoming accomplices in the countless deaths yet to come by their refusal to deal with the dangerous drugs, illegal activities, and our broken borders.

This is precisely why we must deal with the President’s request for a border wall and to do so immediately. The consequences are too dire. We cannot continue to wait.

We are here today committed to ensure the integrity of our borders and the safety of the American people through the building of the wall on our southern border. We are here today fighting for the families of the victims, their loved ones, their families. We are here today fighting for the families of the victims, their loved ones, their families.

Tackling this immigration problem and protecting American families from criminal aliens is a fundamental responsibility and duty that we all have, and I am honored to stand with my colleagues to press this issue and to call the Democrats to come to the table and deal with the issue.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank my friend; I appreciate so much the time.

Mr. Perry. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama and yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. HICE).

Mr. BAKER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the noble friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for his leadership on this.

I am honored to be a part of this group dealing with a problem that we all know is a reality and yet so few seem to be willing to do anything about.

We have thousands of new aliens entering our country every day, and this surge of illegal immigrants flooding across our porous borders puts our Nation at risk in more ways than one.

In 2017 alone, more than 900 Americans died every week from the opioid-related crisis and overdoses. Every American, everyone in this chamber knows personally someone who has been affected by this, be it a family member, a friend, a coworker, a neighbor; where the opioid crisis has penetrated into these lives. And its advancement continues to march down the streets of our Nation.

The story of the opioid epidemic certainly begins many times with prescription pain medications, pharmaceutical companies, pill mills, overprescribing, all of these kinds of ways, but today we see the opioid crisis being driven by the widespread availability of cheap, powerful drugs like heroin, often laced with synthetic opioids like fentanyl.

Make no mistake about it: this is a human tragedy. It is a family tragedy. It is a national tragedy. It is a national crisis that we are facing right now, largely because of loopholes that we have in our immigration laws, but also unscrupulously because of the physical barriers that don’t exist. As a result, we have illegals continuing to storm into our country and bring with them all sorts of illegal activity.

One in particular I met today Susan Stevens. Susan had a daughter, Victoria, who 1 year ago next week lost her life. She was a cheerleader, she was an artist. She was a vibrant young lady whose life was taken from this world largely because of our inability to deal with and stop the smuggling of illegal drugs coming into our country and to secure our border.

We have all heard the statistics. Nearly 90 percent of heroin coming into our country comes into our country from our southern border. 90 percent. Sadly, stories like Victoria Stevens’ are becoming all too common; we are hearing these stories on a daily basis.

I am stunned when my colleagues on the other side look at the President’s cry at this national crisis at our border as some sort of political stunt. This is no political stunt. This is reality.

Two weeks ago we all watched as Speaker PELOSI jokingly made the claim that she would be willing to give up a single dollar to secure our border. I would remind the Speaker, this is no joking matter and this is no laughing matter. These are real lives. This is a Nation that is being impacted by her refusal to deal with the issue at hand.

This country ought to be a safe haven for law-abiding citizens, but instead we are watching communities that have become vulnerable and susceptible to crime.

How many more families need to lose loved ones before we take action? How many more families will no longer hear the laugh of their child because we are not taking action right here, before we secure our borders? What is it going to take? The Mexican cartels are a cunning enemy, and yet Democrats refuse to acknowledge the situation. They call it a manufactured crisis.

I guarantee you, had they been there today with these angel families, they would not have left saying this is a manufactured crisis. They would have been pricked to the heart of the reality of what we are facing in this country. And yet they refuse to come to the table. They refuse to come with real solutions. They refuse to compromise at all.

Instead, as has already been mentioned, this past weekend they go to Puerto Rico on a virtual vacation while hundreds of thousands of American workers are losing their paychecks, being held by Democrats off on a vacation at an island getaway.

The Democrat playbook is nothing but obstruct at all costs. And, again, this was played out today while the President invites them to the White House, but they show up yet again, showing what they are really made of. And they refuse to deal with our borders.

More than 49,000 Americans died last year from heroin and opioid-related overdoses, and yet they refuse to deal with their open border policies, refuse to deal with this situation.

I am convinced that they are becoming accomplices in the countless deaths yet to come by their refusal to deal with the dangerous drugs, illegal activities, and our broken borders.

We are here today committed to ensuring the integrity of our borders and the safety of the American people through the building of the wall on our southern border. We are here today fighting for the families of the victims, their loved ones, their families.

Tackling this immigration problem and protecting American families from criminal aliens is a fundamental responsibility and duty that we all have, and I am honored to stand with my colleagues to press this issue and to call the Democrats to come to the table and deal with the issue.

Mr. Perry. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN).

Mr. Jordan. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Madam Speaker, you know why we can’t get a deal on the border security wall? You know why we can’t get a deal? Because today’s left has taken the most radical positions in American history.

They applaud Kaepernick when he disrespects the flag, they embrace Gov. Cuomo when he says America
was never that great, and they cheer on Maxine Waters when she says go out and harass anyone who supports the President.

Today’s left thinks that America is just another country, just one of the 190-some countries on the planet. What I believe is the United States of America is not just another country. It is the greatest Nation in history that has done more good for more people than any country ever; a special place, all shapes, all sizes, all colors, all talents come to so they can chase down their goals, chase down their dreams, make life better for themselves and their family.

That is this country: a special place, where people come and respect the Constitution, cherish the Bill of Rights, and embrace the rule of law.

But today’s left, specifically on this issue, Democrat Congressman Buchamaneral said, abolish ICE; Secretary Clinton when she was running for the highest office in the land, said we need a borderless hemisphere; Speaker Pelosi said walls are immoral. And just last week, Stacey Abrams, Governor candidate from the State of Georgia, said noncitizens should be able to vote. Think about that: noncitizens should be able to vote.

Americans believe, Republicans believe, the House Freedom Caucus believes that borders need to be strong. Americans believe, with good reason, that there is a difference, a big difference, between legal immigration and illegal immigration. And Americans and Republicans and the House Freedom Caucus believe that a border security wall will help stop the drug problem, the gang problem, and the human trafficking problem.

Mr. Speaker, this is not just a fight about a border security wall. It is bigger than that. It is about those fundamental values, those fundamental principles, that make us the greatest Nation in history.

The House Freedom Caucus and the House Republicans stand with our President. We know there needs to be a border security wall. We know this is important. That is why this is important. That is why we are here. That is why this fight is so fundamental. And that is why it is important we stand with the President of the United States and make sure it gets done.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. Biggs).

Mr. BIGGS. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania for organizing this.

To be honest with you, I really can’t believe we still have to have this conversation. The idea that the United States of America should turn a blind eye to protecting its national borders violates one of the few responsibilities enumerated to the Federal Government in the Constitution, the one we just swore an oath to just a couple weeks ago, to ensure the security of our Nation and provide for its defense. How can anyone argue that we are safer as a nation by not having any idea who is entering our land?

Unlike many Members of Congress, I was born and raised in southern Arizona, mere miles to the Mexican border, not too far away, an hour or so drive. I have met with Border Patrol agents and ranchers who live in the region several times alone recently. There is no other way to put this: The situation on the American side of the border is dire and equally as grave on the other side.

For 8 years under the Obama administration, the Federal Government effectively told Americans that their safety and their sovereignty were not important. They told Border Patrol agents and ICE agents that the jobs they were doing were essentially pointless, because the Obama administration was going to find as many ways as possible to prevent further border security and circumvent the immigration laws passed by Congress, including reducing the pay of the Border Patrol agents.

If the House Democrats have their way, they will continue down this suboptimum, irresponsible path until it is simply too late.

I visited a 5-mile stretch of the border that crosses through one of Arizona’s Indian reservations. Along the way, the Border Patrol agent who was guiding us pointed out drug shacks and lookouts that the cartels use to alert smugglers of the Border Patrol’s presence. It is astounding, quite frankly.

Some will argue that there is fencing along many of those miles and try to convince you that the area is secure and no fencing is necessary. But let me tell you something, that is not true. The fencing consists of a single strand of barbed wire which might be some Normandy barriers, those cross barriers, now and then, and there is some pole fencing, all of which easily can be walked over or stepped through. No one who has been there can argue with a straight face that the ability to walk across the border with little effort can be called secure.

On that same trip, I met with cattle ranchers near Nogales. Each of those families have fought illegal aliens on their property—in fact, on a regular basis. It is so grave that they have set up cameras so they could capture footage of the illegal traffic. I have seen that footage; I have seen the videos. It is not groups of sweet mothers and children coming across it. It is groups of armed, young men, with drugs strapped to their backs, 50-pound packages. They are wearing carpet shoes to disguise their footprints in the dirt.

I recently spoke with a rancher along the border. He has told me that he has been victimized by three home invasions and more than a dozen burglaries, not counting the near constant trespasses that victimize his family.

I am curious to know what the open border advocates think about that kind of traffic. Should known drug smugglers have the freedom to traipse across private property and come into our homes? These Americans own their land, but the House Democrats see no reason to protect them from this invasion.

To any Member of the Chamber who denies this with both hands, or doesn’t know how to describe it, including with a wall, how would you feel about constant trespassing and vandalizing of your own property? Don’t you think the government should do something about it, or should we just turn a blind eye?

During a more recent trip, I had lunch with about 15 rank-and-file Border Patrol agents working in southern Arizona. These are the men and women defending our borders every day. They are putting their lives on the line, chasing after armed drug smugglers and being assaulted by illegal aliens they encounter.

By the way, just a couple of weeks ago, there was one attacked who had his brother shot. Either he was bitten and punched and attacked. Let me tell you, it leads to low morale in the agency.

They are the only DHS law enforcement agency that received a pay cut under the previous administration, and we can’t fund them back yet. I don’t understand that.

When they hear Members of Congress condemn the work they are doing and advocating instead for lawlessness and open borders, these agents have little incentive or motivation to continue fighting for our Nation’s security.

This morning, I stood, like others have mentioned, with Angel Families who have lost loved ones. Two of them are here in this Chamber, Brandon Mendoza and Grant Ronnebeck. They have suffered unjust harms. They have lost their children.

When I hear the gentleman from California say, oh, we can’t get to the Smithsonian museum, well, for these people, their children will never get to the Smithsonian museum. They will mourn, and they do grieve. I am thankful for them standing up.

I will just tell you, ladies and gentlemen, there is a crisis on the border. We must deal with this crisis.

I call on my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to quit being obstructionists. We have to fund a border wall and the border security asked for.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Griffith).

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, “Facts are stubborn things; and what- ever may be our wishes, our inclina- tions, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

John Adams made that statement almost 250 years ago. I recall his words
when House Speaker PELOSI, in arguing against more funding for security at the southern border, claimed that President Trump was “manufacturing a crisis.”

The facts establish that crisis exists. According to the Department of Homeland Security data, 161,000 family units arrived in fiscal year 2018, an increase of 50 percent, and 60,000 unaccompanied children arrived in the same time period, an increase of 25 percent. Asylum claims have more than doubled since the end of the last fiscal year. Yet, Speaker PELOSI approves the spending for the past year but demands the Department of Homeland Security reduce spending.

These surging numbers are overwhelming our resources on the border and creating a humanitarian, security, and legal crisis. The Mexican side of the border is often controlled by Mexican criminal cartels or gangs. They charge a fee to assist border crossings. To get here, many migrants put themselves in the hands of these vicious smuggling gangs, which are looking for profit and are uninterested in basic human dignity.

On the dangerous journey to the border, 7 out of 10 migrants suffer from violence, and 31 percent of women and 17 percent of men are sexually assaulted. Too often, the fees these gangs charge are indelentary. Drug trade. Porous borders only encourage more business for the criminal gangs who commit these abuses.

Further, more than people are being brought across the border, as you have heard. Increased amounts of illicit substances are entering as well. Meth, trafficked across the border by these cartels into places across the country, including my district in southwest Virginia, increased by 38 percent from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2018. That same period saw a 22 percent increase in heroin and an astonishing 75 percent increase in fentanyl.

Even when current security measures intercept people crossing the border illegally, there isn’t enough room in facilities to detain these individuals until a judicial hearing can be held. Accordingly, most illegal immigrants are released with notice to appear at a hearing in the future. The time of the hearing, they have either disappeared back into the clutches of the cartels or into the underground economy.

In my opinion, these facts classify the situation on the southern border as a crisis. President Trump has asked for $5.7 billion to build a barrier on the southern border and additional funding for personnel. What is more, he is willing to negotiate with the Democrats in the House and in the Senate. Congressional Republicans are also ready to compromise.

In contrast, Democrat leaders refuse to budge. They say they will give no money for a wall. Speaker PELOSI even called a wall immoral. Her views on a barrier’s immorality may come as a surprise to many on her side of the aisle. When Congress voted on the Secure Fence Act, which provided for 700 miles of fencing in 2006, it received the support of 64 Democrats in the House and 26 in the Senate, including CHUCK SCHUMER, now the Senate Democrat leader, and then-Senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

Instead, she appears afraid to get to yes on a deal with the President. Speaker PELOSI appears to be afraid to get to yes on a deal with the President.

Another objection she has raised to the wall is that illegal drugs and other smuggled goods also come through our legal ports of entry rather than across the border. President Trump responded by including an additional $575 million to combat smuggling at the ports of entry.

Further, Democrats say the government should be reopened before they can come to the table. But when debating immigration last summer, the House Democrats never offered a compromise on a wall. When debating spending bills this fall, House Democrats never offered to compromise on a wall.

For 30 years, the American people have been promised a barrier on the southern border. Particularly for the last 4 months when the government was, in fact, open, the last 4 months of 2018, House Democrats didn’t offer a solution. Why? They can now say that, if the government is reopened, they will suddenly find a way to compromise?

Reaching a compromise is difficult when one side doesn’t admit there is a problem. A porous border has caused a crisis.

I urge Speaker PELOSI to come to the table. Let’s talk about ways to secure the border, protect the American people, end the humanitarian crisis, and reopen the government.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding on such an important topic.

I am glad to be here tonight because I think it is important that we go out and make our case to the American people and tell the truth, which is not what you are going to hear in the media or from our Democratic colleagues, as we have heard earlier today.

The government now has been shut down for 25 days, breaking the record for the longest partial government shutdown in history. We would like to express our empathy and concern for those affected, and may this be resolved sooner than later.

Why has this been so long? Because Democrats refuse to come to the table to negotiate a solution. Instead, they would rather bring up messaging bills that don’t fund vital programs. Also, they can say they didn’t support President Trump’s border wall.

In fact, today, we passed a bill that passed in the House that we passed last Congress. It was on hatred and hate speech and all that. They won’t address this issue. They want to walk away from this.

They don’t want to support President Trump’s border wall so they can go to their constituents and say they won. This is all about the 2020 Presidential election. They aren’t concerned about border security or the security of the American people.

This is not a game. We are not talking about a game. We are talking about the rule of law, security for the American people and our Nation.

This President has been confronted with an unprecedented degree of obstruction from the Democratic Party. President Trump has asked the Democratic leadership if they would negotiate over the wall if the government was reopened. Speaker PELOSI said no. She has said over and over again that walls are immoral and not one penny for a wall.

Ms. PELOSI, I am asking you, and the American people are asking you, to do the right thing: negotiate border security and pay our patriotic workers who aren’t getting paid.

This obstruction is unnecessary and hypocritical. How is funding for border security unreasonable? The answer is that it isn’t.

Democrats have supported fences at the border in the past. In 2006, over half the Democratic Senators, including Hillary Clinton, CHUCK SCHUMER, and Barack Obama, voted to build 700 miles of security fence; 138 Democratic House Members voted for that bill.

Democrats must realize the importance of border security but would rather sacrifice security for political gamesmanship. This is a matter of national security and can no longer be ignored.

On average, 2,000 inadmissible, illegal migrants arrive at our southern border daily. That means, in the last 25 days, approximately 50,000 illegal migrants have sought entry at our border without going through the proper channels.

And there are proper channels.

I remain a strong supporter of border security and will continue to defend the need for this essential funding. Our porous border and weak enforcement laws have allowed for illegal immigration to go unchecked. Liberal cities and liberal States with liberal policies supported by our liberal colleagues continually put Americans in jeopardy.

Just last night, three MS–13 gang members were picked up and arrested for murder on a 16-year-old. Their ages were 20, 19, and 17. All three were gang members of MS–13. Two of them had been previously released by a Federal judge, and all confirmed that they came into this country in 2016 under President Obama’s illegal DACA program.

If you talk to the Democrats, they tell you that $5.7 billion is too much to
pay for protection at our southern border; but what they won’t tell you is, if the U.S. were to grant amnesty or a path to citizenships for all illegal aliens currently living in our country, it would cost an estimated $2.6 trillion. That is an easy choice from the perspective of $5.7 billion as the price to pay for our national security.

We are facing unprecedented obstructionism from the Democrats, and we can’t reward them by backing down. We can and will win if we continue to fight.

When I talk to people in my district, when you can break down why are we here, what our course is, and what our principles are, they support us. People on the border that are border security guards support us.

That is why I believe the Democrats will have to come to their senses and negotiate as more and more Americans support our view from what you have heard here today. I appreciate the Freedom Caucus for standing up and pointing these things out.

Meanwhile, this shutdown wore on through the weekend, and I along with my Republican colleagues stayed in town to end it, but the Democrats chose to focus on the shutdown, and I believe we spent our time better. We have vowed to come back to Washington to continue the fight to end the border crisis, and the first order of business in the new Congress should be to continue securing our border.

Our Federal Government’s unwillingness to control our border allows cartels to amass profits of tens of billions of dollars each year smuggling drugs and humans across the border. They siphon oil from pipelines. They extort families and businesses and kidnap for profit. The barbarism of these criminal cartels has led to thousands of deaths in Mexico, alone, since 2006. They have worked their corrupting influence into the halls of government and law enforcement, hindering the people of these nations from developing and realizing the blessings of liberty for themselves.

Our Federal Government’s unwillingness to control our border allows cartels to wield their corrupting influence in a way that makes positive change so difficult in these countries.

Unfortunately, like too many issues these days, border security has become a divisive and a partisan issue when, historically, this has had broad support. But there should be nothing partisan about ending a humanitarian and criminal crisis that is driven by cartels and enabled by our Federal Government’s failure to act.

Congress has a responsibility to protect the citizens of our country and to end the humanitarian crisis on our southern border, and it is past time to reform our broken asylum system and secure the border.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) for sharing his thoughts on this topic.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Davidson).

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding. Madam Speaker, our bodies should unite to stop the violent cartels and drug lords who have taken advantage of the humanitarian crisis on our southern border. Border security is national security, and we need to be doing everything we can to secure our southern border.

For years, our senior Border Patrol officials have made modest requests for additional resources. The President’s request prioritizes the top 10 of 17 priority areas that Border Patrol wants to secure.

The men and women patrolling our borders put their lives on the line every day to keep us safe from terrorism, drug trafficking, sex trafficking, gunrunning, money laundering, and all sorts of dangerous crimes. They routinely encounter some of the most dangerous criminals and traffickers anywhere in the world.

They seize drugs that would have otherwise made it onto Ohio streets where we are dealing with the tragedy of this opioid crisis that has killed far too many of our friends and neighbors. They have also arrested illegal aliens who were charged and convicted of crimes, including sexual assault, kidnapping, and homicide. A significant percentage of women and girls entering the country illegally are raped.

We should be giving our personnel on the border the resources they need to get the job done. Nevertheless, millions of Americans want to participate in this great cause. They have contributed private funds and would like to give directly to our government.

That is why I introduced the Buy a Brick, Build the Wall Act, which would allow the Treasury Department to help fund this wall and make sure the resources go to the cause that so many people support. We need to unite and secure our border.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NEGOTIATION IS CRITICAL TO ENDING THE SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. Loudermilk) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Madam Speaker, I also want to thank my colleagues from the Freedom Caucus for the hour that they spent sharing with the American people the facts and the statistics of what is happening at our southern border because of the inaction of Congress over quite a long time.

As a historian, I love this building. I love the Capitol. I love spending time in the halls of government and law enforcement. As a historian, I love this building. I love the Capitol. I love spending time in the halls of government and law enforcement.
in this Chamber just thinking about the history of our Nation and the historical moments that have taken place in here.

I love giving tours of the Capitol to constituents when they come. I bring them into this Chamber and, after they sit here, I share with them that it is from this rostrum behind me that President Franklin Roosevelt gave his day of infamy speech.

We walk down the hallway and we go to the rotunda, the magnificent rotunda that has portraits hanging in the rotunda that depict the history of America. I share with them about how this is the greatest deliberative body in the history of the world.

We have become the envy of other nations, our deliberative bodies, for the strength of America and all that we have accomplished in this Nation, the mind-boggling things that we have accomplished, from aerospace to business and the ingenuity of America, because of the strength of our freedom that has been built by a legislative body that brings the different sides together and negotiates to come up with solutions, solutions that are good for America.

Our strength isn’t because we have always agreed, we, quite frankly, disagree. And our disagreements go back to the beginning of our Nation.

In that rotunda is a portrait portraying a turning point in American history and it’s in American history. It happened during the Second Continental Congress, when our predecessors, those who came before us, the representative body that we now represent, were faced with a very critical decision. That decision was whether to vote in favor of declaring independence against Great Britain.

There were strong advocates, very strong advocates in favor of independence. One of those was John Adams from Massachusetts. John Adams was strongly in favor of independence and spoke very passionately of voting in favor of independence. But just as strongly as John Adams was in favor of independence, you had John Dickinson from Pennsylvania who also was as strongly opposed to independence.

They continued to debate all aspects of whether they should declare independence. And, in fact, there were others who disagreed, even to the point where the first vote for independence failed.

But Dr. Benjamin Franklin understood the power of negotiating, the power of compromise, the power of bringing two sides together, and he began to negotiate. He began to bring the sides together. And by the time they took the second and final vote for independence, he had garnered enough votes to actually pass the motion to declare our independence from Great Britain.

Now, the difference between John Adams and John Dickinson wasn’t that they disagreed on the problem they were facing. No, they both agreed that there were atrocities committed on the American Colonies by Great Britain. They only disagreed on how to deal with it.

As I mention that, and as you know from history, the second vote barely passed. John Dickinson remained opposed to declaring independence. In fact, he even voted against the resolution when it was brought before the floor. However, as soon as the resolution passed, John Dickinson left Philadelphia, and he joined the fight for independence.

We are at an impasse here in this historic Chamber today, not because we have a differing opinion, but because we are even refusing to come together to lay out the facts, to lay out the ideas, and to lay out the various solutions to this problem.

We are the greatest, most powerful, and most influential legislative body in all of our world history and the envy of the entire world. Other nations have modeled or tried to model their legislative bodies after ours. But we should be embarrassed to where we are today because the system is broken, and it isn’t broken because of who we are. It is broken because of what we have turned this into. We have broken the system because we have chosen to ignore our own rules, our own laws, and our own procedures.

Most Americans may not realize it, but we have a deadline. We have a deadline every year of September 30 to fully fund the government. But the last time that was done was in the 1990s. We have continued to kick the can down the road. Every September we get to the point that we just do a continuing resolution, and we put it off to another date and to another date until we get to a point that creates a crisis and we must fund the government. Then somebody holds the funding of the government hostage for whatever political partisan reason that they want.

The 4 years I have been in Congress I have worked diligently with others to try to change this status quo system of ignoring our own laws, rules, and procedures and consolidating the power of appropriations to just a few who get to call the shots and allow others to hold the American workers, the citizens, and the businesses that rely on those workers who were furloughed, hold them hostage for whatever political partisan wrangling. I don’t like where we are. I don’t like the way the process is broken. We should not be here because we should have fully funded the entire government before the end of September.

Now, to give credit where credit is due, over the last couple of years the House Republicans have made great efforts to try to accomplish that. In 2017, we were actually able to pass all 12 of our appropriations bills out of this Chamber and the Senate. It didn’t happen in the Senate, but we were able to do it here. This year we made an even greater accomplishment; we passed several of them. We passed five out of here that also went to the Senate. The Senate passed it. It went to the President’s desk, and he signed it.

But it is those remaining appropriations bills that have us where we are today because we did not follow our own rules.

I don’t like it. Most of the Members I know on our side don’t like it. My dad, a World War II veteran, used to give me a piece of advice. He said: Son, if your wife tells you something in life you don’t like, you have two choices. You can do something to change the situation or just accept the status quo and go on with your life. But complaining never accomplishes anything.

We are at an impasse where two sides have dug in on what they both claim are ideological principles. Let’s look at where we are. One side, the Republican side, believes that the drug trafficking, the weapon trafficking, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and the illegal travel coming across the border is a national security and humanitarian crisis. In fact, the Vice President, when he met with us last week, used those words, that this is a national security and humanitarian crisis we have at the border. The President of the United States also agrees that we have a crisis at the border.

However, the other side that is also dug in, the Democrats, don’t believe that we have a crisis. In fact, the talking points of the day have been, as you heard earlier, that the crisis has been manufactured, that the desire to build a border wall or a physical barrier is a vanity project for the President, or as one reporter stated as he was at the border, he said: Things are tranquil here.

So we have one side claiming a crisis, and the other side claiming conspiracy.

I believe we do have a crisis at the border. I believe that that crisis is real and that crisis has been going on for quite some time. As you can see on the board next to me here, I am not the only one who believes that, not only do we have a crisis but we have had a crisis that has existed for quite some time.

The President of the United States in 2014 stated: “We now have an actual humanitarian crisis on the border.” In fact, what he said was: “We now have an actual humanitarian crisis on the border that only underscores the need to drop the politics and fix our immigration system once and for all.”

Now, some of you who are watching on television right now will look at that and immediately attribute that to our current President, President Trump. But if you think back, Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States in 2014 was President Barack Obama. He is the one who said: Yes, we do have a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis at the border.

But it is some of my Democratic colleagues on the other side that say the crisis doesn’t exist, that it is manufactured, and that it is a conspiracy. It really doesn’t exist. Things are tranquil.
Well then you have to ask the question: What changed?

We must have done something significant during that time period. But nothing has changed. We still have the status quo when it comes to our border and border security.

In fact, President Obama went on to say: ‘In recent weeks we’ve seen a surge of unaccompanied children arrive at the border, brought here and to other countries by smugglers and traffickers.’

“The journey is unbelievably dangerous for these kids. The children who are fortunate enough to survive will it be taken care of while they go through the legal process, but in most cases that process will lead them to being sent back home.”

This is exactly what our current President is saying. We have a humanitarian crisis as well as a national security crisis. In fact, for the 4 years I have served in Congress, I have been saying that the crisis at the border should not be categorized just as an immigration crisis, but it is a national security crisis.

When I served on the Homeland Security Committee, we had many briefings by the then-Obama administration Department of Homeland Security who went through all of what was going on at the border, the crossings at the border, the drugs, the weapons, and who were they were intercepting, and I identified at that time that we had a crisis at the border.

But this issue at the border goes beyond even the time I have been in Congress. It has been going on for decades. It is a decades-old problem that because of status quo, because of the broken system that we are working under, because politicians are comfortable with the status quo, we have not done anything to address it.

In 2006, I was serving in the State legislature in Georgia. I was a young businessman who didn’t like the way things were going in the State, so I took the advice of my father that if there is something in life you don’t like, do something to change the situation. So I ran for the State house, and I was elected.

We were dealing with issues in Georgia of immigration. In fact, a young man by the name of Dustin Inman had lost his life because an illegal immigrant hit the car killing Dustin Inman and permanently making his mom disabled. It appeared to us that the Federal Government, the Congress in Washington, D.C. wasn’t doing anything to fix the situation, so a group of legislators got together.

We said: Look, we may have to address some of this on our own. So we will go to the border. We will spend several days at the border to see what is going on ourselves.

When we got to the border, I spent time with Border Patrol agents. We went up and down the border. They showed us where the physical barriers were working, but they also showed us where they had problems, and it was usually where the physical barrier ended. They shared with us the lack of funding that they had and the lack of adequate Border Patrol agents. They told us of the dangers that they were facing, but also the frustrations of catch and release.

We also spent the night with a rancher, after we had met with several residents who lived along the border. They were telling us the horrific stories of crimes committed on their property and in their neighborhoods, because of the cartel activity going on at the border. While we sat at this rancher’s home that evening—because of the lack of the adequate number of Border Patrol agents, he had to set up his own security systems and surveillance systems just to protect his property and protect his employees on his ranch.

I sat in his home that evening watching on infrared night vision cameras. You could see coyotes, those who were helping to bring illegals across into the United States, as they would congregate inside of Mexico and they would move up to where there was a physical barrier in a wall.

I asked him: At this point, what is going to happen? Are they going to scale the barrier?

He said: No, they are just staging. All they are going to do is move a few miles down that wall to where the wall doesn’t exist, and they will walk right across into the United States.

That is exactly what happened. We watched as they came into the United States, they hid in a gully until somebody came and picked them up. By the time the Border Patrol was able to get there, they were long gone.

I kept a journal. The other day I went back, and I pulled that journal out from 2006. I was reading over my experiences, and I got to the last entry of that journal that I wrote when I got home. That journal said: I believe the government. B.C., doesn’t want to solve the problem at our southern border.

Again, they are happy with the status quo.

Americans have been asking Congress to do something, not just about illegitimate immigration but about the drugs coming across into our Nation. As you heard earlier, the Department of Homeland Security has intercepted enough fentanyl used in opioids to kill nearly two-thirds of the entire population of the United States. They want us to do something about the sex trafficking, other drugs crossing across the border, weapons, criminal activity, human trafficking, and terrorism, the terrorists who are traveling across the border.

But we can’t solve any of these issues nor re-open this government until we hear anything from our colleagues on the other side except for the word no.

We must lay out our priorities. We must lay out our ideas, not just hurl insults at each side.

Then we must debate, and the debate must be based on truth, on facts, not perceptions and not accusations. It has to be based on where the American people, not what is best for the politicians or political victory or preparing for the next election.

If we are going to get to this place there has to be something that takes place. First of all, we have to have meetings, we have to have discussion, and we have to have negotiation. Just as Dr. Benjamin Franklin did at the onset of this Nation, he brought the parties together in meetings. They began discussing, and then they started negotiating. That is how they came up with compromise.

You have to have all three. You can’t have one without the other. You can’t have a discussion without first having a meeting.

Two weeks ago, congressional leaders were invited to the White House to; first of all, have a meeting to discuss. Where do we go from here to end the shutdown? To do something about border security; to move forward?

But the answer given to the President when he asked was: Are you willing to negotiate border security which includes building a physical barrier?

The answer was no, end of story, end of discussion.

Meetings aren’t effective unless you actually are able to have a discussion and both sides are willing to negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, you also have to be able to deal with facts. Both sides have to be able to deal with facts. Again, the President invited leadership of the House to the White House to the Situation Room to discuss the facts and the issues that you have heard several of here tonight.

However, as the Secretary of Homeland Security began to go through these issues one by one, she was interrupted by the Speaker of the House, Ms. Pelosi, and was told that she wasn’t interested in hearing the facts.

In fact, according to a news media report, it was, “I reject your facts.”

Secretary Nielsen said: ‘These aren’t my facts, they are the facts. We can only deal to deal with the truth, the facts. One question that I am always asked back home is: Your colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to say they are for border security, they are for national security and national security just don’t govern the border.”

Well, that is a question I have. So when the Democrats rejected the facts that came from the Department of Homeland Security about the atrocities that are going on, the criminal atrocities going on at the border, the President took it upon himself, and he sent it to Members of Congress. Immediately upon receiving this data, my
colleagues and my friends on the other side started dismissing the data.

When it came out in 2017 that the Department of Homeland Security intercepted 3,755 terrorists, that number was immediately challenged. And the other side was quick to point out, well, not all of those were caught at the border.

And they were right: not all were caught at the southern border. In fact, they properly pointed out that many of them were caught at our ports of entry at airports, so we should focus in that area and not on a border wall, even though a number were caught at the border.

Well, that is fine. They say they are for border security; however, I question that because, when President Trump, in his first year in office, identified this very problem, that we had terrorists coming in from nations that are known to harbor, train, and fund terrorists and he tried to put a travel ban on people coming in from those countries...Is it port security at our airports?

When the statistic came out that 6,000 illegals associated with gangs have been apprehended by ICE, again my colleagues challenged that statistic and brought up that, well, only 800 gang members were actually apprehended at the southern border—only 800.

Just the other day, the district attorney of one of the largest counties in Georgia said that the greatest threat to Georgians today is gangs. And, are we started looking at how do these gang members come in, our colleagues on the other side adequately pointed out that most of these gang members were not coming across the border, but they were here as a result of visa overstays.

“Are we really want border security, so we should address that.”

Last year, H.R. 4760, in June, was brought to this floor, which actually made visa overstays a Federal misdemeanor, but my colleagues on the other side voted against that bill.

The Department of Homeland Security also put out the statistic that 17,000 adults were detained at the southern border with criminal records. The other side has made the argument that these are just families that want a better life.

Again, they have rejected the facts. So my question is: Do they really want border security? Are they really willing to come to the table and lay out what their priorities for border security really are?

Is it port security at our airports? Well, obviously, they opposed the President when he took that route.

Is it addressing visa overstays? Well, obviously they voted against that bill when we brought it forward....

Do they really want to keep the government open and address border security? Well, they all voted against the continuing resolution the Republicans brought to the floor back in December and opted to close the government.

Do I believe that my colleagues want terrorists to come into the Nation? No, I do not.

Do I believe they want more gang members to infiltrate our communities? No, I don’t believe that is what they want.

I don’t believe they don’t think that there is a crisis at the border. I just think that they are happy with the status quo.

You see, this city often runs on people who have learned how to navigate the swamp. They learn how to use the status quo to their advantage.

And if you go back and you look over the history of this Nation, especially the modern history of this body of Congress, we are still debating several of the issues that we were debating 10, 15, and 20 years ago. It seems that these become campaign issues more than they are issues that we want to resolve for the American people. Why? Because we don’t want to address the status quo.

What we have in the White House right now is a President whose main objective is to change the status quo in Washington, to change the way we do things. Those ideas I support because what we are doing now is broken. The way we are doing it now is broken.

There is only one way out of this situation. It is for my colleagues from the other side of the aisle to actually agree to attend the meetings.

In fact, the President opened up the White House today for another meeting to start discussing and hopefully get to negotiations, but the leadership on the Democratic side refused to even show up.

We offered several compromises last year in December to avoid the shutdown, but the resounding response we received from the other side was “no.” Every attempt that we have brought to this floor to try to resolve the situation at the border has been met with a resounding “no.”

At some point, we have to get away from our own partisan political wrangling and understand that what we are doing is for the safety and the security of the American people. It is time to quit just saying “no” and say “but if.”

I appreciate every person who was elected to represent the American people, but now is the time to sit down, to begin to negotiate so we can reopen the government and, more importantly, ensure the safety and the security of all Americans.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116–2) on the resolution (H. Res. 43) providing for consideration of the H.R. 268 supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

DRUGS AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. STEVENS). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. RICE) for 2 minutes.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Yoho).

Mr. Yoho. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague and great friend, Mr. Rice, for allowing me this opportunity. The gentleman is truly a man of the people.

Madam Speaker, 25 days, 25 days the government has been shut down—25 days—making this the longest shutdown in U.S. history.

Why has this been so long? It is because the Democrats refuse to come to the table and negotiate a solution. Instead, they would rather pass messaging bills that don’t fund vital programs, all so that they can say they didn’t support increased border security.

Well, let’s take a look at the last 25 days.

On the average, 2,000 inadmissible migrants arrive at our southern border daily. That means, in the last 25 days, approximately 50,000 illegal migrants have sought entry at our border without going through the proper channels. And there are proper channels.

Additionally, in December, 27,518 family unit aliens were apprehended for crossing the border illegally. If those numbers remain consistent, that means over 214,292 family unit aliens have been apprehended for illegally crossing in the last 25 days.

In fiscal 2018, 2,028 illegal aliens arrested had homicide charges. If this number remains consistent, that means 139 homicide charges for illegal aliens in the last 25 days.

Further, on an average, 300 Americans die per week from heroin, and 90 percent of that comes to the U.S. through our southern border. That means, in the last 25 days, approximately 1,000 Americans have died...
because of heroin illegally crossing our border. This doesn’t even include the amount of fentanyl that crossed our southern border in fiscal year 2017, which was enough to kill every single American via overdose.

If you talk to the Democrats, they will tell you $5.7 billion is too much to pay for protection at our southern border, but what they won’t tell you is how much more it costs the Federal Government and American citizens by not securing our border.

The argument the Democrats want you to believe is that this argument is strictly about the border wall. Therefore, they fear, if President Trump gets any funding for the wall, they lose, like this is some kind of game that we are playing to win.

This is about them wanting power and winning the White House in 2020—shameful.

This is about border security. Period. Democrats, I ask you to do what is right: Come to the negotiating table to end this shutdown. You don’t lose, but America wins.

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Americans pay the price for our failure to secure our southern border in many, many ways. Our failure to control our southern border is a national disgrace.

Some of the ways Americans pay for our failure is through illegal immigration, reduced wages from illegal immigration, drugs, violent crime, human trafficking, gangs, abuse of our welfare system, and potential terrorism. There are too many to explore here, but I want to focus on just a few of the larger problems. One is illegal immigration.

First, I want to say I am not anti-immigration. I am anti-illegal immigration. You have to understand that, as a sovereign country, we have the right to decide who and how many people are allowed to become citizens of our country. And we are a very, very generous nation. Don’t let anybody tell you that, because we are against illegal immigration, we are not a generous nation.

We accept 1.1 million legal immigrants per year. That is almost twice as much as the next highest country—1.1 million legal immigrants per year. Now, if you talk about that number—Is it too high, too low—but that is what the law allows.

Most countries use their immigration system to make themselves more competitive, and that is what I am all about: make America great again, make the United States competitive again. You see, a competitive economy makes America the land of opportunity, and I am all about opportunity for my children and grandchildren and your children and grandchildren.

Most countries use the immigration system to make themselves more competitive by using high-skilled immigration. In other words, if you have a skill set or an educational background that that country needs, you go to the front of the line.

Our immigration system, on the other hand, is based on chain migration. Only 12 percent is skill based. That is less than half of what the average developed economy does. Canada and Mexico base much more of their immigration on skill set than we do here in America.

The result of our chain immigration-based system is that primarily low-skilled, uneducated people are admitted through our legal immigration system. In fact, over half of our legal immigrants—legal immigrants. I haven’t even gotten to illegal immigration yet. Over half of our legal immigrants end up relying on our welfare system, and this clearly makes us less, not more, competitive.

President Trump and I agree that we should shift to a skill-based immigration system like Canada and Mexico have to grow our economy and to create more opportunity for our children and grandchildren.

So all that is bad enough, that we base our immigration on chain migration, that 65 percent of the folks coming in here have a low skill set and over half of them end up on welfare, Medicaid, food stamps, and the like, but now let’s talk about illegal immigration.

On top of that 1.1 million primarily unskilled legal immigrant workforce that we bring in every year, we have a flood of illegal immigrants. Nobody knows exactly how many, but it is hundreds of thousands of folks. The low end of the estimates is 300,000 to 400,000 people per year on top of the 1.1 million that we admit legally.

In a 2015 study, Harvard Professor George Borjas found that legal immigration, that 1.1 million legal per year, added 25 percent to the low-skilled workforce over the last 20 years.

1830

Then you add illegals on top of that. Professor Borjas said, for every 10 percent you add in competition, you reduce wages by at least 3 percent.

Folks, if you add 25 percent more competitors, wages will go down. That is Economics 101.

If you look at this chart, this is a chart of wage increases in the United States from 2000 until now. You can see those folks at the upper end of the scale. They are not really affected by low-skilled illegal immigration, and their wages went up and went up substantially.

If you look at the 75th percentile, they are not affected either. Their wages went up and went up substantially. But the median income, they are flat. They haven’t had a raise in 20 years. The people at the 25th percentile, the bottom 25 percent, they haven’t moved at all. They are the people who are the most hurt by illegal immigration, by competition from low-skilled illegal immigrants who work for nothing and who cheat hardworking Americans out of jobs and out of wages, and this chart proves it.

Let me tell you, not only does it cheat the people on the low end of the scale, but it actually helps the people on the higher end of the scale.

People like your children and your grandchildren with a high school education, people who are trying to get their heads above water but they can’t because they are drowned by a flood of illegal aliens who work for practically nothing. This is not only unfair on the lower end of the income scale, as I just showed you, who just can’t seem to get ahead.

Friends, Democrats used to say they are for the working man, and they love to talk about income inequality. The people on the high end have gone up; the people on the low end haven’t. Well, guess what? Here is why. Illegal immigration plays a huge part in that.

So let’s stop complaining about income inequality, and let’s actually doing something about it. Let’s secure our southern border, stop illegal immigration, work for practically nothing and cheat the folks on the low end of the scale out of jobs and wages, and let’s watch wages rise.

It is not that hard to understand. It is common sense. It is Economics 101. The American middle class has suffered declines as a result of our uncompetitive economy, and illegal immigration is one of the primary reasons.

Now, let’s talk about what illegal immigration does to our social safety net. In addition to drowning our middle class, illegal immigration strains our social safety net and costs taxpayers billions of dollars.

These figures are from the Center for Immigration Studies, and the chart represents the percentage of immigrant-led households in blue and native-born households in red.

The percentage of immigrant households that get food aid in America is 45 percent; native-born households, 21 percent. So illegal immigrants get twice as much food aid as native-born citizens.

Medicaid. 50 percent of illegal immigrants get some type of Medicaid benefit; only 23 percent of native-born Americans.

Cash benefits, when you include the earned income tax credit, 31 percent of illegal immigrants get some form of cash subsidy from the United States Government; only 10 percent of native-born Americans.

If you take all that in total, 63 percent of illegal immigrants get some type of government benefit, as compared to 35 percent of native-born folks.

The last column represents the percentage of uninsured. Twenty-four percent of the illegal immigrants have no insurance as compared to 7.5 percent of native-born households.
When you think about people showing up at the emergency room and hospitals, and the government and taxpayers having to cover the bill, 25 percent of the illegal immigrant families are one of the main sources of that problem.

Last year, in my home county, Horry County, South Carolina—now, Horry County is a long way from the southern border, over 1,500 miles. But there was a claim brought against the school system in Horry County, South Carolina, by the Department of Justice. It seems that the Department determined that Horry County wasn’t doing enough to accommodate students who couldn’t speak English.

Well, you wouldn’t think that would be that much of a problem in South Carolina, being that we are such a long way from the southern border. As it turns out, 5,511 out of 44,700 students in Horry County were English as a second language. That is 13 percent of the student body in Horry County, South Carolina. So the school board agreed to settle that claim by paying $600,000 more to provide more accommodation for those students who couldn’t speak English.

Let’s get off of illegal immigration and talk about one of the other great scourges that Americans endure as a result of our failure to secure our southern border.

In 2017, 72,000 Americans died from drug overdoses. That is up 100 percent in a decade. For most diseases and sicknesses, the cures are getting better and deaths are leveling off. It is the opposite for the drug scourge.

That 72,000 Americans who died in 2017—think about this; guys; listen to this—is more than traffic deaths, which was 37,000, and homicides at 17,000, combined. Traffic deaths and homicides killed 54,000 Americans in 2017. Drug overdoses killed 72,000 people. It is exploding.

Last year, there was a 38 percent increase in meth, 22 percent increase in heroin, and 73 percent increase in fentanyl seized at our southern border, and that is only what we seized. If that is not a crisis, I don’t know what a crisis is.

The DEA reports that 300 Americans die every week from heroin, 90 percent of which comes across our southern border. Madam Speaker, 95 percent of the cocaine comes across our southern border, and much of the fentanyl comes across our southern border.

The opioid epidemic is ravaging communities across the country, including my home State and district. In the past 3 years, 2014 to 2017, the number of opioid-involved overdose deaths in South Carolina increased by 47 percent—47 percent—from 508 to 748.

In 2017, 134 opioid deaths were in my little congressional district that I represent, the Seventh District of South Carolina, I asked Sheriff Thompson in Horry County, and I asked Sheriff Boone in Florence County, where these drugs are coming from. They looked at me and said 80-plus percent comes from the southern border. That mirrors the reports from the DEA.

As the President has stated, the status quo response to the crisis at our southern border is no longer effective. Nancy Pelosi as a part of the President’s border security plan is amoral. I don’t think so. But 72,000 Americans dead last year, I know that is amoral. 750 South Carolinians dead last year primarily from drugs coming across the southern border that we refuse to control. I know that is amoral.

132 residents of my district dead last year primarily from drugs coming across our southern border, I know that is amoral. The scourge of drugs caused by our failure to control our southern border doesn’t just affect us. It affects our southern neighbors as well.

Did you know there were more than 30,000 murders in Mexico last year? That is as many than is imaginary as we had, and they have a third of our population, so their murder rate is six times ours. Why is that?

Well, large portions of Mexico are controlled by drug cartels. You see, our failure to control our southern border has given drug cartels unimaginable power and wealth. They outrank the government in more than half of Mexico, and they will fight to protect that power and that wealth.

Madam Speaker, 6,000 murders, six times the murder rate in the United States, and it is largely our fault, because we haven’t controlled our southern border. When a gang comes knocking on your door in Mexico or Guatemala and says they are going to take your son and he is going to be a part of their cartel, when they come and say, hey, your daughter is looking good, and they are going to grab her and sell her into human trafficking, what are you going to do? Are you going to sit there and do nothing?

I can tell you what a lot of them are doing. They are picking up everything they have, and where are they heading? They are heading to the southern border of the United States.

So the refugee crisis—think about this—because we have failed to control our southern border, because we have enriched and emboldened these drug cartels and drug lords, and we have allowed them to take over governing large parts of Central and South America, we have created the very refugee crisis that is creating a crisis at our southern border right now, because we have failed to control the flow of drugs. We have failed to stop these criminal organizations.

The Democrats claim they are for border security, but they refuse to take any action or even participate in good-faith negotiations. Just last week, NANCY PELOSI offered $1 toward additional border security. Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, and Barack Obama, when they were Senators, all voted in favor of funding a border wall in 2006. Why are they against it now?

I will tell you why. It is their hatred for President Trump stopping them from doing what is best for our constituents. They see this as a political game, and they want to win, no matter what the cost.

But I will tell you what the cost was last year: 72,000 dead Americans, 750 in South Carolina, 130 in my district, and I promise you there were at least that many in NANCY PELOSI’s district.

Democrats try to make this argument solely about a wall. President Trump has repeatedly said we do not need a wall for the entire length of the 2,000-mile border, but physical barriers in selected areas are both effective and necessary.

The Yuma border sector had the highest number of illegal crossings in the country before a barrier was built, resulting in a 95 percent decrease in apprehensions and a 91 percent decrease in crime. San Diego, once ground zero for illegal immigration, has seen a 92 percent decrease in apprehensions since the fence was constructed.

The $5.7 billion passed by the House Republicans in December would have enhanced border security, not just a wall. Any meaningful plan to deal with illegal immigration must also require employers to verify the employment status of workers they hire and penalize employers if they break the rules.

This system is called E-Verify, and it is already in place. It is managed by the Federal Government, but, amazingly, employers are not required to participate. So in addition to border security, we have to have E-Verify.

It is time to stop the politics and secure our border.

Democrats are terribly worried about who gets blamed for the shutdown. Frankly, I don’t care who gets the blame. This is a fight, and it is a fight to keep drugs off our streets and out of the hands of our children. It is a fight to keep our communities safe. It is a fight for a higher wage for hardworking Americans, for more jobs, and for our economy. And, friends, it is a fight worth having.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o’clock and 44 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. RASKIN: Committee on Rules. H. Res. 43. A resolution providing for consideration...
of the bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XXII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 116–2). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. GANTZ (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 537. A bill to allow penalty-free distributions from retirement accounts in the case of Federal employees and certain Federal contractors impacted by the Federal Government shutdown; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. PALAZZO (for himself and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 546. A bill to provide for the issuance of revenue bonds to fund construction of a physical border and related technology, roads, and lighting along the United States border with Mexico; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee:

H.R. 547. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to adopt and implement a standard identification protocol for use in the tracking and reporting of biological implants by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. CURT (for himself, Mr. MALFRA, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. COSTA, and Mrs. ROGERS of Washington, and Mr. CLINCHOCK):

H.R. 548. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to vest in the Secretary of the Interior functions under that Act with respect to species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and migrate to ocean waters, and species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh waters; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself and Mr. DIAZ-BALART):

H.R. 549. A bill to designate Venezuela under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as a country of eligibility for nationals of Venezuela to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana:

H.R. 550. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States Armed Forces Veterans of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 551. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the maximum penalty for mail theft; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 552. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to maintain a single, unique ZIP Code for Eastvale, California; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself):

H.R. 553. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor benefits under the Survivor Benefit Plan for military surviving spouses to offset the receipt of veterans dependency and indemnity compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 554. A bill to require reports on religious intolerance in Saudi Arabian educational materials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SENSENKRENNER (for himself, Mr. DOUGERT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. DEAN, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HUGHINS of New York, Ms. MATSIU, Ms. WASSERMANN SCHULTZ, Ms. OCASIO-CORTÉZ, Ms. DELAURA, Ms. DOGGETTE, Mr. RAGUSIN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. SCHAWSKY, Miss RICK of New York, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CHOW, Mr. ENGLE, Mr. Tipton, Mr. Peterson, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. LAWRENCE, Mr. NRUSE, and Mr. BRINDISI):

H.R. 555. A bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. HICKS of Alabama, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 556. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to establish a new employment, training, and supportive services program for the long-term unemployed and individuals with barriers to employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. Tremain, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 557. A bill to render certain military spouses eligible for adjustment of status; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. GAHRST):

H.R. 558. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to adapt the successful practices of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to Native communities in similarly situated remote areas in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 559. A bill to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. SABLAN (for himself, Mr. SAHAB, and Mr. LAKEON of Connecticut):

H.R. 560. A bill to amend section 6 of the Joint Resolution entitled “A Joint Resolution to approve the Covenant To Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America, and for other purposes”; to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. BERGMAN (for himself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. DUNN):

H.R. 561. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the oversight of contracts awarded by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. COST (for himself and Mr. LAWSON of Florida):

H.R. 562. A bill to establish a Department of Agriculture loan program to support mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities for veterans of the Armed Forces to become farmers or ranchers; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, 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. BROWN of Maryland (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MAST, Mr. MOUTLON, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. COOK, Mr. GALLEGEO, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. O’HALLERAN):

H.R. 563. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to modify the Code of Federal Regulations to include a specific block explicitly identifying the location in which a member of the Armed Forces is or was stationed, along with one or more email addresses by which the member may be contacted; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CHENRY:

H.R. 564. A bill to designate the mountain at the Devils Tower National Monument, Wyoming, as Devils Tower, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. NUNES):

H.R. 565. A bill to include Portugal in the list of foreign states whose nationals are eligible for admission into the United States as E1 and E2 nonimmigrants if United States nationals are treated similarly by the Government of Portugal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. LAKEON of Connecticut):

H.R. 566. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to remove the manifestation period for delays in the processing for the separate connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda, and acute and subacute peripheral
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. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 577. A bill to provide that a former Member of Congress may be considered as a lobbyist shall be ineligible to receive certain Federal retirement benefits or to use certain congressional benefits and services, to require each Member of Congress to post in the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THOMPSON (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. Peters, Ms. Judy Chu of California, Mr. Panetta, Mr. Kilmer, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Speier, Mr. Payne, Mr. Cook, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Sires, Ms. Lofgren, Miss Rich of New York, Mr. Matsui, Mr. Swalwell of California, Mr. Vargas, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. McNerney, Mr. DeSaulnier, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Aguila, Mr. Hunter, Mr. Mc Govern, Ms. Barragan, Mr. Carcara, Mr. Keating, Mr. Moult on, Ms. Sanchez, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Pallone, Mr. King of New York, Mr. Kuster of New Hampshire, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, and Mr. Bilirakis):
H.R. 578. A bill to codify Veterans Affairs coverage to include eyeglasses, hearing aids, and dental care; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIPPTON (for himself, Mr. LAMOUREUX, and Mr. YOUNG):  
H. R. 580. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to improve the transparency and oversight of land conveyances involving disposal or acquisition of National Forest System lands or Bureau of Land Management public lands, to provide protections and certainty for private landowners related to resurveying such public lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. HUDDLESON:
H. J. Res. 29. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms an individual may serve as a Member of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HOYER:
H. J. Res. 30. A joint resolution disapproving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. JEFFRIES:
H. Res. 42. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself, Mr. B 존, Mr. WEINER of Florida, Mr. LAMOUREUX, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. MARINO):
H. Res. 44. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of January 20 through January 26, 2019, as “National School Choice Week”; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. CONAWAY):
H. Res. 45. A resolution congratulating the American Farm Bureau Federation for a long tradition on behalf of agriculture and rural America and for holding its 100th annual convention; to the Committee on Agriculture.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,
Mr. SOTO introduced a bill (H. R. 581) for the relief of Alejandra Juarez; which was referred 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. OLSON:
H. R. 545.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, under which “Congress shall have the Power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Mr. PALAZZO:
H. R. 546.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee:
H. R. 547.  
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. 548.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 and clause 18.

By Mr. SOTO:
H. R. 549.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H. R. 550.  
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. 551.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. CALVERT:
H. R. 552.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H. R. 553.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8. The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:
H. R. 554.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8. The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:
H. R. 555.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:
H. R. 556.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SOTO:
H. R. 557.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. YOUNG:
H. R. 558.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SABLAN:
H. R. 559.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BERGMAN:
H. R. 561.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BROWN of Maryland:
H. R. 563.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18).

By Ms. CHENEY:
H. R. 564.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. COURTNEY:
H. R. 565.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. BOST:
H. R. 562.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CICILLINE:
H. R. 565.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SABLAN:
H. R. 566.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. KRUG:
H. R. 563.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CRIST:
H. R. 567.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. DEUTCH:
H. R. 568.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. DINGELL:
H. R. 569.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:
H. R. 570.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. KING:  
H. R. 571.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. SABLAN:
H. R. 568.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. KINZINGER:
H. R. 571.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CHRISTENSEN:
H. R. 569.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

January 15, 2019

By Mr. LA MALFA:
H.R. 572.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 2
By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 573.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. MEADOWS:
H.R. 574.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 4
By Mr. MEADOWS:
H.R. 575.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 1 grants that “All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States . . .” Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 grants that “The Congress shall have Power to . . . Regulate Commerce . . . Among the several States . . .” Article I, sections 4, 6, and 8.
By Mr. ROYBAL-ALLARD:
H.R. 576.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18
By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 577.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
By Mr. THOMPSON of California:
H.R. 578.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
By Mr. TIPTON:
H.R. 579.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment X
By Mr. TIPTON:
H.R. 580.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Amendment V
By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 581.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.
By Mr. HOLDING:
H.J. Res. 29.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article V of the U.S. Constitution.
By Mr. HOYER:
H.J. Res. 30.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution under the General Welfare Clause.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 1: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. PETERSON.
H.R. 8: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. FUJISE, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. DEFAZIO, and Mr. DANNY K. TRAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 38: Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GRAVES of Mississippi, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. COLE, and Mr. THORNBERY.
H.R. 51: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. SCHRAIDER, Mr. CASE, and Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 93: Mr. HICK.
H.R. 95: Mr. ZIEL IEN, Mr. COX of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LUÀ N, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GIANFARTE, Mr. WATKINS, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 113: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 114: Mr. WOODALL.
H.R. 149: Mr. LOUDBERMLK.
H.R. 141: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. GRJALVA.
H.R. 150: Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 211: Ms. NORTON and Ms. LURIA.
H.R. 220: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 225: Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHI and Mrs. OCARIO-CORTES.
H.R. 250: Mr. BUCHSON.
H.R. 262: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 273: Mr. PANETTA and Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 279: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 280: Ms. NORTON and Mr. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 296: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. JOHN son of Louisiana, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 299: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. JOHN son of Ohio, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. LOWRY, Mr. DUFFY, and Mr. BYRNE.
H.R. 301: Mr. RAH IR and Mr. MOO LEA N.
H.R. 305: Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 316: Mr. MCC LIN TOCK.
H.R. 339: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. LEE of California, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CUICLINE, Mr. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. THA IBAN.
H.R. 365: Mr. WELCH, Ms. VELÁ ÑEZ, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 367: Mr. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. BURBANK, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. PRESLEY, Miss BROWNLEY of California, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. KILM ER, Mr. HOGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. TLABAI, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CARBAJ AL, Miss RICE of New York, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 369: Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. WARNER, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 372: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 374: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 385: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.
H.R. 396: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 414: Mr. SOTO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GAETZ.
H.R. 421: Mr. KILMER, Mr. SCUZZI, and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 427: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 437: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. OLSON, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 438: Mr. McC LIN TOCK.
H.R. 446: Mr. MENG and Mr. BRINDISI.
H.R. 453: Mr. JONES.
H.R. 465: Mr. DE SAULNIER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HAAL AND, and Ms. MCCARSE L-Powell.
H.R. 483: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. JONES, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KHA NNA, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 489: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 490: Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. BUCHSON.
H.R. 491: Mr. AR RINGTON.
H.R. 493: Mr. DEFAZIO and Ms. HILL of California.
H.R. 504: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 527: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 540: Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MATSU, Mr. DE SAULNIER, Ms. DELAUR O, and Ms. FRANKEL.
H.R. 541: Ms. WATERS.
H.J. Res. 2: Mr. COBBEA and Ms. S PERR.
H.J. Res. 22: Mr. TAYLOR.
H.J. Res. 23: Mr. NORMAN.
H. Res. 27: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 33: Mr. LABS, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. KRISHNA MOORTHI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RYAN, Mr. HUSTON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CORBEK, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mrs. DINGEL, and Miss RICE of New York.
H. Res. 35: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. BROWNLEY of California.
H. Res. 40: Ms. GARRISS, Miss RICE of New York, and Ms. STEFANIK.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:
OFFERED BY MR. YARMUTH
The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget in H.R. 298 do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative BISOP (GA) or a designee to H.R. 298, the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:
H.R. 272: Mr. PETERSON.
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:

Eternal God, rescue us. Come quickly and bring the stability and unity we need.

May our lawmakers who seek You find You, receiving from Your divine presence wisdom, mercy, and power. Cleanse the inner fountains of our hearts from anything that will hinder Your will from being done.

Lord, You are our helper and redeemer. Do not delay.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

---

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

---

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The majority leader is recognized.

---

**MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 266**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 266) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

**STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to S. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of 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.

---

**GOVERNMENT FUNDING**

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, over the course of this partial government shutdown, we have seen our Democratic colleagues engage in increasingly acrobatic contortions in order to dodge a serious conversation about the urgent humanitarian and security crisis down at our southern border. Their refusal to come to the negotiating table has serious implications for the hundreds of thousands of Federal workers going without pay and for all Americans who deserve a nation that can secure its own border.

Along the way, we have heard that new funding of any sort—any sort—of border barrier, even the kinds that Democrats have supported so recently and so often, would now be an immorality. An immorality?

We have heard serious proposals brushed aside with joking offers of $1 to address the critical issue. We have even heard frank admissions that, 30 days from now, there would be no progress toward an agreement on border security, even if the government were reopened.

Under normal circumstances, we could expect lines like these from the furthest left organizers and most vocal liberal protesters. But these are not normal circumstances. These are the words, believe it or not, of the Speaker of the House, the gentlelady from California, Nancy Pelosi.

It is unclear exactly when the Speaker made the determination that the explicit requests of the men and women who secure our borders and the safety of our communities would take a backseat to the political whims of the far left, that the border efforts toward which Democrats have agreed to direct billions of dollars in the past have transformed overnight into something evil. But here we are, day 25. We know the new and unreasonable position of the Speaker of the House.

So here, in the Senate, my Democratic colleagues have an important choice to make. They could stand with common sense, with border experts, with Federal workers—and with their own past voting records, by the way—or they could continue to remain passive spectators, complaining from the sidelines as the Speaker refuses to negotiate with the White House and ensures that our Nation keeps going round and round and round this political carousel. It is up to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

**BORDER SECURITY**

Madam President, on another matter, the substance of the border security issue is not the only subject that is occasioning a spectacular display of inconsistency from my colleagues across the aisle.

If you recall, since last week, the apparent position of Senate Democrats has been that the Senate itself cannot engage in any of the people’s business until government funding is resolved.

---

“This ‘bullet’ symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Democrats have held this position so dogmatically that three times now they have voted against advancing a bipartisan and urgently needed package of legislation that concerns Israel, Jordan, and the civil war in Syria.

It has been the Democrats’ very own “Senate shutdown” on top of the partial government shutdown they are prolonging. What about our ally Israel? What about the innocent people of Syria? I guess they are just out of luck—just out of luck. The Democratic leader has made clear that they will just have to wait. They will just have to wait until he decides to end his filibuster of these bipartisan bills, which, until last week, by the way, he supported. It is a bizarre position—a truly bizarre position.

It has directly contradicted the stated foreign policy views of many of our Democratic colleagues, but this has been the Democratic leader’s position: Filibuster the expanded assistance for Israel. Filibuster the new consequences for giving aid and comfort to the Assad regime as it butchers its own people. That is what the Democratic caucus has overwhelmingly voted to do on three occasions.

But now, we are informed that it was all just a farce. The Democratic leader actually doesn’t mind doing other business because he now intends to bring a privileged and political stunt of a motion relating to the administration’s use of sanctions against Russia.

So now at least we know the score. Our Democratic colleagues don’t really object to passage as such: they just object to debating a bipartisan package of bills to reinforce our support for Israel, help Jordan stand firm amidst regional chaos, and take action to hold accountable those who have tortured Iami—murderer’s position: Filibuster the enlarged assistance for Israel. Filibuster the consequences for giving aid and comfort to the Assad regime as it butchers its own people. That is what the Democratic caucus has overwhelmingly voted to do on three occasions.

The American people suffering the dire consequences of this shutdown can no longer afford to wait for the President to come around. The President will not have the votes in either House of Congress for his expensive, ineffective wall. That is what the Democratic caucus has overwhelmingly voted to do on three occasions.

So 28 years ago, leading Democrats were practically heading up the Bill Barr fan club, and his subsequent service proved they had made the right call. In fact, this nominee has been unanimously confirmed by the Senate three times—three times.

So it is beyond safe to say that Mr. Barr is eminently qualified and widely respected. I look forward to his testimonies today and to the testimony of those who know him and his work. I hope every Senator will afford Mr. Barr the fair consideration he so obviously deserves. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.
the floor, they would receive a significant majority in the Senate, a veto-proof majority.

So I would appeal to Leader MCCONNELL: Do what is right for the country. Do what is right for hundreds of thousands of Federal employees laboring without pay. Do what is right for our farmers and small businesses, home-owners, and taxpayers. Do what is right for America.

President Trump may not care about the harm he is doing to all of these people, but our Republican Senators, including Leader MCCONNELL, should.

A few years ago, Leader MCCONNELL remarked: Remember me? I am the guy that gets us out of shutdowns. Well, Leader MCCONNELL, now is the time. Leader MCCONNELL, allow a vote on legislation and reopen the government.

In a short time, a few of my Democratic colleagues will ask the Senate for transparency. Will Leader MCCONNELL help us reopen the government? Will some of our Republican Senators actually join us, not in nice words but in actually voting to reopen the government? Or will Leader MCCONNELL block it yet again, aiding and abetting President Trump’s desire to extend his government shutdown?

One final point here, President Trump thinks if he holds out long enough, he will win the fight with the American people. Every day he is losing. The Gallup poll today had him at a near-record low of 37 percent popularity. Even some of his base is losing face.

President Trump, you are not going to win this fight with the American people. Every day it drags on, you are less popular. Every day it drags on, people blame you and the Republicans, not the Democrats. You are not winning the fight. You may be in your own untruth bubble, but you are not winning the fight. Everyone knows that. We certainly do.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM BARR

Madam President, on another matter, as we speak, the Senate Judiciary Committee is conducting its hearing on the nomination of William Barr to be the next Attorney General of the United States. It is an august position that demands the highest degree of credibility, transparency, and fidelity to rule of law, even during a normal Presidency. But given President Trump’s actions, his disdain for rule of law, his derision of the rulings of an independent judiciary, his public contempt for law enforcement procedures of the Justice Department, the burden of proof for William Barr is higher than it would be for other Presidents.

This is not a normal Presidency. We don’t need an Attorney General who will just comply with this President. That is a danger to the Republic.

Thus I would expect unequivocal and explicit commitments from Mr. Barr to resist President Trump. Mr. Barr cannot merely give perfunctory, boilerplate assurances. Saying “I am for transparency” is not good enough. Will he release Mueller’s report—yes or no? If he can’t answer “yes,” he doesn’t deserve the position. Will he not interfere in any way with Mueller’s investigation as he loves Mueller and thinks he is doing a good job? If Mr. Barr can’t say “yes,” that he will not interfere in any way with the Mueller investigation, he doesn’t deserve the job, particularly in light of his writings.

We should expect unequivocal commitments from Barr to defend the integrity of the FBI and our Federal law enforcement officers, not vague statements that give him plenty of wiggle room to do President Trump’s dirty work if he gets to be Attorney General, and we should expect an unequivocal commitment from Mr. Barr to allow special counsel Mueller to proceed with the rule of law, and conclude without any—underline—“any”—interference.

One last point, the expectations for Mr. Barr are even more demanding given the recent revelation that he has released a memo to the Justice Department criticizing the Mueller investigation, despite having no knowledge of its workings. The memo revealed that Barr holds an astonishingly broad—almost imperial—view of executive power. That should also be a serious line of inquiry for our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee.

The next Attorney General will take charge of a Justice Department that has been embroiled in near-constant chaos for 2 years at a critical moment for our democracy. The Senate should only approve an Attorney General of unimpeachable integrity and unimpeachable fidelity to the rule of law, with the strength and conviction to resist the worst impulses of this President, who, probably, when it comes to the Justice Department, has the worst impulses of any President we have ever had.

RUSSIAN SANCTIONS

Madam President, finally, on Russia sanctions, later this afternoon the Senate will move to consider a motion to proceed to a resolution of disapproval on the Treasury Department’s proposal to relax sanctions on three companies owned and controlled by sanctioned Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska. The case against the three companies is strong. It fails to sufficiently limit Deripaska’s stake in the three companies. It merely reduces Deripaska’s companies. Why is the Trump administration proposing sanction relief for President Putin’s trusted agents or the companies they control before the conclusion of the investigation?

Finally—and maybe most seriously of all—there is a foreign policy issue here at stake. President Putin’s government, one of Russia’s largest banks, and the Russian economy have a direct interest in sanction relief for Deripaska’s companies. Why is the Trump administration proposing sanction relief when President Putin has not yet made any move to curtail or constrain his bloviated activities around the globe?

I would say to the leader, Democrats were not the ones who decided to relax sanctions on Putin’s cronies just before the Christmas holiday, hoping no one would notice. That was the Trump administration. If Leader MCCONNELL wants to know why we are voting on Russian sanctions this afternoon, he should go talk to the White House.

So allow me to appeal directly to my Republican colleagues. If you have a view on this issue, there are enough questions—enough questions—that we should vote for the motion to proceed so that you can hear the debate. It is an important debate. Putin is laughing at the damage he is doing to America. We cannot go along.

In the past, one of the finer moments of this Senate, which Leader MCCONNELL talks about all the time, was when we joined in a bipartisan way to impose sanctions on Russia. Well, we should not relax that view. We should not relax that vigilance. The details here are complex. The Senate and the American people ought to have a real view of understanding the facts before voting. If that debate is allowed to proceed, I believe my Senate colleagues will see the wisdom of keeping the current sanctions in place.

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 proceeding to call the names.

Mr. THUNE, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.
The Republican leader is prepared to produce the votes that are necessary to pass legislation to reopen the government. It is entirely dependent upon the President of the United States, who must sign that bill into law, and the Democrats here in the Senate, who have to produce the requisite number of Democratic votes that are required to pass it in the Senate. That is where we are.

Frankly, right now, there isn’t a negotiation going on. The Democrats’ refusal to negotiate is victimizing the Federal workers who are struggling right now are struggling precisely because Democrats are refusing to work with this President, and that has a lot more to do with politics than it has to do with the issue itself.

Democrats need to negotiate with the White House to reopen the government, but they should also want to work with the White House on border security solutions. Border security is a national security priority and our country can be secure if dangerous individuals can creep across its borders unchecked and unobserved, and Democrats used to understand this.

In 2006, the Democratic leader and the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted for legislation to authorize a border fence. They were joined in their vote by then-Senator Biden, then-Senator Clinton, and then-Senator Obama. In 2013, every Senate Democrat—every Senate Democrat—supported legislation requiring the completion of a 700-mile fence along our southern border. This legislation would have provided $46 billion for border security and $8 billion specifically for a physical barrier.

As recently as last year, nearly every Senate Democrat supported $25 billion in border security.

My point is that the Democrats in the Senate in the past recognized the importance, No. 1, of securing the border and, No. 2, how important a physical barrier is as a part of the solution to securing our border—not entirely dependent upon a border wall but certainly a part of that solution, to include technological solutions, manpower, additional personnel, cameras, censors, all the modern technology that we have, but in certain places recognizing that the fence works. The fence works. There is already 700 miles of fence on the southern border.

I would point out that in 2009, the Senate Democratic leader said in a speech that “any immigration solution must recognize that we must do as much as we can to gain control of our borders as soon as possible.” That was in 2009 from the Senate Democratic leader. He went on to discuss, interestingly enough, progress that had been made on border security between 2005 and 2009, including “construction of 630 miles of border fence they want to protect a significant barrier to illegal immigration on our southern land border.” That from the Democratic leader in 2009.
only then can we get past this impasse, get the government open and functioning, and address what is a critical and important national security imperative for our country, and that is ensuring that our southern border is secure.

It is not about Republicans in the Senate. It is about the President of the United States, for whom this is a huge priority, something he is passionate about doing and a commitment he made to the American people. And it is about Democrats here in the Senate—and in the House but here in the Senate, where it takes 60 votes to pass anything—sitting down across the table from the President in good faith and dealing with what usually happens in circumstances like this, and that is to negotiate an agreement for both sides, give a little bit, have a little give-and-take.

As I mentioned, the President has been very flexible and very open to sitting down with Democrats. In the discussions I have been a part of, he has demonstrated his willingness to compromise. But I have yet to see a single step by the Democrats here in the Senate or in the House, in their leadership, a single inch of movement in the direction of trying to solve this problem. Instead, they seem bent on turning it into a political issue. That is not good for the American people. It is certainly not good for those employees who are struggling out there because they are not being paid and certainly not good for the crisis we face at our southern border and the security threat that poses for the American people.

I hope we will do better. We can do better, but it is going to require negotiation. It is going to require a willingness to sit down at the table in good faith and to get discussions going about how we solve this important problem. I yield the floor.

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 (Mr. Scott of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 21

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I am here with my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN. The two of us are going to make a unanimous consent request to reopen the government.

I know the distinguished majority leader is here. We are on day 25 of this tragic, outrageous, needless, and dangerous partial shutdown. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I have met with government workers, and we heard their accounts. They can't pay their bills. Mortgages are going without payment. I heard yesterday from a Federal worker who can’t pay their children’s extra activities at school for dance lessons. They can’t help their relatives deal with their problems. They are postponing needed health treatment issues.

I read last week on the floor of this body a letter from Kristen Jones and Governor Tom Polito of New Jersey, who explained how they can’t take care of their family needs. So 800,000 people are furloughed without pay or working without pay—30 percent are veterans. Small businesses are shuttering their operations because they depend upon Federal contracts. From cleaners to restaurants, they are finding they don’t have the business they used to have.

Kevin Hassett, Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, indicates the economic impact is $1.2 billion a week on our economy. We heard that small businesses have to lay off employees because they are not getting their Federal partnerships. I used the example of the Senior Services in Southern California. They laid off 26 employees because the USDA and Forest Service can’t honor their contracts. People can’t close on their home mortgages because they don’t have pay stubs to show their income. The FHA is saying they can’t do appraisals. People are not getting their Federal partnerships. They can’t certify loans with HUD being compromised.

I talked to air traffic controllers yesterday—people in air safety. They don’t have their full complement. They are the professionals. They are the most professional government workforce in the world, and they are dedicated professionals who do their job, but we are asking them to do it with half the number of employees and without getting a paycheck. That is outrageous.

This shutdown has to end. The President wants it. We are an independent body. We are a coequal branch of government. We could open up the government. Yes, we can negotiate border security as part of the government open. You can’t negotiate under circumstances where the President is holding the country hostage, and he undermines his own negotiators. It cries out for Congress to take the lead.

I agree with Senator GRAHAM when he says we should open the government and then let us negotiate using the regular process of Congress to debate the issues of border security, including immigration issues. We are a coequal branch of government. Two bills are on our desk. Both have passed the House of Representatives.

I am going to make a unanimous consent request with regard to H.R. 21, and my colleague Senator VAN HOLLEN will deal with the rest of the government. H.R. 21 has six appropriations bills that are not related to the issue of border security. They have already been acted upon by this body. They are not part of this dispute. It is Financial Services and General Government. It is Agriculture, Food, and ENVIORNMENT. It is Transportation and HUD. It is State and Foreign Operations. It is Commerce, Justice, and Science. They passed this body either by a 92-to-6 vote for the Appropriations Committee or unanimous or near unanimous by our Appropriations Committee under Republican leadership in a bipartisan manner. We need to reopen the government.

Therefore, Mr. 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 that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I say in response to the distinguished majority leader just don’t understand why the Senate is missing in action. We are a coequal branch of government. Let us speak about opening the government. There are Members on both sides who understand that we can debate border security and we can reach agreements, but you can’t do that with a partial government shutdown.

This is President Trump’s shutdown, and now with the majority leader’s objections, the Republicans in the Senate are standing in the way. We are a coequal branch of government. Let us participate in something that doesn’t lead to an outcome strikes me as not what the Senate ought to be involved in.

We have an important package of bills that have been held up during the Senate shutdown—never mind the government shutdown—related to our colleagues, our friends in the Middle East, the Israelis, related to the Syrian civil war and all the atrocities that have occurred. There is business to be done in the Senate.

The way to solve the government shutdown is for the administration and our good friends in the House in the majority and Senate Democrats to reach a legislative solution. When that happens, I will be more than happy to call it up because we know it will actually solve the problem.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Briefly, in response to the majority leader, the first priority should be reopen government. That needs to be our very first priority of business.

In regard to the legislation the leader is referring to, let me point out that those bills could have been passed in
the last Congress where Republicans controlled both the House and the Senate. The majority leader made a decision on floor time that it was not a priority to be considered in the 115th Congress.

Let me also say, in regard to Israel, it will benefit from the foreign ops appropriations bill to be passed, which is part of my unanimous consent request of an additional $300 million, but that is being held up because of this shutdown that has caused by the President and has now been assisted by the Republicans in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H. RES. 1

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, the issue here is that, under the U.S. Constitution, the Senate really does need to do its job as a separate and coequal branch of government.

Last week, Senator CARDIN and I were right where we are today—here on the floor of the Senate, asking the Senate that the Senate immediately take up and vote on the two House bills that are on the Senate calendar as we speak and pass them and send them to the President to reopen the government. Last week, Majority Leader McConnell blocked a vote on that. He blocked consent to take up those bills to reopen the government. Since last week, much has changed, and much has stayed the same. Here is what has changed.

The impact and harm of the shutdown is growing by the day. It is metastasizing around the country. Here are some headlines: "The cascade of shutdown problems grows each week." Another headline: "This is ridiculous: Small-business owners can't get loans as shutdown enters Day 20." That was day 20. We are now on day 25. "FBI operations damaged as shutdown continues." "FBI Agents Group Says Shutdown Affects Law Enforcement." They point out, it is putting those on the job at greater risk because those are who are furloughed who support them can't give them the backup they need.

The FDA continues to not do its routine food inspections, and American veterans—and veterans make up 30 percent of the Federal workforce—are being disproportionately hurt by the shutdown.

We just heard it reported that the White House economists are doubling their prior estimate of the harm being done to our economy each week. It is already in the billions of dollars, and they are saying it looks as though it will be twice that much as this thing grows exponentially.

Services have been shut down for the American people. There were 800,000 Federal employees, as of last Friday, who received pay stubs like the one I am holding in my hand. This is one that was for an air traffic controller. Starting last Friday, 800,000 Federal employees lost paychecks. Hundreds of thousands of them are on the job, working, and hundreds of thousands of them have been locked out of work. What they tell us is they just want to get back to work and do their jobs for the American people. If you look at this pay stub, at the net pay, it reads "zero"—a big, fat goose egg. I can tell you these Federal employees are getting bills, and they are getting their mortgage and rent bills. They can't say zero. They stay the same. So here you have 800,000 Federal employees who are unable to make do—missing mortgage payments, missing rent payments, missing their monthly installments on community college payments. On top of that, you have all of these small businesses that do work for the Federal Government that are beginning to go belly-up, and their employees are being told not to go in to work.

Since Senator CARDIN and I were here on the floor just last week, things have gotten much worse around the country, but here is what has stayed the same—that we have it in our power today to take up two House bills to open the government.

I was listening to the majority leader say: Well, you know, the President says he is not going to sign them.

Yet we are a separate branch of government. We are the branch of government that is in control here. I am holding in my hand, right here, the bill that Senator CARDIN asked us to vote on today. I think the public needs to know what is in it because what is in it has already been supported on a bipartisan basis by this U.S. Senate.

It has provisions to open about five Departments of the U.S. Government that have nothing to do with Homeland Security. We passed that by a vote of 92 to 6. The President says that he doesn't want to sign it. He can veto it. With 92 to 6, it is a veto override—big time. Also contained in here are bills that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee by a vote of 30 to nothing and 30 to 1. That is what is in here—bipartisan bills.

So the question for this body, as a separate branch of government, is this: Why in the world are we not going to allow a vote to reopen the government on provisions that we have already agreed to on an overwhelming bipartisan basis—in fact, with a veto-proof margin?

The President can say that he is not going to sign it. That is his business. That is the executive branch. For goodness sake, do our job here in the U.S. Senate, because every day that goes by with this growing harm, the Senate is more and more complicit, and we are an accomplice to the shutdown.

I know President Trump likes to talk about the fact that he has done things that no other President has done before in the history of the United States. This time, he is right. He has the longest shutdown of any President in the United States. He said he would be proud to shut down the government if he didn't get his way. I know that no Senator here—Republican or Democratic—is proud to shut down the government, certainly, for the longest period in history.

So let's do the right thing. Let's do our job. Let's not just say the President is the only one who can handle this. We can handle it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 6, H.J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:29 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I rise today to express my support for S.J. Res. 2, a resolution of disapproval on lifting sanctions against the energy and aluminum companies En+RUSAL, and EuroSibEnergo.

To start from the beginning, the United States of America has had very good reasons for sanctioning Oleg Deripaska. There are a number of significant national security risks at play. That is why repeatedly—not just in the current administration but in prior administrations—this individual has been denied a visa and why he has been personally sanctioned by the Treasury Department. As a matter of fact, the Treasury press release announcing the sanctions noted that Deripaska "has been investigated for money laundering, has been accused of threatening the lives of business rivals, illegally wiretapping a government official, and taking part in extortion and racketeering."
These are not the qualifications of someone who should get relief from the United States. I appreciate the fact that his company, RUSAL, has an enormous effect upon the aluminum markets. I appreciate the efforts the Treasury Department has tried to promote to the top job.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I would say to my friend from Virginia, who refused to take up any legislation whatsoever, such as S. 1, which is on the floor and which would take extraordinarily positive measures to protect our most important allies in the Middle East, including Israel and Jordan. I believe that bill and said: We are not going to take up any legislation until the government is back open—100 percent of it.

For the past 2 weeks, the minority leader has paralyzed the work of the Senate, saying they would block the Senate from considering any legislation unrelated to government funding. A number of our colleagues have said—for example, the junior Senator from Virginia said: “The Senate should vote on nothing else until we vote to reopen the government.” Senator MERKLEY said: “The Senate’s schedule cannot be business as usual if we shut down a quarter of the government and just leave it shut down.” Senator BOOKER said that Senate Democrats should block consideration of all unrelated bills.

All this comes as a result of the fact that the impetus is on the Democrats to hold up the bill. As the San Francisco Chronicle editorializes today, the Senate Democrats have simply refused to negotiate with the President. I was with the President down in Texas, down along the border, on Thursday. He is willing to negotiate. We know we had broad bipartisan support for the Secure Fence Act, for example, in 2006, authorizing up to 700 miles of fencing on the southern border. The Democratic leader voted for that, and so did Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Later, in 2014, all Democrats voted for $40 billion in border security, including barriers, fencing, and tactical infrastructure along the border. Now they are saying, as the Speaker has said, that somehow this is “immoral.” Well, this is hypocrisy at its worst.

Nomination of William Barr

Madam President, on another matter, today the Senate Judiciary Committee is holding a hearing on the nomination of William Barr to be Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Barr is uniquely qualified for this position in large part because he held the job before. As a matter of fact, 27 years ago, he was nominated by George Herbert Walker Bush to be Attorney General of the United States. He was confirmed by a unanimous voice vote in the Senate. It received little fanfare at the time because it wasn’t particularly controversial—nothing like the contentious, partisan confirmation battles we have seen the last 2 years. There wasn’t an attempt—at least so far, and I am keeping my fingers crossed—to assassinate Mr. Barr’s character or try to decipher the notes in his high school yearbook like we saw in the Kavanaugh confirmation hearings. Instead, so far, and to the committee’s credit, we have focused on his qualifications.

He is clearly smart, articulate, and able. He has a clear understanding of what the role of the Attorney General is and, more importantly, what it is not. An Attorney General should not be a politician. As a matter of fact, the Attorney General has the very difficult job of trying to balance his responsibilities as the chief law enforcement officer in the country enforcing the rule of law along with the fact that he is a political appointee of the President. To me, that is one of the most difficult positions in our entire government. But Mr. Barr has done it before, and I think he can do it again. He, of course, has great institutional knowledge about the Department of Justice.

In addition to Attorney General, he held the key position of Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel and Deputy Attorney General before he was promoted to the top job. Back in 1992, when Mr. Barr was confirmed, then-chairman of the Senate Judiciary, Joe Biden—President Obama’s Vice President—said he would be a fine Attorney General.

This morning, I heard Mr. Barr discuss the qualities that undoubtedly led Senators on both sides of the aisle to support his confirmation. He spoke of the importance of acting with professionalism and integrity. As a matter of fact, he said that at 68 years old, he basically had decided, only to answer the call by the President to return to public service. He said: I am completely independent. I will make the hard decisions. I will make the right decisions. I will help restore the reputation of the Department of Justice and the FBI to an apolitical, a nonpolitical department, which is exactly what we need.

He wants to make sure that the character and reputation of the Department of Justice is enhanced and respected, and then it could withstand even the most trying political times, including those in which we presently live.

He spoke of serving with independence, providing no promises or assurances to anyone else other than to faithfully execute and administer the laws of the United States of America.

It is clear to me that he maintains the same views he held 27 years ago. I share his view that the Department of Justice should function outside of the highly politicalized times we live in. The fair and impartial administration of justice is the highest obligation and duty of this position. I believe Mr. Barr is an outstanding nominee and, once confirmed, will be an outstanding Attorney General. I look forward to voting yes on his nomination.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, on the matter of the government shutdown—the 25 percent of the government that is presently not funded—last week, I traveled with the President, along with my colleague Senator Cruz, to the Rio Grande Valley, to McAllen, TX.

After the President held his roundtable, where he saw heroin, methamphetamine, and weapons, and heard about the human trafficking, including sex slavery involving children and girls and women, after that presentation—after the President left, Senator Cruz and I sat down with a number of our constituents—county judges, mayors, law enforcement officers, as well as the folks from Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection. They understand the border better than anybody because they live there. They are deeply concerned about the posturing in Washington and how the political arguments seem to overcome logic and listening to the experts when it comes to border security. I had for them to confirm once again what they previously told me: that we need to strengthen those border communities.
and keep our country safe, while keeping legitimate trade and commerce flowing across the border.

During our discussion, Scott Luck, Deputy Chief of the Border Patrol, talked about the positive impact of physical barriers and what positive impact they have at targeted locations along the southern border. He said:

The physical barrier has worked every place I have been. I have been in places where we did not have it; they put it in and it worked.

He mentioned Douglas, AZ, as one of those. He said:

There were more people coming into the country than any other place in the country. I was there. It stopped. It stopped in California. It stopped in Yuma. It stopped in El Paso. It will stop wherever we put it.

Despite what our colleagues across the aisle are saying, physical barriers at the border are extremely effective when coupled with technology and personnel. It doesn’t do you much good to have a physical barrier that somebody can go over or around or through and you don’t have a Border Patrol agent there to deal with them.

Actually, the physical border is the last place you are going to stop people trying to illegally enter into the United States, together with the narcotics and the human trafficking, but it is important to have those tools available to the Border Patrol, and that is what Deputy Chief Luck was stressing. He made the comments and observation that physical barriers alone are not the solution for the entire border—a holistic border security approach also requires technology and personnel.

When we were discussing the need for building physical barriers in strategic locations, my friend, Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino, said something to Border Patrol Council President Brandon Judd that I think encapsulates the whole debate. He was talking to the Border Patrol and CBP and said:

If you need to use it, I think we are all on board. If the politicians tell us where we need it, I think that is where we have our concern.

In other words, what Judge Trevino was saying was, let’s listen to the experts, the people who know how to use the right combination of technology, tactical infrastructure, and personnel at each given place along the border because it makes no sense to try to treat this like a one-size-fits-all. Anybody who has been to the border between the United States and Mexico knows that the geography and topography vary tremendously from place to place.

Let’s not try to dictate from Washington, DC, where every dollar goes and in so doing try to micromanage the Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection and the Department of Homeland Security. Let’s leave that to the experts—the men and women who work to protect and secure our border every day.

What we continue to hear and what I continue to advocate is for a layered approach—barriers where they are appropriate, technology, and personnel. That is exactly what we have been talking about. That is what we voted for in 2006 with the Secure Fence Act. The Democrats supported that, along with Republicans. That is what law enforcement officials who used to be called it and operated optimally. Unfortunately, it is what Democrats are now refusing to negotiate and provide.

When looking at the border, it is not just a border security issue that we need to be concerned about; we need to be concerned about our economic security as well.

During our discussions last week with local stakeholders, we also focused on the importance of facilitating legitimate trade and travel at our ports of entry. I was shocked by this figure, but the Customs and Border Protection Officer there, Mr. Higgenbottom, mentioned that the trade from Texas ports alone is valued at $30 billion per year of Texas and border communities in particular, these ports fuel our economy, and we need to provide additional funding to ensure efficient movement across the border.

One thing we all agree on is that most of the high-end drugs—the heroin, the methamphetamine, and the fentanyl—come through the ports of entry. So let’s modernize those. Let’s provide the technology that is needed in order to actually get these drugs into the United States. Legitimate trade and commerce is the lifeblood not only of our border region in my State, it is also the lifeblood of our Nation’s economy. There are 5 million Americans whose jobs depend on binational trade with Mexico alone.

Along with a number of my colleagues from Texas, we are sending a bipartisan letter to President Trump that thanks him for his continued work to secure our border. His advocacy for that layered approach, as well as for port of entry improvements, is vital to my State. In that letter, we also address recent rumors to the effect that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ funds might be used for border security purposes, and I have urged the President not to take that route. While I will continue to advocate for additional border security, I believe those funds were intended to assist disaster relief and should be used for that purpose. We need both border security and to lend a helping hand to those who are still recovering from natural disasters. We don’t have to rob from Peter to pay Paul. We need to do both.

I am grateful for the support that has been shown from the President to the people of Texas both in the days following Hurricane Harvey’s landfall and in the nearly year and a half since, and I hope he will continue to work with us to ensure that we rebuild our communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey and as we work together to secure our border.

Mr. CARPER. Will the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. CORNYN. I yield.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I thank the Senator for his comments. As the Committee Chairman, I will tell the border and as his State is on the border, he is well familiar with that part of the world.

As it turns out, as the former chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, I have had a chance to visit the borders in the Senator’s State and in other States along the Mexican border. Not that long ago, there were a whole lot of Mexicans coming into the United States, as he knows, and not so many Mexicans going back to Mexico. In the year 2000, when illegal immigration peaked, huge numbers of Mexicans came in—not so much today. As the Senator knows, they are coming from Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. They are a good percentage of the international flow of narcotics and the human trafficking, but we have very sophisticated surveillance equipment that can look from different platforms. We have drones, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, stationary towers, and mobile towers that can look down and pick up people who are coming up from the south. Motion detectors make sense, and tunnel detectors make sense. There is a lot of stuff that makes sense.

I am all for investing there. I think Democrats and Republicans can find common ground, and I think we have the appropriations bills that we have passed will actually fund that kind of stuff. They are not just Democratic ideas, and they are not just Republican ideas. They are good ideas, and a lot of them come from our Border Patrol personnel, as the Senator knows.

We can do all of this and more on the southern border with Mexico, but if people in Honduras, in Guatemala, and in El Salvador continue to live lives of misery because we are complicit in our addiction to drugs, they are going to still want to come up here. So we need to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time and also provide, through Alliance for Prosperity, which is, really, a modern-day planed Colombia, a little bit of hope and opportunity so they will feel less compelled to come to this country to have a better life. That’s what we do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, if I could respond to my friend, the Senator from Delaware, he speaks correctly—accurately—about some of the symptoms and, I think, some of the cures that we need to put in place to deal with this extraordinarily complex problem. We would love to continue to work with him on coming up with a plan that we would call it “Plan Mexico” but “Plan Americas” because what we really have to deal with is a regional challenge.
He is exactly right in that most of the illegal immigration now is coming from Central America. Gaps in our immigration and human trafficking laws encourage unaccompanied children and family units to come up to the border because they can, potentially, get placed in the United States without waiting for their asylum claims to be determined by a court, and there is a backlog of 700,000 or 800,000 asylum claims. In other words, the criminal organizations that move people for money in the United States have cracked the code and have figured out how to be successful in placing people in the United States.

Unfortunately, it also helps to enrich those organizations that move the poison from south of the border into the United States. They contributed to the deaths of some 70,000 Americans last year alone. I am thinking particularly about the tent city, along with the heroin, going from China to Mexico and up across the border. That consumes in the United States, 90 percent of it comes from Mexico. I agree that it is the demand here in the United States that enriches the cartels, but they are, more or less, commodity agnostic. In other words, they will do anything that makes them money, these criminal organizations.

We need to have people sit down and work together, and I pledge to work with my colleague to try to do that. Yet we can't get a solution as long as both sides—both the Speaker of the House and the President and the House call physical infrastructure or barriers immoral. This is kind of a nonstarter to a conversation that we need to have to try to negotiate our way out of this shutdown.

I welcome working with my friend. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I extend my thoughts in regard to the comments of the senior Senator from North Dakota. I appreciate his comments, and I, certainly, agree with them.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY 2018 FCS TITLE VICTORY

Madam President, I rise to take a minute to recognize the incredible achievements of the North Dakota State University Bison football team today.

On January 5, it earned its record seventh national championship title. For 7 out of the last 8 years, it has been the national champion.

In a hard-fought victory, NDSU defeated the Eastern Washington University Eagles by a score of 38 to 24 in Frisco, TX. With that win, the Bison have now won an unprecedented, as I say, seventh NCAA Division I football championship series championship, setting a record for the most FCS titles of all time. The Bison have now a total of 15 NCAA championship titles. In addition, they achieved the 2018 football season with a perfect record of 15 wins and zero losses, displaying just an extraordinary resilience and skill.

This achievement puts the 2018 Bison in, truly, elite company as it has become only the fifth team to cap off an undefeated season with a national championship title. The 2018 team joins the 2013 NDSU team in accomplishing this impressive feat.

Further, NDSU is one of only five FCS teams to have ever won back-to-back titles. NDSU is the deserved holder of the longest title winning streak in FCS history, with its obtaining five titles in a row from 2011 to 2015. It has been victorious in every FCS title game in which it has played.

After the title game, NDSU quarterback Easton Stick became NDSU’s record holder for the most passing yards, having a total of 6,893 passing yards in his college career. He also became the NCAA record holder for the most all-time FCS wins by a quarterback, having a total of 49 career wins.

I also recognize the impressive achievement of NDSU’s head coach, Chris Klieman. During his 5 years as head coach, he led the Bison to an outstanding record of 60 wins and only six losses, winning four national championships in the process. Coach Klieman’s achievement of four titles in 5 years equals the NCAA’s FCS record for obtaining the most titles as a head coach.

Coach Klieman and his entire staff instilled character and perseverance in the members of the NDSU Bison football team.

While I know it is bittersweet, I am sure the Bison Nation will join me in wishing Coach Klieman the best of luck in his continued career as the new head coach of the Kansas State University Wildcats next season. We welcome Matt Entz as the new head coach, who was formerly the defensive coordinator. He has, certainly, been part of this great dynasty.

Finally, I recognize all of Bison Nation for its vibrant and unwavering support of the team during another successful season.

As they have grown accustomed to doing, the welcoming residents of Frisco, TX, saw a mass of Bison fans flock to their town for the FCS championship game. They were wonderful in terms of their hospitality. Approximately 20,000 fans traveled from North Dakota and other areas to support our great team. They turned the stadium into a sea of green and yellow as they passionately cheered on our beloved Bison.

The Bison victory was not only a victory for the NDSU football team but for our State as the team brought another trophy back home to North Dakota. I congratulate the team, the coaches, and our great fans on another national championship.

Go, Bison.

Again, I am so proud of our great team, and I appreciate the opportunity to take this time to recognize its achievements.

I am pleased to yield the floor to my fellow Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I thank my friend and colleague, Senator Hoeven.

Before I get into my prepared comments, let me first associate myself with his words and his eloquent appreciation and congratulations to the folks at NDSU and to the football team. Let me just say that I don’t care what President Trump says—in Bison Nation, we are most definitely victorious.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Madam President, for the first time, I rise as a Member of this prestigious body, as a U.S. Senator, to talk about a critical issue that faces our Nation, which every citizen has a right to life.

It is no coincidence that I rise today, the week of March for Life. This coming Friday is the 46th annual March for Life, during which citizens from across the country and hundreds from North Dakota especially students from places like Shanley High School and the University of Mary and other institutions around our State, will unite to fight against the largest, deadliest, and most silent war this world has ever known.

This, my colleagues, is the war against the unborn.

During my time in the House of Representatives in the last 6 years and throughout my campaign for the Senate last year, I promised the people of North Dakota that I will fight for life at all stages. I unite, today, with those who will march this Friday, who will walk with heavy and hopeful hearts and who will pray for the 60 million discarded children who have been denied their very first breaths.

Colleagues, I stand here to call to mind a child’s right to life and protection within the womb of his or her mother. Since Roe v. Wade, which the Supreme Court decided in 1973, over 60 million children have been denied their right to life. There have been 60 million children who have been refused love, comfort, a hug, care, opportunity, and breath. They were torn from experiencing the beauty of the world that we as a country have not been torn from family and unknown friends.

To deny 60 million innocent children the right to these things is the highest injustice to our people and the highest offense to our God. I speak on behalf of the citizens of North Dakota and of all citizens who will gather this week to say that it is absolutely unacceptable that within this country, life is treated as a commodity rather than a gift from an omnipotent Creator.

One of my pro-choice colleagues and friends may say that in taking this stance, I am standing against women’s rights—nothing could be further from the truth—and that this is an issue of a woman’s right. It is an issue for the millions of women who have been denied the right to life by fully support women’s rights. I just began supporting them 9 months earlier than some of my colleagues on the other side of this important issue.

To my colleagues who are pro-life who are supportive of this fight, I remind them that abortion is a great injustice, but it is particularly common in situations and communities that
have suffered other injustices. If we are going to be pro-life, I think we must be pro all of life and address the factors that cause women to decide to end the life of their unborn children.

The United States has seen a great evil in its history. We have seen and experienced slavery, discrimination, and human trafficking. All of these things are illegal, and these things are issues on which we as a country take a moral stance. However, abortion is legal. Sixty million lives have been terminated in the United States.

Here, in Washington, DC, nearly 40 percent of pregnancies end in abortion. In New York City, an African-American child is more likely to be aborted than born. As one Nation under God, we, as a country, should know better. We must know better, and I believe we do know better. No government should limit the lives of its youngest and most innocent citizens.

As a Senator, I give you my promise to fight for the right to life, and I ask my colleagues to join me. This is my promise to the people of North Dakota who have chosen me as their Senator and my promise to my fellow citizens, especially those who have never had the chance to speak with their voices.

Within my first few weeks here, I have signed onto several pro-life priorities. I have signed a letter asking President Trump to veto any legislation that undermines the right to life. Additionally, I cosponsored the Protect Funding for Women's Healthcare Act, a bill that would end Federal funding for Planned Parenthood and shift that money to women's health services.

In North Dakota, we don't have any Planned Parenthood clinics, but we have 16 community health centers and over 20 federally qualified health centers. Shifting this money toward these health centers would help the women in my State to receive better and more accessible health care. Let me say that again. Shifting funding away from the abortion clinics and toward these community health centers would provide more funds to the health centers that care for women across the State of North Dakota.

Additionally, I have cosponsored the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act and the Title X Prohibition Act, two bills to protect the taxpayer from funding the abortion industry.

I have cosponsored the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would guarantee that a child who survives an abortion will receive the same medical care as a premature child of the same age, and the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, which protects the rights of parents to be notified if their child is going to have an abortion.

Finally, I have cosponsored the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would ban abortion after 20 weeks.

My fellow Senators, I stand here because of the citizens of North Dakota and of the United States who desire to see these bills and many other important pro-life bills pass and signed into law. They want an end to this injustice.

I recognize my responsibility to fight for the youngest, most vulnerable members of our society and our future generations. Today, I stand with my constituents and with the entire population of the United States, especially the men and women who have been so deeply hurt. I urge my fellow Senators to take a stand on this pressing issue as well. With our united efforts, the killing of our unborn citizens will continue to diminish.

Our work is fruitful. In every legislative session we see more and more laws passed at the State level to protect unborn life. From 2008 to 2014, the abortion rate in the United States dropped by 25 percent. Each year, we are making great strides and giving a voice to the voiceless.

This fight is not a political fight but a fight for humanity itself. It is a war against all of us and against all of our children, no matter our ideologies. We have to hear both the issues in our own parties and work across the aisle. We have to look at each other with open minds and open hearts to solve this crisis that has plagued our country. We must do better at reaching out and uniting with one another in defense of one of the most fundamental rights—the right to life.

The truth is this: We must uphold this right because "we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed"—at the time of creation—"by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Without the first—that is the right to life—we can have neither liberty nor the pursuit of happiness. We have been denying the first for far too long. So let's join together now to give the future of our country, our next generations, the right to life.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I would like to commend my fellow Senator from North Dakota on his heartfelt comments today and express my support and agreement with him and with those comments.

He mentioned a number of pieces of legislation that I am cosponsoring. I am pleased to see that. I, again, have signed onto legislation to support life in this Congress, as I have in previous Congresses.

We will have the March for Life at the end of this week. I look forward to that. Last year, my wife and her sister actually walked in the March for Life. I have always made a practice of greeting our participants in the March for Life from North Dakota, and I certainly look forward to seeing them again here this year.

With that, I thank you for your time to make these comments, and, again, to extend a warm welcome to my colleague from North Dakota. I have worked with him for many years, and I very much look forward to working with him now here in the Senate.

Thank you.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, in the floor speech that I gave last week on the "Common Sense for Common Defense," I highlighted the fact that our competitors have increased their own military spending and focused on modernization and how we are going to have to do the same.

When I talk about competitors, I am talking about China and Russia. I think this President did a good job of outlining our national defense system and putting it into different categories, because when you talk about China and Russia—not many people are aware of this—China and Russia have increased their own military spending and focused on modernization. They have actually caught up, and, in some cases, have actually passed us.

Our men and women in uniform are outstanding representations of what is right and wrong in America. Their drive and determination is the reason the United States of America has the honor of being the leader of the free world. That honor, however, is the product of hard work, not birthright. We earned it.

But over the last 10 years, our military supremacy has slowly degraded. General Dunford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has acknowledged that our qualitative and quantitative advantage has eroded. Toward the end of the Obama administration, with many of our systems, like our brigade combat teams, only 35 percent of them could be deployed because of what happened to the defense budget and our maintenance capabilities.

Some things happened to our F18s. It is the Marines that fly the F18s, and we only had 30 percent of those that could be deployed toward the end of the Obama administration.

This is something that people are not aware of. This is very significant. We need to pay attention to this, if there is ever any question. Constant dollar defense spending dropped $200 billion from 2010 to 2015. That was in the last 5 years of the Obama administration.

In 2010, the budget was $794 billion, and then 5 years later, it dropped down to $586 billion. That is unprecedented. Even after the Korean war, it didn't drop that much, but, nonetheless, it did. It has never happened before, and we have to make up for it.

That is exactly what we are doing. Our fiscal year 2018 budget brought it back up to $700 billion. Our 2019 budget brought it back up to $716 billion, and we anticipate—and it has been mentioned several times—that in our 2020 budget it is going to be around $750 billion.

That is exactly what we are doing.
We have a slide here that puts it in a little different perspective. As you can see from the slide, at the end of the Cold War, we had about the same number of fighter aircraft as our adversaries at that time—that was Russia and China. It is very clear on the orange is the third generation fighters, and the blue is the fourth generation fighters. It shows that now we are getting into the fifth generation. Actually, at that time, we were way ahead of them. This is a thing of the past now.

While we had the same amount, we were still superior because our aircraft were the newest and the most capable in the world. Our fighter forces—in fact, most of our military equipment—was better, more modern, and more effective than the Russians or the Chinese had. Now that has changed. During this most recent period of time, we went around the country telling our people we are falling behind them.

Advanced than us. We know this is true. The Army, likewise, has gotten what we had. As demonstrated on the chart, our fighter force was reduced nearly 50 percent in total numbers over the last 25 years, and we failed to modernize. Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson, said our Air Force is too small to do what the Nation asks. Not only is it too small, but the average age of our aircraft is now 28 years old. How many of us in here drive a car that is 28 years old?

In 1990, we brought over 500 aircraft a year—1990, 500 aircraft a year—but recently, that number has been reduced to 50 a year. When I go out and talk to people who are in my State of Oklahoma and anywhere in the country, there is the assumption that somehow we have the very best of everything. That used to be the case. That became the case after World War II, but then during the last 25 years, things have been going in a different direction. In the last 10 years is when things dropped down. We are going to have to do better because, at this rate, it would take us over 40 years to modernize a fleet that is already too old and too small. Meanwhile, our adversaries have transformed their aircraft fleets with modernization programs and have increased their overall size and capabilities. In fact, the Chinese and Russian air forces have recapitalized and are now, or soon will be, fielding aircraft with capability matching our own but at a much faster rate. If they get to the point where we are in terms of modernization, they are already way ahead of us in terms of numbers. According to the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, General Goldfein, if we take no action, both the American and Chinese forces will be bigger and more technologically advanced than we. We know this is true.

Artillery is measured in terms of rapid fire and range, and that is where we are falling behind them. The problem is not just the Air Force. The Army, likewise, has gotten smaller and less capable in the same decade. Specifically, in terms of long-range fires—defined as tubed artillery and tactical missiles—you can see the same trend. This is our artillery system. There are three different types of artillery, but you can see that as time has gone by, we have actually fallen behind. If you look at us over here, in 2018, our total is 2,886, as opposed to 22,000 for the Russians and 10,000 for the Chinese. The numbers are there, and we know that is happening, and we know it is taking place as we speak.

In the last 25 years, we have kind of rested on that advantage that things were better than they had. While our adversaries have also reduced the amount of long-range fires over the same period of time, they have significantly modernized their force. We are now in a situation where both of these countries—that is, Russia and China—not only have more artillery than us, but theirs is better than ours.

GEN Mark Milley, the Army Chief of Staff said: “In terms of artillery, the Army is outgunned and outranged by our adversaries.” Unfortunately, people don’t know this, and people are looking at us and going to have to know this to know what happened to us in the last decade. One can look at the devastating results from Russia’s action against the Ukrainian army. We all remember that in 2014 they made it possible through the modernization of their artillery systems. The results were there. They were. They inflicted damage. Recognizing the problem is normally the first step in developing an acceptable solution. The fiscal year 2018 and fiscal year 2019 budgets got us back in the right direction, but in fiscal year 2018 we have gone up to $700 billion for a defense budget and in fiscal year 2019 to $716 billion. So we are on the road to recovery. We recognize, the people in this body know what has happened to our abilities and our superiority in these areas that is no longer there.

This is kind of interesting. We had a hearing on this the other day. Of all the presentations I have heard, the assessment and recommendations of the National Defense Strategy Commission—that is what this book is right here—was put together a few years ago. They have actually made these assessments and come to the conclusion that if we want to do something—what they have come up with in this is a formula as to what it is going to take right now and for the foreseeable future. They say all of our defense budgets coming up are going to have to be an increase of somewhere between 3 percent and 5 percent above inflation. Of course, that is exactly what these 3 years will do, so we are making headway in that respect.

This growth projection is also one our Secretaries of Defense and as our Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff say is going to be necessary for us to get back up even with and competitive with both Russia and China. I can remember not long ago being in the South China Sea and watching China actually building islands. It is not legal, but they do it anyway. If you look at what is on these seven islands out there, it is as if they are preparing for World War III. Our allies in the South China Sea are very much concerned about this as to whose side they are going to be on if this happens.

We don’t want to shortchange our national security. We fully implement the national defense strategy, as found in this book, in a timely manner by avoiding continuing resolutions and eliminating the threat of sequestration. A continuing resolution is something where, if we don’t get along in this body, we don’t pass our appropriations bills as we are supposed to pass, then we end up passing a continuing resolution that continues what we have done in the previous year. We can’t continue to do that.

The already widening gap with Russia and China will only grow faster if we don’t change our behavior. That is exactly what we plan to do. We need to fix this if we are going to do it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 2

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be recognized for up to 7 minutes each: Senator ISAKSON, Senator MENENDEZ, and Senator CRAPO; and finally, following the use or yielding back of that time, Senator SCHUMER be recognized to make a motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 2, and that following his remarks, Senator MCCONNELL be recognized to make a motion to table the motion to proceed following his remarks.

The PRESIDENT OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDENT OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
DISAPPROVING THE PRESIDENT’S PROPOSAL TO TAKE AN ACTION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise to speak against the resolution to disapprove of the administration’s agreement to delist Rusal, the Russian aluminum giant from the SDN list.

I will vote no today because this was a hard-fought negotiation, resulting in one of the strongest agreements ever associated with a sanctions delisting, which supports longstanding U.S. sanctions policy and foreign policy toward Russia.

This agreement does nothing to change the sealed fate of Deripaska, the direct target of the sanctions. He remains sanctioned. His current assets remain blocked. The primary and secondary sanctions imposed against him dash any hope of future deals or income. Further by operation of his divestiture obligations or future dividends based on his remaining shareholder interests in Rusal. His ability to transfer his shares, use his shares as collateral, or even receive cash from dividends are all effectively frozen.

The sanctions that put Deripaska on the SDN list and froze his investments in Rusal and En+ and ESE, and make him personally radioactive to future transactions with just about anyone, forced these companies to disentangle themselves from Deripaska’s control and influence or to face financial devastation.

In fact, the Treasury agreement appropriately reflects how U.S. sanctions policy uses smart sanctions to change the behavior of those sanctioned to build pressure behind the ultimate goals of U.S. policy toward Putin’s Russia.

The agreement itself is more akin to a deferred prosecution agreement, in that a failure in its terms can result in an immediate relisting to the SDN list, while it ensures that En+, Rusal, and ESE undertake significant restructuring and corporate governance changes to reverse the circumstances that led to their designation in the first place. These actions include reducing Deripaska’s direct and indirect shareholdings, overhauling the composition of the relevant boards of directors, putting together corporate control committees, disentangling operations and strategic direction, restricting the steps that can be taken relating to their governance; and agreeing to broad and unprecedented transparency that requires ongoing auditing, certification, and reporting requirements.

Part of keeping a smart sanctions program smart is to ensure that the world understands the U.S. sanctions architecture is fair and respects America’s extraterritorial sanctions reach, and providing an off-ramp from the SDN list for those listed who can prove deserving is not only good sanctions policy but the law because if Treasury fails in its ability to render fair judgments, erstwhile petitioners for removal will simply resort to either the U.S. courts or worse, simply evasion.

In the circumstances of this case, keeping Rusal on the sanctions list could lead to a Putin nationalization of the Russian aluminum giant which almost certainly would not only work to enrich Deripaska but all but guarantee the unfettered Kremlin influence in a global concern that would also invite a set of unintended consequences involving economic and security costs for our Nation and for our economic allies.

So today I am voting against Senator SCHUMER’s resolution to disapprove of the administration’s agreement to delist Rusal, the Russian aluminum giant, from the SDN list because Treasury spent the last 8 months getting it right and winning a hard-fought divestiture agreement. It is among the most robust and verifiable delisting determinations ever devised by Treasury, worthy of Senate approval and not a gift to the Kremlin.

Thank you.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENTING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Thank you.
officials at the FBI—Americans deeply committed to the hierarchy of law enforcement—saw enough evidence to suspect that Donald Trump, the sitting President of the United States, could be an agent of the Russian Government. That is stunning. It is absolutely stunning.

Likewise, over the weekend, the press reported that President Trump went to extraordinary lengths to conceal the contents of his conversations with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki and elsewhere, even going so far as tearing up the notes of his interpreter. His own staff reportedly sought to learn the contents of the conversation, only to be told that the interpreter could not share the details because the President told him not to.

As the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I raised serious questions about what happened in Helsinki. I think the whole Nation was watching the President's performance there. We wanted to bring the interpreter forward or to get access to those notes, and now we know those notes were destroyed.

Throughout this Presidency, my colleagues and I have demanded accountability from this administration. I have been dismayed at the lack of clarity and transparency from the President when it comes to his dealings with foreign leaders, particularly Vladimir Putin.

I should note that President Trump has had numerous conversations with President Xi of China, Kim Jong Un of North Korea, and leaders and other heads of state across the world. We are not aware of the same standard of secrecy being applied to those exchanges. The President seems to only keep secret his conversations with Putin. And that begs the question, why? Perhaps because Trump and his 2016 campaign staff have repeatedly lied about the extent of their interactions with Russians. Perhaps because the Trump-Putin discussions extended to Russian financing for the Trump Organization’s real estate deals throughout the 1990s and 2000s or the Moscow tower project we now know the Trump Organization was still pursuing well into 2017—not advocating on behalf of the American people. Perhaps because the President inappropriately shared classified information with Putin, much like he did when Foreign Minister Lavrov met him for a meeting in the Oval Office. We just don’t know, and we have a right to find out.

I ask that my entire comments be printed in the RECORD, ending by asking my colleagues to vote in favor of moving forward so that this can come to light.

I yield the floor.

Mr. ISAKSON. If the gentleman would like to finish his remarks, I would be glad to yield for a few minutes.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank my distinguished colleague from Georgia—a member of the committee—for doing so. I appreciate his courtesy.

As I said, we don’t know, and we have a right to find out. Our own FBI was worried he might actually be a foreign agent.

Presidents certainly have a right to confidential conversations with world leaders. Never before in our history have we had a President under investigation by the FBI for being a foreign agent—an agent of the Russian Federation. While in my mind, I think we have the right, the responsibility, and the obligation to ensure that we know what happened in all of these conversations between President Trump and Putin and to understand the full extent of this relationship.

I sent a letter to the President today, with the ranking members of the Armed Services and Intelligence Committees, demanding the preservation of all records associated with these meetings and the opportunity to interview the interpreter. This is a matter of U.S. national security.

This Trump-Putin connection gets more confounding by the day. We have to protect the integrity of all oversight efforts, including the objective, sober investigation still being conducted by Robert Mueller. We must take all measures necessary to protect this investigation, including a rock-solid commitment by the President’s nominee for Attorney General to not interfere in any way. Mr. Mueller’s work. The American people deserve to know who they elected to be their President and what is going on in this regard.

Again, it is time to move to legislation on DASKA, which Senator GRAHAM and I have introduced, along with others. We hope to reintroduce it again.

I think if this body is serious about protecting our institutions, our democracy, and about an increasingly emboldened Kremlin, if we are serious about our oaths to support and defend the Constitution, then, No. 1, we will agree to move forward on this RUSAL question and move forward to find out the rest of the information.

I appreciate the distinguished gentleman yielding time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I wasn’t going to come over here today—I just got off an airplane a little while ago—but I am here because of what I have been hearing.

What I have been hearing is that we need to be talking about the shutdown and not other subjects. When I met with the TSA agents on my plane flying up here, they said: Why don’t you get our work back for us?

We are not even talking about TSA. We are not even talking about the shutdown. We are talking about different opinions at different times and different things that don’t really matter in the scheme of things.

We have been shut down for 23, 24 days. I am not a Johnny-come-lately—pardon the reference—to the issue of shutdowns. I have been in the Senate and House for 20 years. I voted against five shutdowns. Every one I had a chance to. Shutdowns cost the government more money; they don’t save the government any money. They don’t solve any single problem whatsoever, except when you only shutting down a little bit of the government, like we are right now. Not much of the government is really shut down—just the part that hurts the smallest income earners from our government. We are doing the wrong thing, punishing the wrong people, and that is just not right.

All the speeches you are going to hear today, including mine, don’t matter at all unless we, first of all, get on the shutdown, correct the problem, and find a way to bridge the gap. The President is not moving. The Democrats aren’t moving. The majority leader is not moving. We are not doing much. That doesn’t solve anything. Some along the way will probably try to find a way to do something different that may not be the end deal but the bridge to do an end deal, or else we are all going to look silly.

My point is this: There is only one thing we need to be doing—restoring the confidence of the American people in the Senate and the House. They don’t have it right now. We haven’t given them anything to hang their hat on, one single thing.

Things like what we are debating this afternoon just emanate that.

We are caught in our own trap. Things like what we are debating this afternoon just emanate that.

I appreciate what the distinguished ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee just said, but quite frankly, last week he was talking about how important it was for us to stay on the shutdown and not do anything. Now the minority side says it is important for us to get this Russian gentleman or oligarch—whatever that is—whom we are already punishing, and then we will go back to the shutdown.

As I said, we are not even talking about the shutdown. We are not even talking about the TSA. We are talking about different opinions at different times and different things that don’t really matter in the scheme of things.

The American people are looking up in their office or sitting and talking to some people, having a beer or doing whatever, and saying: How are we going to stick it—even the people on the other side—and get this shutdown over before our people drive us crazy?

We are caught in our own trap. Things like what we are debating this afternoon just emanate that.

My home country of Sweden—one of the largest consumers of their product of aluminum and one of the biggest sellers of aluminum to the United States of America—has called me and said: You all are killing us.

Even we have some more things to do. They are losing their vote. I think their vote is now down to about 25 percent of the board. They have restricted
him every way they can. I am a busi-
nessman; I know how you restrict peo-
ple and tie them down. This deal does that. It doesn’t give them anything they don’t want—it gives them a lot of what they don’t want to have.

So let's get on with it. Let's stop blaming everybody else. Let's put the blame where it belongs—on all of our shoul-
ders collectively. Let’s do what we elected officials were elected to do, and let’s make a deal. I yield to Senator SCHUMER.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I am not going to talk about the sub-
stance of what we are here for. To my dear friend, JOHNNY, whom I love and who serves the best barbecue I ever have every year, among his many other attributes, I will just make this point:

He says it is not a Democratic shut-
down or a Republican shutdown. It is a Trump shutdown. We all know it. Don-
ald Trump has called for the shutting down of the government 25 times. He said at our meeting he is proud to shut down the government. We Democrats do not want to shut down the government. In fact, our slo-
logan—our watchword—is “open up the government.” We have a difference on border security. We are for it. You are for it. You are for something different than we are, but we are not shutting down the government, and everyone knows it. The public opinion polls know it. There are 40 percent of all Re-
publicans, Independents, and Independents, who are for the wall, and most of those people say the govern-
ment shouldn’t be shut down over the wall.

I know how aggravated my colleague is. I would suggest to him that the best solution is to vote for what he voted for—or the whole Republican Party did by unanimous consent—which is to open up the government. Then we can discuss our border security issues.

I yield to my friend and colleague, Mr. ISAkSON. Madam President, I will follow up on the Senator’s points.

We need to do what we did last year when Republicans and Democrats stayed up here for 2 weeks while the government was shut down. We worked out an immigration agreement, and we got the DACA situation fixed. The President came out for a large number of DACA improvements. We almost got it. President came out for a large number of DACA improvements. We almost got it. President came out for a large number of DACA improvements. We almost got it.

I am not going to talk about the sub-
stance of what we are here for. I am not going to talk about the sub-
stance of what we are here for. We have the Superbowl coming to At-
tanta, GA, in about 3 weeks—the big-
gest tourism event in the world this year. What if the largest airport in the world that is going to bring all the people to the largest football game in the world lost its business because of the TSA strike? You will have just cost millions of dollars for the United States of America, for my home city—the city of Atlanta—and others. There are thousands of examples just like this.

I have had three people from my State call me. A convention is coming up in one of our cities, and this shut-
down is going to hurt the ability to bring that here. We are going to lose the revenue we would normally get from that. So we need to think about what we are doing. We are not winning any points with anything.

A lady who was waiting with me to get on the plane just laughed when I gave my answer to the TSA agent. I turned to her and almost asked: Why are you laughing? I said: You know, I understand why you are laughing because I can’t explain it either.

We need to understand what we are doing and why we are doing it. What we are doing isn’t going to help anyone. It is going to hurt the country. It is going to hurt the Americans.

I say we need to get a deal. I need to get a deal. I need to get a deal. Let’s get it worked out. Let’s not call it a Republican shutdown or a Demo-
crat shutdown. It is an American shutdown.

I see that Senator SCHUMER is com-
ing. I don’t usually get this riled up, CHUCK. I apologize because I am riled up a little bit.

It is funny, you used to be able to ex-
plain anything. I was a pretty good real estate salesman for a long time. I could close a deal. I can’t close this one. I had to do three or four times on that Delta plane today, as I came up here, and I couldn’t do it. When I list-
ened to the answers I was giving these people—good, old American citizens— as to why we can’t get the government open, I thought, if I were they, I would not vote for me either.

So let’s get on with it. Let’s stop blaming everybody else. Let’s put the blame where it belongs—on all of our shoul-
ders collectively. Let’s do what we elected officials were elected to do, and let’s make a deal.

I yield to Senator CORNYN.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, we need to push to get that done.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my colleague.

There is just one difference between what happened then and what is hap-
pening now: Neither side was shutting down the government until it got its way.

I will make my statement, I guess, and wait for Leader MCCONNELL and the motion to proceed.
the timeline runs out on Thursday—48 hours from now. We have to take this vote now. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on the motion to table and yes on the motion to proceed.

MOTION TO PROCEED
Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 13, S. J. Res. 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. J. Res. 2, a joint resolution disapproving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I believe the Senate’s voice should, indeed, be heard on national security policy. This is why I have moved to have the Senate’s first legislative business this Congress be a bipartisan package of foreign policy bills. I made it our first priority to move legislation that would have helped defend Israel and Jordan and provide justice for the Syrians who have been tortured and murdered by the Assad regime, but, apparently, he didn’t actually mean it because now the Democratic leader would like to dictate the terms of a debate on Russia.

We Republicans are hardly strangers to the need for strong policies concerning Russia. We have long seen Vladimir Putin for the KGB thug that he is. We have long advocated for tough measures against him and the kleptocrats who surround him. Just ask the junior Senator from Utah who, only 6 years ago, was mocked by the other side for advocating tough policies against the Kremlin.

This Republican administration has taken far tougher measures against Russia than the previous administration did. It has designated 272 Russia-related individuals and entities for sanctions, imposed export controls on Russian intelligence officers, shuttered Russian diplomatic outposts, and equipped Ukraine and Georgia to defend themselves against Russian aggression. Clearly, there is more work to be done, and I look forward to this Congress’s taking additional steps to defend our interests against the Russian threats and to additionally impose costs on Putin.

Specifically, I look forward to seeing whether the Democrats will join us in providing additional funding to rebuild our military in key areas to deter and defend against Russian investments and key weapons systems.

I look forward to seeing whether the Democrats will support efforts to modernize our aging nuclear triad as the Russians have done.

I look forward to the Congress’s reviewing its existing sanctions policies to see how we can impose additional costs on Putin and his cronies who enable his malign activities.

I look forward to the Congress’s ensuring that our sanctions efforts remain multilateral and maximize support from our European allies, whose participation is essential to imposing meaningful costs on the Kremlin.

But, in this narrow case, career civil servants at the Treasury Department simply applied and implemented the law Congress itself wrote and which the Democratic leader supported. Treasury’s agreement maintains sanctions on corrupt Russian oligarch Deripaska. It would continue limiting his influence over companies subject to the agreement.

In addition to subjecting the companies and their officers to unprecedented transparency and monitoring requirements, the agreement preserves Treasury’s ability to snapback sanctions on the companies and their officers. If there is any evidence of further malfeasance, I expect Treasury to use that authority to the fullest.

In the meantime, the Democratic leader’s political stunt should be rejected. I move to table this effort to overturn the hard and painstaking work of the career officials at Treasury, but I look forward to continuing our efforts to hold Putin and his cronies accountable in a thoughtful, far less politicized manner.

I move to table the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

I move to table the motion to proceed to S. J. Res. 2, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the leader’s rhetoric belies his words. If you believe Putin is a thug, you don’t vote to table this resolution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion to table.

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senate from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

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

The motion was announced—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 5 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin  Harris  Peters
Bennet  Harris  Reed
Biemann  Heineich  Rubio
Booker  Hirono  Sanders
Brown  Jones  Saake
Brent  Kaine  Schatz
Cassidy  Kennedy  Schumer
Cramer  King  Shahaen
Cornyn  Klobuchar  Sinema
Coons  Leahy  Smith
Cortez Masto  Manchin  Stabenow
Daines  Manchin  Tester
Duckworth  Moran  Whitehouse
Durbin  Murphy  Wyden
Feinstein  Murray  Wyden
Gardner

NAYS—42

Alexander  Crapo  Inhofe  Portman
Barrasso  Crun  Johnson  Risch
Blackburn  Cramer  Hyde-Smith  Young
Braun  Ernst  Lee
Bruz  Fischer  McConnell
Cassidy  Grassley  Markowski
Cortez Masto  Hawley  Paul
Cox  Lee  Perdue
Capito  Lee  Portman
Cassidy  Lee  Risch
Corder  Lee  Rounds
Cromer  Lee  Sasse
Crapo  Lee  Scott (FL)

The motion was rejected. [Rollcall Vote No. 4 Leg.]

YEAS—42

Alexander  Fischer  Portman
Barrasso  Graham  Risch
Blackburn  Grassley  Roberts
Braun  Hoeven  Rounds
Burr  Hyde-Smith  Scott (FL)
Cassidy  Johnson  Shelby
Cox  Lankford  Sullivan
Cromer  Lee  Tester
Crapo  McConnell  Tillis
Cruz  Markey  Toomey
Ernst  Paul  Wicker

NAYS—57

Baldwin  Harris  Peters
Bennet  Harris  Reed
Biemann  Heineich  Rubio
Booker  Hirono  Sanders
Brown  Jones  Saake
Brent  Kaine  Schatz
Cassidy  Kennedy  Schumer
Cramer  King  Shahaen
Cornyn  Klobuchar  Sinema
Coons  Leahy  Smith
Cortez Masto  Manchin  Stabenow
Daines  Manchin  Tester
Duckworth  Moran  Whitehouse
Durbin  Murphy  Wyden
Feinstein  Murray  Wyden
Gardner

NOT VOTING—1

Gillibrand

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBin. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) is necessarily absent.

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

The motion was announced—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows: [Rollcall Vote No. 5 Leg.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin  Harris  Peters
Bennet  Harris  Reed
Biemann  Heineich  Rubio
Booker  Hirono  Sanders
Brown  Jones  Saake
Brent  Kaine  Schatz
Cassidy  Kennedy  Schumer
Cramer  King  Shahaen
Cornyn  Klobuchar  Sinema
Coons  Leahy  Smith
Cortez Masto  Manchin  Stabenow
Daines  Manchin  Tester
Duckworth  Moran  Whitehouse
Durbin  Murphy  Wyden
Feinstein  Murray  Wyden
Gardner

NAYS—42

Alexander  Crapo  Inhofe  Portman
Barrasso  Crun  Johnson  Risch
Blackburn  Cramer  Hyde-Smith  Young
Braun  Cramer  Hyde-Smith  Young
Burr  Ernst  Lee
Braun  Fischer  McConnell
Cassidy  Grassley  Markowski
Coryn  Hawley  Paul
Cox  Lee  Perdue
Crapo  Lee  Portman
Cassidy  Lee  Risch
Corder  Lee  Rounds
Cromer  Lee  Sasse
Crapo  Lee  Scott (FL)

The motion was rejected.
is just a little lump of tissue is deter-

whether this is a child or whether this

destroyed, and no one would have paid at-

could watch the decades ahead of him

time. This life could be there, and we

could go two different directions at any

womb—and it would have been OK.

that same little one we see there with

first breath. Only seconds before that,

early. For that little one, life could

corrects that it could go in America.

this moment, there are really two di-

Viability really doesn’t determine life,

survived in 1973 but who regularly sur-

than viability now, thankfully. When

of things just to think about.

dialogue, let me walk through a couple

actually stuck with me through the

disappears on them to warn pregnant moms

harm the child because, as a culture,

bels on them to warn pregnant moms

ocean trash, or when we plant trees to

beautify our communities. Yet we are

having a tough time considering that

child as a child.

We even require that cigarettes, alco-

hol, theme park rides, medicines, and

many other products have warning la-

bels on them to warn pregnant moms

to not use the product because it could

harm the child because, as a culture,

we acknowledge that a mom’s smoking

hurts a child. Yet, for some reason, we

can’t seem to acknowledge that a child

could be hurt by an abortion and that

it really would end a life.

As my guess is, everyone who dis-

agrees with this has already tuned me

down because, as a culture, we don’t

want to think about this life because

if, for a moment, we pause and consider

that maybe she is really alive and has

a life of her own outside the womb—viability?

Viability in 1973 was very different

than viability now, thankfullly. When

we think about viability now, there are

people—21 or 22 weeks—ex-

tremely early—who would have

never survived in 1973 but who regularly

survive now because of great medical care.

Viability really doesn’t determine life,

though. Life is something that begins

at 12 weeks or whatever the magic num-

ber is. Yet, if you are one who has

actually stuck with me through the

dialogue, let me walk through a couple

of things just to think about.

Let’s start with a few things—the

science. This little girl has DNA that is

different than her mom’s and dad’s. It

has cell division. It has something that

we would look at in normal embryonic
devlopment called the Carnegie stages

of embryonic development.

For years and years, every medical

school teacher teaches the Carnegie stages

of embryonic development. They look at

cell division at the beginning point and

acknowledge, as they go through the

DISAPPROVING THE PRESIDENT’S

PROPOSAL TO TAKE AN ACTION

RELATING TO THE APPLICATION

OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH

RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN

FEDERATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The

clerk will report the joint resolution.

The clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 2) dis-

approving the President’s proposal to take

an action relating to the application of cer-

tain sanctions with respect to the Russian

Federation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Sen-

ator from Oklahoma.

RIGHT TO LIFE

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, it is

amazing how much we talk about our

kids. People talk about bipartisan

things here all the time. There is a bi-

partisan conversation often about our

family, our kids, and how proud of them we are and about shar-

ing our lives with each other.

My two daughters are a remarkable part of my family, of who I am. I can’t

even process life without thinking about the two of them.

Our kids are some of the most valu-

able moments of our entire lives and our greatest memories. When they

were little, we looked into their eyes and saw potential, and we dreamed for

them. From our earliest days of preg-

nancy, Cindy and I talked about the fu-

ture for our girls as we prayed for

them, thought about them, prepared for

them, and it had sunk in what an incredible responsibility they really were. Kids are that way. That is that

earliest moment that we talk about all

the time.

What is remarkable about this photo is thinking about just exactly what

this moment could be like because, in

this moment, there are really two di-

rections that it could go in America. This

little one was born several weeks early. For that little one, life could have

gone in two different directions. This group of doctors is gathered around

this little one, delivering this child, and watching him take his very first

breath. Only seconds before that, that same little one we see there with

this same group of doctors could have been destroyed—that life in the

womb—and it would have been OK.

You see, in America, this moment
could go two different directions at any

time. This life could be there, and we

could watch the decades ahead of him

or, seconds before this picture was taken, when that child was still in the

womb, that life could have been de-

stroyed. Would we have paid at-

ッション
process, that this is a child from the earliest moments and that it is a stage of life. Every single person who can hear me right now has gone through the Carnegie stages of embryonic development, just like this little one has. Every person who has taken the time to understand that it is a natural part of life, that it is a stage of life, that it is an acknowledgment of life.

It is something that we acknowledge in the animal world because this Congress has passed laws to deal with endangered species, including a $100,000 fine if you damage a golden eagle’s egg, a bald eagle’s egg, if you go to marine turtles’ nesting spots to destroy or to even disturb the nests of marine turtles. In Oklahoma, we deal with barn swallows that will build their nests in the springtime in construction areas. All construction has to stop if a barn swallow builds a nest in a construction area, because those eggs are important, not so much because of the barn swallow here, but because there is a commitment in this Congress that those eagle eggs, turtle eggs, and barn swallow eggs are future barn swallows, turtles, and eagles. We acknowledge that it is a life that is in process. So we protect it, but we can’t seem to make the simple, logical step that that eagle egg becomes an eagle and she is a little girl.

The science screams at us in this area, but for many people, they just don’t want to think about it because, at this stage, she is in the womb. She is invisible. She hasn’t reached the stage at which you can see her. For many people, they say: She is only alive when I can see her. If I can’t see her, she is not real.

The problem is that the science doesn’t prove that out.

The second issue that we have to deal with is where we are as a culture and where we are as a country compared to other countries. This simple question about looking at this little one and asking: Is that a child or is that just tissue? Where is the rest of the world on this?

It is interesting to note that the rest of the world is in a very different spot than is the United States on this. This is a simple map of the world. Most of the world—and you will see it in gray here—says that abortion should stop at 12 weeks. That is 3 months. After 3 months, you can’t have an abortion anymore.

There are seven countries in the world that will allow abortion all the way up to 24 weeks. They are the countries that are here in black—Canada, the United States, China, North Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, and South Korea. Vietnam. They allow abortions up to 24 weeks.

At 24 weeks and on, in the third trimester, there are only four countries in the world that allow late-term abortions in China, North Korea, Vietnam, and the United States. Everywhere else in the world looks at that child and says that the child is a child—fully viable—except the United States. China, North Korea, and Vietnam. Now, that is not a club I really want us to be in.

All of Europe has banned late-term abortion—all of it. All of Africa, most of Asia, and all of Central and South America have looked at this, and as separate cultures, they have said no to a late-term abortion—that he is a fully viable child.

Interestingly enough, there was a survey about this last 8 months—a nationwide survey—that asked Americans’ opinions on this issue about life. There were 75 percent of Americans who said there should not be abortion after 12 weeks of pregnancy—that is 3 months—except to protect the life of the mom. This was 75 percent of Americans. They are with this part of the world. This part of the world all says that same thing. That is most of Europe, and most of that area says OK to 12 weeks, but that after 12 weeks, you have to take into account what the Carnegie stages of embryonic development are. This is where most of the rest of the world is, he is a child that should be protected?

At what point do we, as Americans, slow down enough to look at what we don’t want to do and look at what the rest of the world has done, except for Vietnam, North Korea, and China? Why do we want to be in that group when we deal with the issue of life? Those are some of the worst human rights violators in the world. Why are we in that club?

Folks have recently said to me: You know, I understand this is a legislative issue, but it is really a faith issue. This is really about your faith, and your faith should not legislate who I am. At the end of the day, whatever culture makes decisions, including our culture, not just about its faith but about its values as a culture.

Stealing is also a religious issue. It is in the Ten Commandments. So maybe, as a culture, we shouldn’t ban stealing because the Ten Commandments say you shouldn’t steal. No one would really say that because, as a culture, we all look at it and say that theft is a problem, that you shouldn’t be able to do that.

A culture makes its decisions based on its own personal values. So it is not just a religious issue, but our faith does impact our personal lives and decisions. It does affect who we are. In China, where most faith is banned, they allow abortion at any stage. In fact, in China the state is the most important thing. Everything is about building up the state. The individual has no value. The state has the greatest value. China determines it has too many people. We look at the senior adults who are in the nursing homes and provide care for them. We look at the homeless person, the child who is in need of food, and that little girl who is still in the womb, and we say they all have value because the individual has importance.

I had someone who caught me and said: You know, your faith has this whole verse in the Bible that says: “I have knit together in my mother’s womb.” So this is a religious issue. You have a belief that each child was knit together by God in their mother’s womb.

Then they paused and said: That is fine for you to have that belief, but I have the belief that they were knit together, but it is when they are not done. They are not fully knit together. They are not really a shirt. They are only a sleeve, and if they are still in development, then, they are not fully developed. They are not really a child yet.

I smile at that and say: Actually, although this child was born premature, you are right. She is not fully developed. It is not just a sleeve. It is just a smaller shirt, but she will get there because everything about your life’s development—your hair color, your height, your health—is all bound up in the first cells as they start dividing in your own unique DNA.

This is not about a religious conviction. This is about a child and who we are as a culture.

Let me say this: I understand there is a lot of conversation about this. As I mentioned before, this has become a partisan, divisive issue. This is not trying to be a Republican or Democrat. I have met Republicans and Democrats who both can look at this picture and say that this is a child, developing in all of those areas.

This shouldn’t be a divisive or political issue, neither should this be an attacking and condemning issue of the moms and dads who have walked through abortion. Quite frankly, I have great compassion for them. For those moms who have had an abortion, that memory never goes away for them. Years later, they sit in the food court at the mall and watch a small child playing nearby and think: That is how old my child would be right now if they were still alive. I have not met a mom, ever, who wasn’t affected by abortion and the memories that come back to them on that.

This is not a flippant issue for any person who goes through an abortion. I grieve for those folks and the struggle they have, but I also grieve for us as a nation in the devaluing of something so obvious as a child. We can do better as a country, but the first thing we have to do is stop and look.

As a nation, we have been through some moments that we are not proud
of, but as a nation, we are proud of who we can become. As a nation, we are not proud that at one point, we declared African-American men and women as three-fifths of a man. As a nation, we are not proud of that. As a nation, we are not proud that we once told women they could not vote. As Americans, we are not proud that at one point, we took Japanese-Americans and interned them in camps because we were afraid of them. As Americans, we are not proud of that.

I pray there is a day that we are not proud that we looked away from little girls and little boys and said: You are not human enough yet. Your life can be ended because I don’t want to look at you.

The beginning for us, really, is to stop and look at what is obvious. That is a child. What are you going to do about that child?

One of the great books of the 20th century was written by a man named Ralph Ellison, who, by the way, was an Oklahoman. Ralph Ellison was a tremendous African-American author. In the early 20th century, he wrote a book called *Invisible Man.* It is a remarkable journey to look into that time period. The author, who is really writing as the narrator of the book, is telling his story.

In the prologue of the book, there is a section I want to read to you because I think it is powerful, just thinking about the philosophy that Ralph Ellison put out. He said this:

I am a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids—and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me. Like the bodiless heads you see sometimes in circus sideshows, it is as though I have been surrounded by mirrors of hard, distorting glass. When they approach me they only see my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination—indeed, everything and anything except me.

Nor is my invisibility exactly a matter of biological accident to my epidermis. That invisibility to which I refer occurs because of a peculiar disposition of the eyes of those with whom I come in contact. A matter of the construction of the inner eyes, those eyes with which they look through their surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination—indeed, everything and anything except me.

This is just one of the many solutions we need to grapple with in order to secure the border.

As a culture, I am grateful that the partial government shutdown is negatively impacting Federal workers, but none—none—more so than the brave men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard. As I mentioned, they are currently the only members of the U.S. military who are not getting paid during this partial government shutdown. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marines are all out there risking their lives for our Nation. We greatly appreciate that. And guess what. They are getting paid to do it, as they should be, but the Coast Guard members are also out there risking their lives, especially in my State, the great State of Alaska. They are out on the Bering Seas, some of the roughest and most dangerous oceans in the world, keeping our fishermen safe and doing rescues. They are deployed overseas. They are deployed in the Middle East. They have been in Florida and hurricanes—all heroic service. There have been many shutdowns before in the Federal Government, unfortunately, dating back decades, but this might be the first time ever that you have had airmen of the military being paid during the shutdown, with the exception of one.

Let me read a letter from the commandant of the Coast Guard, ADM Karl Schultz, to the men and women of the Coast Guard.

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard:

Today you will not be receiving your regularly scheduled mid-month paycheck. To the best of my knowledge, this marks the first time in our Nation’s history that service members in a U.S. Armed Force have not been paid during a lapse in government appropriations.

That is the first paragraph in the Commandant’s letter to all the members of the U.S. Coast Guard. It is the first time in the U.S. history we are discussing to members of the military.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as follows:

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard, today you will not be
Mr. SULLIVAN. Nobody thinks this is a good idea. Nobody thinks this is a good idea. So last week, a number of us in this body, Democrats and Republicans, put forward a bill that simply says we should pay the men and women of the Coast Guard, even if we are in a partial government shutdown, just like paying the men and women of the other branches of the military. They are risking their lives daily. They can’t just quit their job. By the way, if they want to just go quilt, they are going to be court-martialed. That is different than other Federal service. So that is what we said we were going to do.

When the President came to the Senate last week, I had the opportunity to raise this issue with the President and his team and highlighted the fact that this is very different, and we need to work together. We have a bill. If we get the President’s support and signature on it, that would be a good way to move it forward, and I have been in communications with the administration ever since the lunch—working with us.

I am hopeful we are on the verge of a breakthrough because the White House has said the President recognizes this is a situation that is unique—and he has now said he is going to support this bill. We have Democrats, Republicans, the White House, and the President of the United States all saying, all right, we are not there yet, but this is a good start, and this is an important issue.

What is going on right now in this body is we are trying to UC this. We are trying to get unanimous consent from Democrats and Republicans on this bill. Again, leadership on the Democratic side and on the Republican side have all supported this bill: pay the Coast Guard like the other military servicemembers. The White House is now supportive. Hopefully, tonight we are going to get this cleared, and we are going to get it over to the House; Speaker Pelosi and her team will recognize how dire and important this is—just like Democrats, the President, and Secretary Nielsen Secretary of Homeland Security all recognize this—and we get to a solution. It is not going to end everything, but it will be a solution.

I am asking my colleagues tonight, as this bill is being moved through the hotline for unanimous consent—and I thank all the Republicans who have already said they will support it. We get my colleagues on the Democratic side—again, there are a number of Democratic cosponsors on this bill. The President said he would sign it. We get it over to the House, and we start to get solutions as opposed to just roadblocks.

There are just two broader issues I want to raise. As I am indicating, this kind of work can be a template to getting to a broader solution with regard to the partial government shutdown. Democrats and Republicans in this body working together, the White House working with us, the Trump administration working with us, and, hopefully, the House will see the wisdom of this bill come over to them, and we will get a bill signed that takes care of almost 50,000 Active-Duty patriots—men and women—risking their lives, right now as we speak, with no pay. I am hopeful that is a template.

Another broader issue that this matter actually raises—that we need to focus on a lot more in the Senate—is a problem I have seen in the last 4 years during my time here; that sometimes the Coast Guard is treated relatively to other members of the military. It is wrong, and we need to work on it together.

Why has that happened? Certainly not because they are not as heroic and dedicated and patriotic as the rest of the military. I don’t think it is intentional. It is more bureaucratic. The Coast Guard falls under the Commerce Committee. The Coast Guard falls under the Commerce Committee. The Marines, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force are under the Armed Services Committee and under the Pentagon. Sometimes things just happen, whether it is retirement pay, pay, pay, shutdowns. Again, I don’t think it is intentional, but it does happen.

I am the chairman of the subcommittee in the Commerce Committee in charge of the Coast Guard. I sit on the Armed Services Committee. I know a lot of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, have recognized this is a problem. The chairman of the Commerce Committee, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee have, I think, said they are all bipartisan—to address some of these challenges where the Coast Guard is not treated equally among the other services, and that is just wrong. We need to start working on that, and I am going to continue to focus on that.

The best way we can start working on that is tonight: Fix this pay problem, which every single American knows is inequitable, knows is not fair to the men and women of the Coast Guard, but we are on the verge of a solution. Let’s UC this bill tonight—we have the White House’s support—and get it over to the House. At least we will take care of one issue where there is an inequality between the men and women in the other branches of the services and the Coast Guard, and then we will work to fix all the others. I am hopeful we are going to get there tonight and hopefully will solve this problem in the next 24 to 48 hours.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.
anything we support—or maybe it is—but at its core, let’s remind ourselves that the reason this is happening is because everyone involved, no matter how much they appear to dislike each other or how much they disagree, they are willing to write within the letter and the spirit of the Constitution of the United States of America.

VENezuela

Imagine an alternative for a moment. Imagine if the President, frustrated by Congress’s continuing unwillingness to fund some of his priorities on border security, frustrated by a decision in Congress to disapprove of a decision he made regarding sanctions, decided not only was he going to ignore Congress, but he was going to stop paying them, he was going to jail its Members, and he was going to create an alternative Congress, which he handpicked and controlled.

That sounds farfetched. That sounds clearly unconstitutional, but there are parts of this world where those kinds of things are happening, and one of them is in our hemisphere. What I have just described to you is exactly what has happened in the nation of Venezuela beginning as early as 2013.

What has happened there is that the supposed President—actual dictator—of the country, frustrated that the democratically elected national assembly would not support his initiatives to control the country, decided to create an alternative—with what they call a constituent assembly—an alternative congress. They no longer pay the national assembly members at all. They have no staffing; they have no budget; they are hardly allowed to meet; and several of them have been jailed.

As part of this process of replacing the national assembly or at least ignoring them and giving no force of law to what they vote on and creating this alternative national assembly called the constituent assembly, completely outside their Constitution, with no basis in law—that entity, that organism, called for an election, a new election for President. It was a snap election designed to not allow the opposition to organize in time, an election in which they control all the television stations, in which people had to show an ID card in order to vote, and that ID card also happened to be the card that got your family food and medicine—the limited amounts people are getting—not a fair election in any way.

The result is, last May, Maduro “wins” this “fraudulent” election, and the first day of the term of this fraudulent Presidency was last week.

Rigously the President of the United States, along with leaders from multiple other countries—including Colombia, Brazil, Canada, and dozens of countries around the world—have said Maduro is an illegitimate President under the Constitution of Venezuela. The election he held isn’t free and fair. The election you held was authorized by an organism that is not recognized under the Constitution. You are not the real President. You are a fraud, and the only reason why you are in office is because you are threatening to jail or kill the people who are willing to raise this point against you.

The administration went further, and they recognized only as the only legitimate assembly of Venezuela is the only constitutionally, democratically elected government in the country.

The statements we have made in the last week are rooted in the rule of law and entirely rooted in the Venezuelan Constitution, and they are not unilateral actions. These statements have been supported by other countries in the region, including Venezuela’s neighbors.

If, in fact, we are basing our public policy on the Constitution of Venezuela, there is one more provision we cannot ignore; that is, a provision in the Constitution that says that when there is a vacancy in the Presidency and the Vice Presidency, the President of Venezuela is the President of the national assembly.

We have a similar line of secession in the United States. In the absence of the President or the Vice President, the Speaker of the House automatically becomes the President of the United States. They might have a swearing-in ceremony, but by law that absence triggers the President of the House as the only legitimate person in the line, followed by No. 4 in line, the President pro tempore of the Senate.

They have a similar outline in Venezuela under their Constitution. So it stands to reason that if our policy is that Maduro and his Vice President are illegitimate because they were elected in an extraconstitutional, fraudulent election, then clearly the Presidency of Venezuela is vacant. And if we are recognizing the President of the National Assembly as the only constitutionally and legitimately elected body in the country, then we must respect the fact that that Constitution automatically passes the title of “President” to the President of the Assembly.

What I come to the floor today to ask is that the administration—hopeful in concert with Brazil and Canada and Columbia and other countries around the world—simply recognize what the Venezuelan Constitution clearly lays out. There is no President in Venezuela right now that has been democratically elected, and via their own Constitution, the current President of Venezuela, pending a new election, is Juan Guido, the President of the National Assembly.

This is entirely rooted, as I said, in rule of law and under the Venezuelan Constitution. It doesn’t even require Mr. Guaido to assume the office; it automatically is bestowed upon him. It is a critical thing for us to do in order to begin to build a better future for Venezuela, along with our partners in the region.

I think the next actions that should be followed after that happens is that Mr. Guaido name a cabinet and name leaders to run the military.

From the perspective of the United States, since we have recognized the legitimate Presidency of the National Assembly’s President, pending a new election, I think the time has come to expel the Maduro-appointed Ambassador and allow the new constitutional President to appoint replacements.

The frozen assets of the Venezuelan Government should be put at the disposal of legitimate government so they can use them to conduct a free and fair election and also use them to begin to rebuild the country.

The opportunity exists now to work with the new President, pending the new election, to begin laying out plans to deliver humanitarian aid right now, along with our partners in the region in the world, but also to help put together a package of assistance to help Venezuela rebuild a country decimated by the current dictatorship.

These are bold moves. They are everyone being rooted in the rule of law, entirely justified under the Venezuelan Constitution, and will be clear evidence that we will not stand by idly as democracy in the region is wiped out by this growing trend around the world authoritarianism, and the vestiges of democracy—holding elections that aren’t real elections, having parliamentary bodies that aren’t real—will have no meaning, dressing the part of democrats but behaving like dictators.

I strongly urge this administration publicly—and I have done so privately—to move quickly to recognize the President of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Juan Guaido, as the interim President of that country pending a transition to a new, free and fair election, and I hope this is an action we will take in concert with our partners in the region who recognize the exact same thing.

There is a window of opportunity here to combine the light of freedom and liberty through our actions, and I hope we move expeditiously in pursuit of that goal. And to the Venezuelan people—that they may know that we are standing with them, that we have been given a concrete opportunity to defend their aspirations for freedom and a better future but also to defend their Constitution.

To military officers in Venezuela who swore to uphold and defend their Constitution, now is the opportunity for you to abandon the current direction of the country and assume your responsibility that you have sworn to uphold, and that is the constitutional provisions of that country.

I believe with all my heart and I have every reason to believe without any doubt that this administration and this government, along with this Congress, stand ready to work hand in hand with the people of Venezuela to restore a rightful democracy and empower that country to head in the right direction. I urge the administration to move quickly to take the first step on our part to facilitate that. It is, as I said,
the last, best chance we have before it potentially becomes too late and the dark cloud of tyranny settles upon Venezuela the way it has over Cuba and increasingly over Nicaragua now for over two generations.

I urge the majority and his administration to do what only they are empowered to do under our Constitution; that is, recognize the rightful heads of state of other nations.

I yield the floor.

THOMAS D. DILHILL, JR., Presiding Officer. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I know you are not allowed to respond to me, but allow me to welcome you to the Chair as a new Member of the Senate.

With a new year come a lot of changes. This month, a Democratic majority was sworn in to the House of Representatives. That new majority has heard the call from Americans to make climate change one of our top priorities, and what a change that will make from the last Congress.

Young voters who helped propel this change are urgently concerned about climate change. More than three-fourths of Americans agree that we need for climate action. Even a majority of Republican millennials agree on the need for action in face of our climate crisis. Indeed, a former Republican Congressman just wrote about climate change: “My party will never earn the votes of millennials unless it gets serious about finding solutions.”

Of course, it is not just younger voters; polling shows that Americans of all ages and political stripes favor policy solutions that scientists and economists say are needed to tackle climate change. A recent survey of more than 10,000 registered voters showed that nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that investing in renewable energy will create more jobs than investing in fossil fuel. Among Republicans—here—52 percent of Republican voters think that focusing on renewables will create more jobs than fossil fuel—52 percent to 29 percent—and that is with the nonstop saturation, indoctrination of the Republican Party by the fossil fuel industry behind them. Groups behind the fossil fuel industry commitment this nonsense.

Solid majorities of Americans say they want more emphasis on renewable energy. Seventy-one percent want more solar, 61 percent want more wind, and 56 percent want more hydropower. By contrast, only 40 percent want more natural gas, only 25 percent want more oil, and only 18 percent want more coal. Seventy-one percent want solar, and 18 percent want coal. I think the Trump administration would do well to pay attention to those numbers—if it were, indeed, about the numbers, anyway.

So make the question harder. Go all in. A majority of Americans say that going to a 100-percent renewable energy system, and most say that the transition to a 100-percent renewable energy system for America will be good for working families—better than continuing on our fossil fuel path.

If you look at what Republicans say, by 2 to 1, Republican voters say that going to renewables will have a positive impact on working families, versus only 23.5 percent who say it will have a negative impact. The rest—don’t know—or no impact either way.” But the people who favor 100 percent renewables as a good thing for working families—even among Republican voters, it is 2 to 1 over fossil fuel.

When Americans are told about a Green New Deal that will put a price on carbon pollution and create clean energy jobs by investing in infrastructure and renewable energy and efficient buildings and transportation systems, almost 70 percent are supportive, and that includes almost 60 percent of Republicans—30 percent strongly support, and 36.8 percent support. So even the Green New Deal is a winner among Republican voters.

Ask about putting a price on carbon pollution. Why would you want to do that? Because right now, the costs of carbon pollution are put on the public. They are put on all of us. They are put on our constituents. Polluters get away with polluting for free, and the rest of us pay for the added drought and wildfire and storm damage costs. Well, more than 60 percent of registered voters support pricing carbon to reduce emissions. And if you look at Republicans, a majority of Republicans under the age of 45 also support a carbon price.

This new polling matches other polling that is on its way out or recently out that shows solid support for pricing carbon and making polluters pay for the damage they are causing—which, by the way, is also economics 101, but never mind that. We are talking about polling today.

A Monmouth University poll showed that 64 percent of Republicans now accept climate change as a problem, and a majority of Republicans support government action to combat climate change—a majority of Republicans.

An ABC News poll showed that 81 percent of Americans support cutting greenhouse gas emissions, two-thirds supported a carbon tax, and 81 percent supported tax breaks for renewable power.

These are big, strong, national majorities in favor of the kind of action we need and could do to stem the climate crisis.

A poll for Yale and George Mason Universities showed that 70 percent of registered voters, including over half of Republicans, support reducing greenhouse gas emissions regardless of what other countries do.

This poll also found majority support across both parties for U.S. participation in the Paris Agreement and overwhelming support for renewal energy, Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

What is more, this poll found that almost three-quarters of registered voters, including a majority of Republicans, support setting strict limits on carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, and a majority of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats support imposing a revenue neutral carbon tax on fossil fuel companies. A majority of Republicans support imposing a revenue neutral carbon tax on fossil fuel companies.

Well, I have had a bill with Senator SCHATZ in the last several Congresses to do just that—charge a fee on the polluters for the carbon emissions and then return all the revenue raised to the American people. Several bills on the House side also price carbon pollution, and a few even had Republican cosponsors.

These bills went nowhere under Republican leadership, notwithstanding these numbers and notwithstanding public support. Why? Because the fossil fuel industry opposes them—so no hearings, no vote, no nothing.

What did get a vote in the last Congress? A resolution condemning carbon pricing—condemning the carbon pricing that a majority of Republican voters support—backed, of course, by the fossil fuel industry. Virtually every expert, economist, and scientist who has studied the question says that putting a price on carbon pollution is not only the right thing to do morally and economically but is necessary to keep global temperatures from climbing 2 degrees. Celsius, above pre-industrial norms, as the scientific consensus makes clear we must do at a minimum—at a maximum. If we blow past 2 degrees, all bets are off, and the consequences of climate change may become irreversible. Even at 1.5 degrees, we are taking chances, but dozens of industry-backed front groups—this is hard to see, but this is the usual array of well-o’denial, phony-baloney front groups that have been supported, funded, and created by the fossil fuel industry so people don’t think it is the fossil fuel industry committing this nonsense. They have groups with names such as ALEC, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, Americans for Tax Reform, Heartland Institute, and Institute for Liberty. These groups clean up their propaganda for them.

So here come these letters. These industry-backed front groups had one important thing going for them that the Nobel Prize-winning economists on the other side couldn’t match, and that is big political money and the fossil fuel industry behind them. Groups behind this letter to Speaker RYAN received at
least $4 million from Big Oil and the Koch brothers’ political network—at least $4 million. We don’t know for sure because of their clandestine, dark money funding network. Likely, it is far more.

The minimum $4 million that the fossil fuel industry funded these groups with may likely be far more because so much of the fossil fuel industry’s funding is obscured through dark money channels to hide their hand.

What’s the point? Well, they got a vote. Unlike the carbon pricing bills, they got a vote on the House floor. Speaker Ryan brought the fossil fuel-funded resolution to a vote, and with the Republican caucus largely a wholly owned subsidiary of the fossil fuel industry, the resolution passed.

There is a whole case study in corruption here, as the Founding Fathers would define it, but the simple lesson for today’s purposes: Money talks and big fossil fuel money commands.

This morning, the policy I just went through and others show what Americans want. Americans want jobs. Americans want clean air. Americans want a healthy climate, and Americans want to be safe from extreme weather. Wildfires and rising seas, and Americans know clean energy solutions will get them there.

Americans are ready for bipartisan action, and before the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United came along, we had lots of bipartisan action in the Senate on climate. We had lots of bipartisan action in the Senate on climate, but with Citizens United, unlimited money launched into our politics and things changed, and now the strings are pulled by Big Oil, Big Coal, and a couple of creepy fossil fuel industry billionaires.

Special interest money has infected almost everything we do in Congress, and it is the flagrant fact of our non-response to the climate crisis. The warming, the fears, the warnings from the scientists, then from the economists, now from practically everywhere.

I went to the capital city of the Presiding Officer’s State and was told there that the staffing requirements for police and fire were going to have to change because Phoenix, AZ, was becoming so hot that get people to work outside, responding to emergencies, responding to fires and so forth, the building in a way, a whole new staffing regime because it was so hard to work in the new levels of heat that the city of Phoenix is experiencing. You have to be able to rotate people much faster through crime scenes and through fire scenes and you had to have other people willing to stand by and cool them off after they were exposed to superheating.

So it is everywhere now. If you live on the coast, it is sea level; if you live out West, it is wildfires, and it includes Republican voters action in the Senate on climate.

We had lots of bipartisan action in the Senate on climate, but with Citizens United, unlimited money launched into our politics and things changed, and now the strings are pulled by Big Oil, Big Coal, and a couple of creepy fossil fuel industry billionaires.

Special interest money has infected almost everything we do in Congress, and it is the flagrant fact of our non-response to the climate crisis. The warming, the fears, the warnings from the scientists, then from the economists, now from practically everywhere.

I went to the capital city of the Presiding Officer’s State and was told there that the staffing requirements for police and fire were going to have to change because Phoenix, AZ, was becoming so hot that get people to work outside, responding to emergencies, responding to fires and so forth, the building in a way, a whole new staffing regime because it was so hard to work in the new levels of heat that the city of Phoenix is experiencing. You have to be able to rotate people much faster through crime scenes and through fire scenes and you had to have other people willing to stand by and cool them off after they were exposed to superheating.

So it is everywhere now. If you live on the coast, it is sea level; if you live out West, it is wildfires, and it includes Republican voters action in the Senate on climate.

There is a rot in our politics, and our failure on climate change is a telling indicator of that rot. The whole world is watching. America is supposed to be “a City upon a Hill,” an example for the world. They don’t stop looking when we are a bad example. We have to get serious about this. Time is running out. It is time to wake up, and it is time to clean up.

With that, I yield the floor.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank my friend from Rhode Island.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for S.J. Res. 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill 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, hereby move to bring to a close the debate on S.J. Res. 2, a joint resolution resolving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.


Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence’s Rules of Procedure be printed in the Record.

There being no objection, the matter was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

RULE 1. CONVENING OF MEETINGS

1.1. The regular meeting day of the Select Committee on Intelligence shall be on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

1.2. The regular meeting shall be at 10 a.m. and shall be held in the Senate chamber.

1.3. A special meeting of the Committee shall be held at such time and place as the Chair shall designate.

1.4. The Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence shall have authority, upon request, to call a special meeting of the Committee at any time.

1.5. The Chair of the Select Committee on Intelligence shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Committee at any time.

RULE 2. MEETING PROCEDURES

2.1. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public except as provided in paragraph 2 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

2.2. It shall be the duty of the Staff Director to keep or cause to be kept a record of all Committee proceedings.

2.3. The Chairman of the Committee, or if the Chairman is not present, the Vice Chairman, shall preside over all meetings of the Committee.

2.4. Except as otherwise provided in these Rules, decisions of the Committee shall be made by majority vote of all members present and voting. A quorum for the transaction of Committee business, including the conduct of executive sessions, shall consist of no less than three members of the Committee members.

2.5. A vote by any member of the Committee with respect to any matter or matter being considered by the Committee may be cast by proxy if the authorization (1) is in writing; (2) designates the member of the Committee who is to exercise the proxy;
and (3) is limited to a specific measure or matter and any amendments pertaining thereto. Proxies shall not be considered for the establishment of a quorum.

2.6. Where the Committee by roll call vote reports any measure or matter, the report of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes thereon and the votes in opposition to such measure or matter by each member of the Committee.

RULE 3. COMMITTEES

Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee. Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct. The subcommittees shall be authorized by the Rules of the Committee and by such other rules they may adopt which are consistent with the Rules of the Committee. Each subcommittee created shall have a chairman and a vice chairman who are selected by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively.

RULE 4. REPORTING OF MEASURES OR RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. No measures or recommendations shall be reported, favorably or unfavorably, from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present and a majority concurs.

4.2. In any case in which the Committee is unable to reach a unanimous decision, separate votes or reports may be presented by any member or members of the Committee.

4.3. A member of the Committee who gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of a Committee meeting shall be entitled to not less than three working days in which to file such views, in writing with the Clerk of the Committee. Such views shall then be included in the Committee report and printed in the same volume, as a part thereof, and their inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report.

4.4. Routine, non-legislative actions required of the Committee may be taken in accordance with procedures that have been approved by the Committee pursuant to these Committee Rules.

RULE 5. NOMINATIONS

5.1. Unless otherwise ordered by the Committee, nominations referred to the Committee shall be held for at least 14 days before being voted on by the Committee.

5.2. Each member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of all nominations referred to the Committee.

5.3. Nominees who are invited to appear before the Committee shall be heard in public session, except as provided in Rule 2.1.

5.4. No confirmation hearing shall be held sooner than seven days after receipt of the background and financial disclosure statement unless the time limit is waived by a majority vote of the Committee.

5.5. The Committee vote on the confirmation shall not be sooner than 48 hours after the Committee has received transcripts of the confirmation hearing unless the time limit is waived by unanimous consent of the Committee.

5.6. The nomination shall be reported to the Senate unless the nominee has filed a response to the Committee’s background questionnaire and financial disclosure statement with the Committee.

RULE 6. INVESTIGATIONS

No investigation shall be initiated by the Committee unless at least five members of the Committee have specifically requested the Committee Chairman to authorize such an investigation. Authorized investigations may be conducted by members of the Committee and/or designated Committee staff members.

RULE 7. SUBPOENAS

Subpoenas authorized by the Committee for the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents, records, or any other material may be issued by the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, and by any person designated by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or member issuing the subpoenas. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and a copy of these rules.

RULE 8. PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY

8.1. Notice.—Witnesses required to appear before the Committee shall be given reasonable notice and all witnesses shall be furnished a copy of these Rules.

8.2. Oath or Affirmation.—At the direction of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, testimony of witnesses may be given under oath or affirmation which may be administered by any member of the Committee.

8.3. Questioning.—Committee questioning of witnesses shall be conducted by members of the Committee and such Committee staff as are authorized by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the presiding member.

8.4. Counsel for the Witness.—(a) Generally. Any witness may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirement of paragraph (b).

(b) Counsel Clearances Required. In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject matter was classified in nature, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present. A witness who is unable to obtain counsel may inform the Committee of such fact. If the witness informs the Committee of this fact at least 24 hours prior to his or her appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain such counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(c) Conduct of Counsel for the Witness. Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner at all times before the Committee. Failure to do so shall, upon a finding to that effect by a majority of the members present, subject such counsel to disciplinary action which may include warning, censure, removal, or a recommendation of contempt proceedings.

(d) Role of Counsel for Witness. There shall be no direct or cross-examination by counsel for the witness. However, counsel for the witness may submit any question in writing to the Committee. The Committee shall request the witness to propound such question to the counsel’s client or to any other witness. The counsel for the witness also may suggest the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses. The Committee may use or dispose of such questions or suggestions as it deems appropriate.

8.5. Statements of Witnesses.—Witnesses may make brief and relevant statements at the beginning and conclusion of their testimony. Such statements shall not exceed 5 minutes. Written statements, if any, shall be determined by the Chairman, or other presiding member. Any witness required or desiring to make a prepared or written statement for the record shall initially inform the Committee and insofar as practicable and consistent with the notice given, shall do so at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance before the Committee, unless the Chairman and Vice Chairman determine there is good cause for noncompliance with the 48 hours requirement.

8.6. Objections and Rulings.—Any objection raised by a witness or counsel shall be ruled on by the Chairman or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman. If any objection is sustained by the Chairman, Vice Chairman or member issuing the subpoenas. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, and a copy of these rules.

RULE 8. PROCEDURES RELATED TO THE TAKING OF TESTIMONY

8.1. Notice.—Witnesses required to appear before the Committee shall be given reasonable notice and all witnesses shall be furnished a copy of these Rules.

8.2. Oath or Affirmation.—At the direction of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, testimony of witnesses may be given under oath or affirmation which may be administered by any member of the Committee.

8.3. Questioning.—Committee questioning of witnesses shall be conducted by members of the Committee and such Committee staff as are authorized by the Chairman, Vice Chairman, or the presiding member.

8.4. Counsel for the Witness.—(a) Generally. Any witness may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirement of paragraph (b).

(b) Counsel Clearances Required. In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject matter was classified in nature, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present. A witness who is unable to obtain counsel may inform the Committee of such fact. If the witness informs the Committee of this fact at least 24 hours prior to his or her appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain such counsel will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

8.5. Role of Counsel for Witness. Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner at all times before the Committee. Failure to do so shall, upon a finding to that effect by a majority of the members present, subject such counsel to disciplinary action which may include warning, censure, removal, or a recommendation of contempt proceedings.

8.6. Requests to Testify.—The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee. A person who believes that testimony or other evidence presented at a public hearing, or any comment made by a Committee member or a member of the Committee staff, may tend to adversely affect his or her repuation in writing to appear personally before the Committee to testify or may file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or comment, or may submit to the Chairman proposed questions in writing for the questioning of other witnesses. The Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

8.7. Contempt Procedures.—No recommendation that a person be cited for contempt of Congress or that a subpoena be issued by the Committee, shall be referred to the Senate unless and until the Committee has, upon notice to all its members, met and considered the recommendation, afforded the person an opportunity to be heard on the contempt recommendation or subpoena enforcement proceeding either in writing or in person, and agreed by majority vote of the Committee to forward such recommendation to the Senate.

8.8. Release of Name of Witness.—Unless authorized by the Chairman, the name of any witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee shall not be released prior to, or after, appearing before the Committee. Upon authorization by the Chairman to release the name of a witness under paragraphs (a) and (b), the Chairman shall notify the Committee member or a member of the Committee staff, and may tend to adversely affect his or her repuation in writing to appear personally before the Committee to testify or may file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or comment, or may submit to the Chairman proposed questions in writing for the questioning of other witnesses. The Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

8.9. Release of Name of Witness.—Unless authorized by the Chairman, the name of any witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee shall not be released prior to, or after, appearing before the Committee. Upon authorization by the Chairman to release the name of a witness under paragraphs (a) and (b), the Chairman shall notify the Committee member or a member of the Committee staff, and may tend to adversely affect his or her repuation in writing to appear personally before the Committee to testify or may file a sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or comment, or may submit to the Chairman proposed questions in writing for the questioning of other witnesses. The Committee shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

RULE 9. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

9.1. Committee staff offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Committee Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director or Minority Staff Director. At least one United States Capitol Police Officer shall be on duty at all times at the entrance.

RULE 9. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

9.1. Committee staff offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Committee Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director or Minority Staff Director. At least one United States Capitol Police Officer shall be on duty at all times at the entrance.

RULE 9. PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

9.1. Committee staff offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Committee Security Director under the direct supervision of the Staff Director or Minority Staff Director. At least one United States Capitol Police Officer shall be on duty at all times at the entrance.
of the Committee to control entry. Before entering the Committee office space all persons shall identify themselves and provide identification as requested.

9.2. Committee staff and material shall be stored in authorized security containers located within the Committee’s Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Containers shall be secured to prevent access from the Committee offices of such documents and other materials is strictly prohibited except as specified in this rule. No individual may be re-trained for the Committee of Committee business, and as provided by these Rules. All classified documents or materials removed from the Committee offices for purposes must be returned to the Committee SCIF for storage.

9.3. “Committee sensitive” means information or documents pertinent to any phase of the Committee’s legislative, administrative, or oversight duties. Otherwise, classified and committee sensitive information may only be disclosed to persons outside the Committee (to include any congressional committee, executive branch, congressional staff, or specified non-governmental persons who support intelligence activities) with the prior approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, or the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf, consistent with the requirements that classified information may only be disclosed to persons with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose. Public disclosure of classified information in the possession or under the control of the Committee may only be authorized in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

9.4. Each member of the Committee shall at all times have access to all papers and other material received from any source. The Staff Director shall be responsible for the maintenance, under appropriate security procedures, of a document control and accountability registry which will number and identify all classified papers and other classified materials in the possession of the Committee, and such registry shall be available to any member of the Committee.

9.5. Whenever the Select Committee on Intelligence makes classified material available to any member of the Senate not a member of the Committee, such material shall be accompanied by a request in order to protect such materials pursuant to section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

The Security Director of the Committee shall ensure that such notice is provided and shall maintain a written record identifying the particular information transmitted and the committee or members of the Senate receiving the information.

9.6. Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to those members whose security clearances permit access to such materials pursuant to section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. The Security Director of the Committee shall ensure that such notice is provided and shall maintain a written record identifying the particular information transmitted and the committee or members of the Senate receiving the information.

9.7. No member of the Committee or of the Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, the contents of any classified or committee sensitive papers, materials, briefings, testimony, or other information received by, or in the possession of, the Committee to any other person, except as provided by this rule. Committee members and staff do not need prior approval to disclose classified or committee sensitive information to persons in the Executive branch of the Government in connection with their permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the members and staff of the Senate, provided that the following conditions are met: (1) for classified information, the recipients of the information must possess appropriate security clearances (or have access accepted by the Committee offices); (2) for all information, the recipients of the information must have a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose, and the Committee members and staff who provide the information must be engaged in the routine performance of Committee legislative or executive branch functions. Classified and committee sensitive information may only be disclosed to persons outside the Committee to include any congressional committee, executive branch, congressional staff, or specified non-governmental persons who support intelligence activities with the prior approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, or the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf, consistent with the requirements that classified information may only be disclosed to persons with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know such information for an official governmental purpose. Public disclosure of classified information in the possession or under the control of the Committee may only be authorized in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

9.8. Failure to abide by Rule 9.7 shall constitute grounds for removal from the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress. Prior to a referral to the Select Committee on Ethics pursuant to Section 8 of S. Res. 400, the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall notify the Majority Leader and Minority Leader.

9.9. Before the Committee makes any decision regarding the disposition of any testimony, papers, or other materials presented to it, the Committee members shall have an opportunity to review all pertinent testimony, papers, and other materials that have been obtained by the members of the Committee or the Committee staff.

9.10. Attendance of persons outside the Committee at closed meetings of the Committee shall be kept at a minimum and shall be limited to persons with appropriate security clearances and a need-to-know the information under consideration for the execution of their official duties. The Security Director of the Committee may require that notes taken at any Committee meetings by any person in attendance shall be returned to the secure storage area in the Committee’s offices at the conclusion of such meetings, and may be made available to agency, office, committee, or entity concerned only in accordance with the security procedures of the Committee.

9.11. Attendance of agencies or entities that were not formally invited to a closed proceeding of the Committee shall not be admitted to the closed meeting except upon advance written permission of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or by the Staff Director and Minority Staff Director acting on their behalf.

RULE 10. STAFF

10.1. For purposes of these rules, Committee staff includes employees of the Committee, consultants to the Committee, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise at the written request of the Committee. To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall rely on its full-time employees to perform all work of the Committee. Procedures shall be retained as staff of the Committee or to perform services for the Committee unless that individual holds appropriate security clearances.

10.2. The appointment of Committee staff shall be approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, acting jointly, or, at the initiative of both or either of them, by majority vote of the Committee. After approval or confirmation, the Chairman shall certify in writing to the Committee’s Office of Financial Services that the Committee staff has received an appropriate security clearance as described in Section 6 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress.

10.3. The Committee staff works for the Committee as a whole, under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee, and such personnel are subject to the direction and control of the Staff Director. All Committee staff shall work exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Counsel shall be kept fully informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all materials in the file of the Committee.

10.4. The Committee staff shall assist the minority as fully as the majority in the expression of minority views, including assistance to the minority leader, in the preparation of additional, separate, and minority views, to the extent and subject matter permitted by Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules, or in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.5. The members of the Committee staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a member of the Committee or the Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during their tenure as a member of the Committee or any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with Section 8 of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress and the provisions of these rules, or in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate.

10.6. The Committee staff works for the Committee as a whole, under the supervision of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The Committee staff shall be employed by the Committee, and such personnel are subject to the direction and control of the Staff Director. All Committee staff shall work exclusively on intelligence oversight issues for the Committee. The Minority Staff Director and the Minority Counsel shall be kept fully informed regarding all matters and shall have access to all materials in the file of the Committee.

10.7. As a precondition for employment on the Committee, each member of the Committee staff shall agree in writing to conform to any of these Rules. Such discharge may be considered by the Senate and the provisions of these rules or, in the event of the termination of the Committee, in such a manner as may be determined by the Senate.
be limited to, revocation of the Committee sponsorship of the staff person’s security clearance and immediate dismissal from the Committee staff.

10.9. No member of the Committee staff shall be an element with the capability to perform audits of programs and activities undertaken by departments and agencies with intelligence functions. The audit element shall conduct audits and oversight projects that have been specifically authorized by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee. The audit element shall be free from illegal use, possession, editing or experience in accordance with accepted auditing standards.

11.3. The Staff Director shall ensure that all pertinent papers and other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear upon matters to be considered at the meeting.

11.2. The Staff Director and/or Minority Staff Director may recommend to the Chairman and Vice Chairman the testimony, papers, and other materials shall be presented in open or executive session shall be made pursuant to the Rules of the Senate and Rules of the Committee.

11.1. Under direction of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman designated Committee staff members shall brief members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting to assist the Committee members in preparation for such meeting and to determine any matter which the Committee might wish considered during the meeting. Such briefing shall, at the request of a member, include a list of all pertinent papers and other materials that have been obtained by the Committee that bear upon matters to be considered at the meeting.

RULE 12. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

12.1. The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee member showing the measures introduced and referred to the Committee and the status of such measures; nominations referred to the Committee and their status; and such other matters as the Committee determines shall be included. The Calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes. A copy of each such Calendar shall be furnished to each member of the Committee.

12.2. Measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman of the Committee, or by any subcommittee, or by any other committee of the Government for reports thereon.
any matter within the jurisdiction of the select committee shall, at the request of the chairman of the select committee, be referred to the select Committee for its consideration and be referred to the Senate by the select Committee within 10 days after the day on which such proposed legislation, in its entirety and including any amendment(s), is submitted to the discretion of the select committee. Nothwithstanding the provisions of this section, the select committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate the views of the select committee under section 8(c)(2) to protect national security.

(a) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by the select committee that no public interest in the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (3) of section 107(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(a) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by the select committee that no public interest in the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (3) of section 107(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

SEC. 8. (a) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by the select committee that no public interest in the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (3) of section 107(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee. Nothwithstanding the provisions of this section, the select committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate the views of the select committee under section 8(c)(2) to protect national security.

(c) The select committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate the views of the select committee under section 8(c)(2) to protect national security.

(d) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as amending, limiting, or otherwise changing the authority of any standing committee of the Senate to obtain full and prompt access to the records of the Executive branch. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as precluding the use of the rules of the Senate to ensure the confidentiality of information which is subject to the protection of the Senate pursuant to the provisions the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, provided that the Senate, in exercising its oversight and other functions with respect to the Executive branch, does not consider or act on information which is subject to the protection of the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this resolution.

(e) The select committee shall, subject to the restrictions of this section, disclose to the Executive branch any information which is subject to the protections of this resolution. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as precluding the use of the rules of the Senate to ensure the confidentiality of information which is subject to the protection of the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this resolution.

(f) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by the select committee that no public interest in the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (3) of section 107(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

(g) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(h) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(i) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

SEC. 8. (a) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by the select committee that no public interest in the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (3) of section 107(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

(b) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(c) The select committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate the views of the select committee under section 8(c)(2) to protect national security.

(d) Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as amending, limiting, or otherwise changing the authority of any standing committee of the Senate to obtain full and prompt access to the records of the Executive branch. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as precluding the use of the rules of the Senate to ensure the confidentiality of information which is subject to the protection of the Senate pursuant to the provisions the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended, provided that the Senate, in exercising its oversight and other functions with respect to the Executive branch, does not consider or act on information which is subject to the protection of the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this resolution.

(e) The select committee shall, subject to the restrictions of this section, disclose to the Executive branch any information which is subject to the protections of this resolution. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as precluding the use of the rules of the Senate to ensure the confidentiality of information which is subject to the protection of the Senate pursuant to the provisions of this resolution.

(f) The select committee may, subject to the provisions of this section, disclose publicly any information in the possession of such committee after a determination by the select committee that no public interest in the disclosure of such information as provided in paragraph (3) of section 107(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 regarding matters within the jurisdiction of the select committee.

(g) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(h) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.

(i) The select committee shall obtain an annual report from the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Such reports shall review the intelligence activities of the various departments and agencies of the United States. Such committee shall promptly call to the attention of the Senate or to any other appropriate committee or committees of the Senate any matters requiring the attention of the Senate or other committee or committees. In making such report, the select committee shall proceed in a manner consistent with section 8(b)(2) to protect national security.
Upon conclusion of the consideration of such matter in closed session, which may not extend beyond the close of the ninth day on which the Senate is in session following the day on which such matter is reported to the Senate, or the close of the fifth day following the day agreed upon jointly by the majority and minority leaders in accordance with subparagraph (B) of the second sentence of rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (whichever the case may be), the Senate shall immediately vote on the disposition of such matter in open session, and without debate or amendment. No matter which the Senate is in session following the day on which such matter is reported to the Senate, or the close of the fifth day following the day agreed upon jointly by the majority and minority leaders in accordance with subparagraph (B) of the second sentence of rule XVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate (whichever the case may be), the Senate shall immediately vote on the disposition of such matter in open session, and without debate or amendment. 

SEC. 11. (a) It is the sense of the Senate that the head of each department and agency of the United States should keep the select committee fully and currently informed with respect to intelligence activities, including any significant anticipated activities, which are the responsibility or engaged in by such department or agency: Provided, That this does not constitute a condition precedent to the making of any such anticipated intelligence activity. 

(b) It is the sense of the Senate that the head of any department or agency of the United States involved in any intelligence activities should furnish any information or document in the possession, custody, or control of the department or agency, or person by such department or agency, when ever requested by the select committee with respect to any matter within such committee’s jurisdiction.

(c) It is the sense of the Senate that each department and agency of the United States should report immediately upon discovery to the select committee any and all intelligence activities which constitute violations of the constitutional rights of any person, violations of law, or violations of Executive orders, presidential decisions, or department or agency rules or regulations; each department and agency should further report to such committee any other action which has been taken or are expected to be taken by the departments or agencies with respect to such violations.

SEC. 12. Subject to the Standing Rules of the Senate, no funds shall be appropriated for any fiscal year beginning after September 30, 1976, with the exception of a continuing resolution, or conference report thereon, if, or for use of, any department or agency of the United States to carry out any of the following activities, unless such funds shall have been previously authorized by a bill or joint resolution passed by the Senate during the same or preceding fiscal year to carry out such activities: 

(1) The activities of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Director of National Intelligence. 

(2) The activities of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. 

(3) The activities of the Defense Intelligence Agency. 

(4) The activities of the National Security Agency. 

(5) The intelligence activities of other departments, agencies, and subdivisions of the Executive branch or departments, agencies, and subdivisions of Congress. 

(6) The intelligence activities of the Department of Defense. 

(7) The intelligence activities of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 

SEC. 13. The select committee shall make a study with respect to the following matters, taking into consideration with respect to each such matter, all relevant aspects of intelligence activities: gathering, analyzing, disseminating, use, security, and dissemination of intelligence:

(1) the quality of the analytical capabilities of United States foreign intelligence agencies and means for integrating more closely analytical intelligence and policy formulation; 

(2) the extent and nature of the authority of the departments and agencies of the Executive branch to engage in intelligence activities; and the resources available to the departments and agencies for intelligence activities; 

(3) the organization of intelligence activities in the Executive branch to maximize the effectiveness of the conduct, oversight, and accountability of intelligence activities; 

(4) the conduct of covert and clandestine activities and the sparse guidance which Congress is informed of such activities; 

(5) the desirability of changing any law, Senate rule or procedure, or any Executive order, rule, or regulation to improve the protection of intelligence secrets and provide for disclosure of information for which there is compelling reason; 

(6) the desirability of establishing a standing committee of the Senate on intelligence activities; 

(7) the desirability of establishing a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives on intelligence activities in lieu of having separate committees in each House of Congress, or of establishing procedures under which separate committees on intelligence activities of the two Houses of Congress would receive joint briefings from the intelligence agencies, and facilitate their policies with respect to the safeguarding of sensitive intelligence information; 

(8) the authorization of funds for the intelligence activities of the Government and whether disclosure of any of the amounts of such funds is in the public interest; 

(9) the development of a uniform set of definitions for terms to be used in policies or guidelines which may be adopted by the executive or legislative branches to govern, clarify, and strengthen the operation of intelligence activities. 

(b) The select committee may, in its discretion, omit from the special study required by this section any matter it determines has been adequately studied by the Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, established by Senate Resolution 21, Ninety-fifth Congress.

(c) It is the sense of the Senate that the select committee shall report the results of the study provided for by this section to the Senate, together with any recommendations for legislative or other actions Congress deems appropriate, no later than January 1, 1977, and from time to time thereafter as it deems appropriate.

SEC. 14. (a) As used in this resolution, the term "intelligence activities" means the following activities: (1) the collection, analysis, production, dissemination, or use of information which relates to any foreign country, or any government, political group, party, military force, movement, or other association in such foreign country, and which relates to the defense, foreign policy, national security, or other policies of the United States, and other activities which is in support of such activities; (2) activities taken to counter similar activities directed against the United States; (3) covert or clandestine activities including the activities of the United States with any foreign government, political group, party, military force, movement or other association in such foreign country, and which relate to the defense, foreign policy, national security, or other policies of the United States, and other activities which is in support of such activities; (4) the collection, analysis, production, dissemination, or use of information about activities of persons within the United States, its territories and possessions, or nationals of the United States, and whose political and related activities pose, or may be considered by any department, agency, bureau, office, division, instrumentalities, or subdivisions of any of the United States, a threat to the internal security of the United States, and covert or clandestine activities directed against such persons. Such term may include the activities of personnel of intelligence serving no national policymaking function.
(b) As used in this resolution, the term “department or agency” includes any organization, committee, council, establishment, or office within the Federal Government.

(c) This resolution, reference to any department, agency, bureau, or subdivision shall include a reference to any successor department, agency, bureau, or subdivision to the extent that such successor engages in intelligence activities now conducted by the department, agency, bureau, or subdivision referred to in this resolution.

SEC. 15. (a) In addition to other committee staff selected by the select Committee, the select Committee shall hire or appoint one employee for each member of the select Committee to serve as such Member’s designated representative on the select Committee. The select Committee shall hire or appoint one employee chosen by the respective Member of the select Committee for whom the employee will serve as the designated representative on the select Committee.

(b) The select Committee shall be afforded a supplemental staff of not more than 60 percent to be determined by the Committee on Rules and Administration, to allow for the hire of each employee who fills the position of designated representative on the select Committee. The designated representative shall have office space and appropriate office equipment in the select Committee spaces. Designated personal employees shall have the access to Committee staff, information, records, and databases as select Committee staff, as determined by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

(c) The designated employee shall meet all the requirements of relevant statutes, Senate rules, rules regarding security clearance requirements for employment by the select Committee.

(d) Of the funds made available to the select Committee for personnel:

(1) not more than 60 percent shall be under the control of the Chairman; and

(2) not less than 40 percent shall be under the control of the Vice Chairman.

SEC. 16. Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as creating a constitutional or statutory right to be included in any activity, not otherwise authorized by law.

SEC. 17. (a)(1) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), the Select Committee shall have jurisdiction to review, hold hearings, and report the nominations of civilian individuals to positions in the intelligence community for which appointments are made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), other committees with jurisdiction over the department or agency of the Executive Branch which contain a position re-designated or re-designated after 1971, or in the conduct of any activity, not otherwise authorized by law.

(b)(1) With respect to the confirmation of the position of Director of the National Intelligence, Director of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, to the Select Committee shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services if, and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

(2) With respect to the confirmation of the position of Director of the National Intelligence, Director of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, to the Select Committee shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services if, and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

(3) If, upon the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1), the Select Committee has not reported the nomination, such nomination shall be automatically discharged from the Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

(4) With respect to the confirmation of the position of Director of the National Intelligence, Director of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Intelligence, Director of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, to the Select Committee shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services if, and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

(5) If, upon the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1), the Select Committee has not reported the nomination, such nomination shall be automatically discharged from the Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

(6) With respect to the confirmation of the position of Director of the National Intelligence, Director of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, to the Select Committee shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services if, and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

(7) If, upon the expiration of the period described in paragraph (1), the Select Committee has not reported the nomination, such nomination shall be automatically discharged from the Committee and placed on the Executive Calendar.

(8) With respect to the confirmation of the position of Director of the National Intelligence, Director of the National Security Agency, Director of the National Reconnaissance Office, or Inspector General of the National Reconnaissance Office, to the Select Committee shall be referred to the Committee on Armed Services if, and when reported, to the Select Committee for not to exceed 30 calendar days, except that in cases when the 30-day period expires while the Senate is in recess, the Select Committee shall have 5 additional calendar days after the Senate reconvenes to report the nomination.

APPENDIX B


APPENDIX C


APPENDIX D


APPENDIX E


APPENDIX F


APPENDIX G


APPENDIX H


APPENDIX I


APPENDIX J


APPENDIX K


APPENDIX L


TRIBUTE TO DR. CHI WANG

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, today I wish to honor the long and distinguished career of Chi Wang, Ph.D. The year 2018 marked the 90th anniversary of the creation of the Chinese Section at the U.S. Library of Congress in 1928. Dr. Wang spent nearly 50 years working at the Library of Congress, ultimately serving as the head of the Chinese and Korean section until his retirement in 2004.

Dr. Chi Wang came to the United States from China as a high school student in 1949. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at the Washington, DC area, ultimately earning a Ph.D. in American diplomatic history from Georgetown University in...
1969. He also began pursuing his own American dream by becoming a U.S. citizen, getting married, starting a family and starting a career at the Library of Congress.

Dr. Wang worked for 3 years at the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute before starting at the U.S. Library of Congress. He served in several positions during his 47-year career at the Library and reached the position of head of the Chinese and Korean section in 1975, which he held until he retired. During this time, he expanded the Library of Congress’s Chinese collection from 300,000 volumes to more than 1 million. Under his guidance, the Library of Congress became a top resource for the study of China in the United States. Dr. Wang met with countless U.S. Representatives, Senators, officials, and academicians to help them effectively use the Library resources.

After President Nixon traveled to China in 1972, Dr. Wang embarked on a trip to China in his role at the Library of Congress to promote library and educational exchanges. The trip was a great success, leading to future exchanges, large book acquisitions, and an increase in mutual understanding between the U.S. and China during a very delicate time when the two countries were only just beginning to establish ties.

Although the Library of Congress Chinese section was abolished and its collection integrated into the larger Asian division, the legacy of the Chinese collection and the contributions Dr. Wang made to develop this important resource still remains. His efforts over the years have helped deepen the U.S. understanding of China, something that is especially necessary today. Professor Wang continues to dedicate his time to improving U.S.-China mutual understanding as the co-founder and president of the Washington, DC-based nonprofit, the U.S.-China Book Foundation. He also contributes his own scholarship in the field, having published multiple books and articles on U.S.-China relations.

Dr. Wang still remembers fondly his decades working at the Library of Congress. What started simply as a job turned into a career and lifelong passion. He especially enjoyed the times he met with various Members of Congress. He especially enjoyed the times he met with various Members of Congress. He especially enjoyed the times he met with various Members of Congress.

In 2018, I had the privilege of working with Mr. Newbold in my capacity as the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. Mr. Newbold worked tirelessly with Members of Congress and their staffs to articulate the Army’s budget positions to the Appropriations committees. His professionalism, diligence and commitment to the mission are unmatched, and his work both as a fellow for Congressman Sanford Bishop and as a budget liaison effectively represented the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense to the U.S. Congress.

Throughout his career, Mr. Newbold has made positive impacts on the lives of soldiers, peers, and superiors. Our country has benefited tremendously from his extraordinary leadership, judgment, and passion. I join my colleagues today in honoring his dedication to our Nation and invaluable service to the U.S. Congress as an Army Congressional Liaison.

It was a genuine pleasure to have worked with Mr. Patrick Newbold over the last year. On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending Patrick for his service to our country, and we wish him all the best as he continues his service in the U.S. Army.
TRIBUTE TO AL HODGE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today I am honored to recognize the RECORD Albert M. Hodge, Jr., of Rome, GA.

Al Hodge is an economic development leader whom I have known for many years. Al first came to my attention when he was appointed to his work as chief executive officer of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce in South Carolina in the 1980s. We have worked together in business, when I was in the State legislature and chairman of the State board of education, and still today in our current roles.

Al is a fellow University of Georgia bulldog, who led the Charleston chamber for 8 years, the Augusta chamber in Georgia for 8 years, and now the Rome Floyd Chamber of Commerce in north-west Georgia for what will be 21 years when he retires from the chamber business this April.

Al is not one to take credit, but his professional accomplishments tell a lot of his story not only in these communities, but also across multiple States and even internationally.

Al is the current vice chair of the Japan America Society of Georgia and, along with his work as a member of the Society of International Business Fellows. He graduated from Leadership Georgia a few years after me, and he has always remained active with the organization. Al also served as a member and as vice chair of the Georgia Board of Education and multiple other education-focused boards. He is a past chairman and a current board member of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

Al has also served as chair of Georgia’s economic development professional association, the State’s chamber of commerce professional association, and he has taught economic development at the U.S. Army War College, internationally with our alma mater, and other organizations.

Al is an expert in his field. He understands the countless factors that play into successful economic development, he builds coalitions to mount successful campaigns, and his work has paid off time and again.

Rome is a great community, with many leaders and good friends of mine, but in large part thanks to Al’s personal investment of time and energy into his role, the community has gained the largest billion dollar investments by primary employers and the creation and retention of over 7,000 new primary jobs, not counting commercial, service, and other jobs, during his time there.

Al is an instrumental member of the coalition that built State Mutual Stadium and brought the Braves organization’s Class-A ball club to the community in 2003, the Rome Braves. Thanks to his leadership, the community passed not only the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax—but also more of these initiatives over the years to benefit the community’s schools, roads, airport and countless other services. Most recently, he guided development of the Rome Tennis Center at Berry College, the Nation’s largest single-surface facility, with 60 courts across 30 acres.

While Al has led the chamber, the community has seen the location of major headquarters and manufacturing investments including Pirelli Tire North America, Suzuki Manufacturing of America, Neaton Auto Products Manufacturing, and a major Lowe’s distribution center.

In addition to his visits to Rome and seeing him in the State, I have spent time with Al and the Rome chamber at least once a year in Washington, and I have spent the last 15 years working with his daughter as a member of my staff. Of all his professional accomplishments, it is Al’s family, friends, and colleagues whom he truly cherishes and champions.

Al is a great guy, and I want to wish Al and his talented wife Cheryl Riner Hodge—who has been a true partner to Al, in addition to her own career as an artist—the very best as he retires from the chamber. I also look forward to the Hodges’ continued success in economic development as they go on to launch the next phase of their lives and careers. Many more will benefit from their continued efforts in this field.

TRIBUTE TO TEDAMES

Mr. KING. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Mr. Ted Ames, of Stonington, ME, as he retires from the board of directors for Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, MCCF. Ted has been a lifelong member of the Maine fishing community, and his knowledge and expertise will be missed by the board of MCCF. Maine fishing communities and our entire State are proud of Ted’s work and we wish him all the best in his retirement.

Ted was born and raised on Vinalhaven, one of the many vibrant island communities off the coast of Maine. Like so many before him, Ted has the ocean in his blood; he spent more than three decades as the captain of two boats, the FV Mary Elizabeth and FV Dorothy M., fishing for groundfish, scallops, and lobster. Ted was an early member of the Stonington Fisheries Alliance and then founded and served on the board of the Penobscot East Research Fund, which is now the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries. Ted also founded and directed the Zone C Lobster Hatchery in Stonington. He is the former executive director of the Maine Gillnetters Association and a member of the Maine Marine Resources Committee to Establish a Lobster Zone Management Plan.

Not only did Ted have a long career as a fisherman, but he also taught at the University of Maine and Mt. Desert Island High School, educating the next generation in marine biology, chemistry, and environmental science. Ted has a M.S. in biochemistry with a specialty in tissue culture and 6 years of research experience; he has won numerous recognitions including the 2005 MacArthur Foundation’s Genius Award, Monmouth University’s 2007 “Champion of the Oceans” Award, and was named a visiting coastal studies scholar at Bowdoin College in 2010. In addition, he was named the Maine Distinguished Lecturer at the University of Maine for his work at the intersection of science and history.

Ted’s career clearly shows his passion for ensuring that the tradition of fishing is preserved and passed down to future generations. Ted has worked to restore cod, haddock, and flounder in the eastern Gulf of Maine, working with the Maine Department of Marine Resources to conduct interviews with retired fishermen, map historical stock distributions, and publish a paper that helped provide the scientific evidence that would explain the depletion of the fish in the area.

Ted has served his community and the State of Maine for many years in so many ways, and we are lucky to call him one of our own. While we will miss Ted’s wisdom, knowledge, and work ethic at MCCF, we wish him and his wife Robin Alden nothing but the best in this new chapter.

REMEMBERING BARNEY GOTTSTEIN

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I speak in loving memory of Barney Gottstein, a patriarch of Alaska’s Jewish community, who passed away on October 21 at the age of 91.

Ted has served his community and the State of Maine for many years in so many ways, and we are lucky to call him one of our own. While we will miss Ted’s wisdom, knowledge, and work ethic at MCCF, we wish him and his wife Robin Alden nothing but the best in this new chapter.

Ted served on the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries’ board of directors for many years, overseeing its work to provide the scientific evidence that would explain the depletion of the fish in the area.

Ted was born in Des Moines, IA, came to Anchorage in 1915, selling cigars and confections out of a tent city established to construct the Alaska railroad. Jake, as he was known, then opened a wholesale grocery and dry goods business, known as J.B. Gottstein & Co., which made sales calls by dog sled. You can’t get more Alaskan than that. Jake passed away in 1963.

Barney was born in Des Moines in 1925, but soon moved to Anchorage, population 2,500, where he was raised. He enlisted in the Army and served in the Army Air Corps. After the war, Barney went to the University of Washington, studying to be an aeronautical engineer. That didn’t work out so well. He was told by a counselor
that anti-Semitism would likely prevent Barney from getting a job in his chosen field, so he switched to business and economics and came home to work in the family business, but he didn’t abandon his love for flying. Barney was a licensed private pilot who loved to fly around Alaska and beyond.

By the time Barney returned home, the family business was growing as fast as the State. The focus had changed from dry goods to wholesale groceries. Barney took it the next step. One of J.B. Gottstein’s customers was the Carr Brothers Grocery. The rest is history.

Barney partnered with Larry Carr to grow the retail grocery business and pursue real estate ventures. Carr’s Quality Centers sprang up throughout Alaska, along with an associated chain of Eagle markets. By the late 1980s, the Carr-Gottstein group of companies was the largest Alaska-owned business in the State. Barney and Larry sold the grocery business in 1990 but remained in the real estate business. Today the Carr’s name remains on grocery stores in Anchorage, Eagle River, and the Mat-Su Valley.

In 1989, Barney was inducted into the Alaska Business Hall of Fame, and in 1991, he was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Barney’s business success in Alaska was deeply respected, but his community involvement meant more. He was chair of the Alaska Board of Education and provided financial assistance that enabled hundreds of Alaska Natives to pursue schooling. He was an inaugural member of the Alaska State Commission on Human Rights as well.

Barney was active in Alaska’s political life as well. He was chairman of the Alaska Democratic Party, Alaska’s Democratic National Committeeman, and an Alaska delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

I mentioned that Barney was one of the patriarchs of Alaska’s Jewish community. An early supporter of the State of Israel, he was the face of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, in Alaska for many years. Today, Barney’s son David leads the AIPAC group in Alaska and, in that capacity, is a frequent visitor to my office. He provided financial support to enable young Jewish Alaskans to participate in the “March of the Living,” so that they might better understand the legacy of the Holocaust. He visited Israel on many occasions and took on the cause of supporting Ethiopian Jews who had made Aliyah to Israel integrate into society and pursue advanced degrees.

Barney was not only a father figure to the Alaska Jewish community. He was the patriarch of a large family himself. Barney is survived by Rachel, his second wife, of 32 years, who not surprisingly met on a trip to Israel. Barney was father to seven children. Some of Barney’s children have followed in their father’s footsteps to achieve positions of great respect and prominence in Alaska. I am proud to count David, Jim, Robert, and Sandy among my friends. A fourth generation of the Gottstein family, the grandchildren, are just beginning to make their mark, and there are great-grandchildren to come.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I proudly pay my respects to Barney Gottstein and his wonderful family. May his memory be a blessing.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT
Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED
As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE
At 10:08 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its recording clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 116. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 206. An act to amend the small business laws to create certain requirements with respect to the SBIR and STTR program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 246. An act to amend the Small Business Act to require senior procurement executives, procurement center representatives, and the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization to assist small business concerns participating in the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES REFERRED
The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 116. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to increase the amount that certain banks and savings associations may invest in small business investment companies, subject to the approval of the appropriate Federal banking agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 206. An act to amend the small business laws to create certain requirements with respect to the SBIR and STTR program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

MEASURES DISCHARGED
The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, pursuant to section 216(c)(5)(B) of Public Law 115–44, and placed on the calendar:
S.J. Res. 2. Joint resolution disapproving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS
The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

The following communications were referred to the appropriate Federal banking agency, and provided financial assistance that enabled hundreds of Alaska Natives to pursue schooling. He was an inaugural member of the Alaska State Commission on Human Rights as well.

Barney was active in Alaska’s political life as well. He was chairman of the Alaska Democratic Party, Alaska’s Democratic National Committeeman, and an Alaska delegate to the Democratic National Convention. I mentioned that Barney was one of the patriarchs of Alaska’s Jewish community. An early supporter of the State of Israel, he was the face of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, in Alaska for many years. Today, Barney’s son David leads the AIPAC group in Alaska and, in that capacity, is a frequent visitor to my office. He provided financial support to enable young Jewish Alaskans to participate in the “March of the Living,” so that they might better understand the legacy of the Holocaust. He visited Israel on many occasions and took on the cause of supporting Ethiopian Jews who had made Aliyah to Israel integrate into society and pursue advanced degrees.

Barney was not only a father figure to the Alaska Jewish community. He was the patriarch of a large family himself. Barney is survived by Rachel, his second wife, of 32 years, who not surprisingly met on a trip to Israel. Barney was father to seven children. Some of Barney’s children have followed in their father’s footsteps to achieve positions of great respect and prominence in Alaska. I am proud to count David, Jim, Robert, and Sandy among my friends. A fourth generation of the Gottstein family, the grandchildren, are just beginning to make their mark, and there are great-grandchildren to come.

On behalf of my Senate colleagues, I proudly pay my respects to Barney Gottstein and his wonderful family. May his memory be a blessing.

EC–91. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–514, “Boxing and Wrestling Commission Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–92. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–515, “Trafficking Survivors Relief Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–93. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–516, “Teachers, Police, and Firefighters Retirement Benefits Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–94. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-

EC–95. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–518, “Bruce Robey Court Designation Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–96. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–519, “Salary Adjustment Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–97. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–520, “Pension Adjustment Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–98. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–521, “Pathways to District Government Careers Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–99. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–522, “Pathways to District Government Careers Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–100. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–523, “Salary Adjustment Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–101. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
bia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22–524, “Vulnerable Population and Employer Protection Amendment of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–102. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-

EC–103. A communication from the Chair-
man of the Council of the District of Colum-
Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock” (RIN7100–AF27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–115. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Expanded Examination Cycle for Certain Small Insured Non-Federally-Related Institutions and U.S. Branches and Agencies of Foreign Banks” (RIN7100–AF90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–116. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Application of the RFI(C)(D) Rating System to Savings and Loan Holding Companies” (RIN0175–AE70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–117. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Financial Institution Rating System; Regulations K and LL” (RIN7100–AE52) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–118. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Liability Coverage Ratio Rule; Treatment of Certain Municipal Obligations as High-Quality Liquid Assets” (RIN7100–AF10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–120. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Margin and Capital Requirements for Covered Swap Entities” (RIN7100–AE98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–121. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological and Ecclesiastical Ethnological Material from Bulgaria” (RIN5155–AE41) (CBP Dec. 19–01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–122. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological Material from Bulgaria” (RIN5155–AE42) (CBP Dec. 19–02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–123. A communication from the Chief of Negotiations and Restructuring, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification that the Corporation has issued an order partitioning the Planter's and Cement Masons Local No. 94 Pension Plan Trustee’s Interest in the Plan of Participation of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended; to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Finance.

EC–124. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report entitled “Fiscal Year 2015 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities—Community Economic Development and Rural Development Programs”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–125. A communication from the Director, White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Education, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–126. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation” ((RIN1213–AB45) (29 CFR Parts 407 and 4902)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–127. A communication from the Director, Administration of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report on crime victims’ rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC–128. A communication from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Per Diem Paid to States for Care of Eligible Veterans in State Homes” ((RIN2900–AO88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 2, 2019; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

EC–129. A communication from the Assistant Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Veterans Group Life Insurance: Special Group Life Insurance Program” (RIN648–XG054) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–130. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report to Congress on a proposal to reallocate shrimp in the Gulf of Mexico Sub-Region; for the Inspector General for Oversight and Accountability, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States: Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfers” (RIN0648–XF93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–131. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; 2018 River Herring and Shad Catch Cap Reallocated for Midwater Trawl Vessels in the Mid-Atlantic/ Southern New England Catch Cap Area” (RIN0648–XG056) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–132. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackeral, Squid, and Butterfish; 2018 River Herring and Shad Catch Cap Reached for the Directed Atlantic Mackeral Fishery” (RIN0648–XG054) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–133. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Blacktip Sharks, Aggregated Large Costal Sharks, and Hammerhead Sharks in the Western Gulf of Mexico Sub-Region; Closure” (RIN0648–XG021) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–134. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Veterans Group Life Insurance: Special Group Life Insurance Program” (RIN648–XG054) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–135. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Shrimp Fishery off the Southern Atlantic States; Closure of the Penaed Shrimp Fishery Off Georgia” (RIN0648–XF965) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

S. 115. A bill for the relief of Alemseged Mussie Tesfamahal; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. HARRIS):

S. 116. A bill to address maternal mortality and morbidity; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNIT,
Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURR, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. SMITH:

S. 7. A bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 109. A bill to require the Director of the National Science Foundation to develop an I-Corps course to support commercialization-ready innovation companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. INOYE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ENZI, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 119. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across state lines in violation of law, requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CASEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHRITTE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARRASCO, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. JONES, Mr. BENNET, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 120. A bill to protect victims of stalking from gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JONES (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 121. A bill to require a study of the well-being of non-citizens who invest in international real estate activity and to stay the investigation into the national security effects of automotive imports until the study is completed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PERDUE (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. UDALL):

S. 122. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the sale of any Purple Heart awarded to a member of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 124. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who are terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services to which they received was below the standard of care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 124. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act, to prevent employers from using non-compete agreements in employment contracts for certain non-exempt employees; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LEYH):

S. 125. A bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to repeal the forfeiture rule for peanuts under the nonrecourse marketing assistance loan program, prohibit the use of Federal funds to support certain activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 126. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a demonstration program to adapt and apply practices of providing foreign aid to underdeveloped economies to the provision of Federal economic development assistance to Native communities in similarly situated remote areas in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 127. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the county of Marin, California, for the transfer of Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 128. A bill to regulate certain State impositions on interstate commerce; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HARRIS (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 129. A bill to provide for the establishment of a national memorial and national monument to commemorate those killed by the crash of United Airlines Flight 232 in South Dakota on July 19, 1989; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SASSE (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. BURH, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CORBYN, Mr. COTT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HOVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INGERSOLL, Mr. ISAACS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. SCOTT of South Dakota, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TELLIS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. ENZI):

S. 130. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. INHOFFE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. PERDUE):

S. 131. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GARDNER:


By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 133. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TOOMEY (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 134. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE:

S. 135. A bill to prioritize the allocation of H-2B visas for States with low unemployment rates; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. ROSEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTES MASTO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COONS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JONES, Mr. HENCHER, Mr. STARK, Mr. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARDBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CARPER):

S. Res. 18. A resolution authorizing the Senate Legal Counsel to represent the Senate in Texas v. United States No. 1:16-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.); to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 21, a bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 34

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 34, a bill to require a report on the continuing participation of Cambodia in the Generalized System of Preferences.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from
At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPPO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. J. Res. 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to balancing the budget.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:
S. 115. A bill for the relief of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. 115

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR ALEMSEGHED MUSIE TESFAMICAL.

(a) In general.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151) and section 210 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a), Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical shall be eligible for the issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status of that alien that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1151) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) Adjustment of status.—If Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical enters the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical shall be considered to have entered into and remain lawfully in the United States and, if otherwise eligible for an adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, may apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(c) Deadline for application and payment of fees.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only if the application for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status is filed by Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical with appropriate fees not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) Reduction of immigrant visa number.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by 1, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of such country of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of such country of Alemseghed Mussie Tesfamical's birth under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

(e) Budgetary effects.—The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-313), shall be determined by the budgetary effects of the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLEMMENTHAL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Ms. SMITH):
S. 117. A bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem; and

(b) intended that the ADA assure “full participation” and “independent living” for individuals with disabilities by addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities that persists in critical areas, including institutionalization.

(2) While Congress expected that the ADA’s integration mandate would be interpreted in a manner that ensures that individuals who are eligible for institutional placement are able to exercise a right to community-based long-term services and supports, that expectation has not been fulfilled.

(3) The holdings of the Supreme Court in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999), and comparable cases have clearly articulated that individuals with disabilities have a civil right under the ADA to participate in society as equal citizens. However, many States still do not provide sufficient community-based long-term services and supports to individuals with disabilities to end segregation in institutions.

(4) The right to live in the community is necessary for the exercise of the civil rights that the ADA was intended to secure for all individuals with disabilities. The lack of adequate community-based services and supports has imperiled the civil rights of all individuals with disabilities, and has undermined the very promise of the ADA. It is, therefore, necessary for Congress to take steps to ensure robust and fully articulated right to community living.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (referred to in this Act as the “ADA”), Congress—

(A) recognized that “historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem”;

(B) intended that the ADA assure “full participation” and “independent living” for individuals with disabilities by addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities that persists in critical areas, including institutionalization.

(2) While Congress expected that the ADA’s integration mandate would be interpreted in a manner that ensures that individuals who are eligible for institutional placement are able to exercise a right to community-based long-term services and supports, that expectation has not been fulfilled.

(3) The holdings of the Supreme Court in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999), and comparable cases have clearly articulated that individuals with disabilities have a civil right under the ADA to participate in society as equal citizens. However, many States still do not provide sufficient community-based long-term services and supports to individuals with disabilities to end segregation in institutions.

(4) The right to live in the community is necessary for the exercise of the civil rights that the ADA was intended to secure for all individuals with disabilities. The lack of adequate community-based services and supports has imperiled the civil rights of all individuals with disabilities, and has undermined the very promise of the ADA. It is, therefore, necessary for Congress to take steps to ensure robust and fully articulated right to community living.

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 “Disability Integration Act of 2019”.

S221
(5) States, with a few exceptions, continue to approach decisions regarding long-term services and supports from social welfare and budgetary perspectives, but for the promise of the results realized. States must approach these decisions from a civil rights perspective.

(6) States have not consistently planned to ensure that persons with disabilities, including those with the most significant disabilities, to enable individuals with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting. As a result, many individuals with disabilities who reside in institutions are prevented from residing in the community and individuals with disabilities are at risk of institutionalization.

(7) The continuing existence of unfair and unnecessary institutionalization scenarios individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to live and participate on an equal basis in the community and costs the United States billions of dollars in unnecessary spending related to perpetuating dependency and unnecessary confinement.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to clarify and strengthen the ADA's integration mandate in a manner that accelerates State compliance;

(2) to clarify that every individual who is eligible for long-term services and supports has a federally protected right to be meaningfully integrated into that individual's community and receive community-based long-term services and supports;

(3) to ensure that States provide long-term services and supports to individuals with disabilities in a manner that allows individuals with disabilities to live in the most integrated setting, including the individual's own home, have maximum control over their services and supports, and features that optimize, but do not regiment, individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices, including choices about daily activities, physical environment, and persons with whom the individual interacts; and

(4) to establish a requirement for clear and uniform annual public reporting by States that includes reporting about—

(A) the number of individuals with disabilities who are served in the community and the number who are served in institutions; and

(B) access to the greater community to the same extent as access to the community is enjoyed by an individual who is not receiving long-term services or supports;

(5) in the case of a dwelling—

(i) that is owned by an individual with an LTSS disability and the individual's family member;

(ii) that is leased to the individual with an LTSS disability under an individual lease, that has lockable access and egress, and that includes living, sleeping, bathing, and cooking areas; and

(iii) in which no more than 4 unrelated individuals with disabilities live at the setting—

(A) I N GENERAL.—The term ''instrumental activities of daily living'' has the meaning given the term in section 802 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means—

(A) the Administrator of the Administration for Community Living; or

(B) another designee of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) COMMUNITY-BASED.—The term ''community-based'', when used in reference to services or supports, means services or supports that are provided to an individual with an LTSS disability to enable that individual to live in the community and lead an independent life, and that are delivered in whichever setting the individual with an LTSS disability has chosen out of the following settings with the following qualities:

(A) in the case of a dwelling on a nonresidential setting (such as a setting in which an individual with an LTSS disability receives day services and supported employment), a dwelling or setting in which—

(i) that, as a matter of infrastructure, environment, amenities, location, services, and features, is integrated into the greater community and supports, for each individual with an LTSS disability who receives services or supports at the setting—

(I) full access to the greater community (including access to opportunities to seek employment and independent living in integrated settings, engage in community life, control personal resources, and receive services in the community); and

(II) access to the greater community to the same extent as access to the community is enjoyed by an individual who is not receiving long-term services or supports;

(B) in the case of a dwelling—

(i) that is owned by an individual with a disability who—

(A) is in a residential setting; and

(B) is at risk of institutionalization if the individual does not receive community-based long-term services and supports.

(8) INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The term ''instrumental activities of daily living'' means one or more activities related to living independently in the community, including activities related to—

(a) nutrition, such as preparing meals or special diets, monitoring to prevent choking or aspiration, or assisting with special utensils;

(b) household chores and environmental maintenance tasks;

(c) communication and interpersonal skills, such as—

(i) using the telephone or other communications devices;

(ii) forming and maintaining interpersonal relationships; or

(iii) securing opportunities to participate in group support or peer-to-peer support arrangements;

(d) travel and community participation, such as shopping, arranging appointments, or moving around the community;

(e) care of others, such as caring for children, taking care of pets, or selecting caregivers; or

(f) management of personal property and personal safety, such as—

(I) taking medication;

(II) handling or managing money; or

(III) responding to emergent situations or unplanned needs requiring an immediate response.

(2) ASSISTANCE.—The term assistance used with respect to instrumental activities of daily living includes support provided to an individual by another person due to confusion, dementia, behavioral symptoms, or cognitive, intellectual, mental, or emotional disabilities, including—

(i) help the individual identify and set goals, overcome fears, and manage transitions;

(ii) help the individual with executive functioning, decisionmaking, and problem solving.
of individuals with LTSS disabilities, to live in the community and lead an independent life, which may include a requirement that an individual with an LTSS disability receive services (such as day services or employment services) in a congregate or disability-specific setting;

(b) a failure to establish an adequate rate or other payment structure that is necessary to ensure the availability of a workforce sufficient to support an individual with an LTSS disability in living in the community and leading an independent life;

(c) a failure to provide community-based services and supports, on an intermittent, short-term, or emergent basis, that assist an individual with an LTSS disability to live in the community and lead an independent life;

(d) the imposition or application of a policy, such as a requirement that an individual utilize informal support, that restricts, limits, or delays the ability of an individual with an LTSS disability to receive community-based long-term service or support to live in the community or lead an independent life;

(e) a failure to implement a formal procedure and a mechanism to ensure that—

(A) individuals with LTSS disabilities are offered the alternative of community-based long-term services and supports prior to institutionalization; and

(B) if selected by an individual with an LTSS disability, the community-based long-term services and supports as described in subparagraph (A) are provided;

(f) a failure to ensure that each institutionalized individual with an LTSS disability is provided with the alternative of community-based long-term services and supports and that those community-based long-term services and supports are provided if the individual with an LTSS disability selects such services and supports; and

(g) a failure to make a reasonable modification in a policy, practice, or procedure, when such modification is necessary to allow an individual with an LTSS disability to receive a community-based long-term service or support.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATION.

(a) AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall—

(A) investigate and take enforcement action for violations of this Act; and

(B) enforce section 6(c).

(2) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, through the Administrator, shall—

(A) conduct studies regarding the nature and extent of institutionalization of individuals with LTSS disabilities in representative communities, including urban, suburban, and rural communities, throughout the United States;

(B) publish and disseminate reports, recommendations, and information derived from such studies, including an annual report to Congress, specifying—

(i) the nature and extent of progress in the United States in eliminating institutionalization for individuals with LTSS disabilities in violation of this Act and furthering the purposes of this Act;

(ii) obstacles that remain in the effort to achieve the provision of community-based long-term services and supports to all individuals with LTSS disabilities; and

(iii) recommendations for further legislative or executive action;

(C) cooperate with LTSS insurance provider to provide grants for technical assistance to, Federal, State, and local public or private agencies and organizations that are formulating or carrying out programs to prevent or eliminate institutionalization of individuals with LTSS disabilities or to promote the provision of community-based long-term services and supports;

(D) implement educational and conciliatory activities to further the purposes of this Act and any such recommendations;

(E) publish information on violations of this Act to the Attorney General for investigation and enforcement action under this Act.

(b) COOPERATION OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—Each Federal agency and, in particular, each Federal agency covered by Executive Order 13217 (66 Fed. Reg. 33155; relating to community-based long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities), shall carry out programs and activities relating to the institutionalization of individuals with LTSS disabilities or to the provision of community-based long-term services and supports for individuals with LTSS disabilities in accordance with this Act and shall cooperate with the Attorney General and the Administrator to further the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 6. REGULATIONS.

(a) ISSUANCE OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall issue, in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, final regulations to carry out this Act, which shall include the regulations described in subsection (b).

(b) REQUIRED CONTENTS OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE HICPONTS OF SERVICE.—The regulations shall require each public entity and LTSS insurance provider to offer, and, if accepted, provide community-based long-term services and supports as required under this Act to any individual with an LTSS disability who would otherwise qualify for institutional placement provided or funded by such public entity or LTSS insurance provider.

(2) SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED.—The regulations issued under this section shall require each public entity and LTSS insurance provider to provide the Attorney General and the Administrator with an assurance that

(1) provide reassurance to the individual; and

(iv) help the individual with orientation, memory, and other activities related to independent living.

(9) LONG-TERM SERVICE OR SUPPORT.—The terms ‘‘long-term service or support’’ and ‘‘LTSS’’ mean the assistance provided to an individual with an LTSS disability in accomplishing, acquiring the means or ability to accomplish, maintaining, or enhancing—

(A) activities of daily living;

(B) recreational activities of daily living;

(C) health-related tasks; or

(D) other functions, tasks, or activities related to an activity or task described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

(10) LTSS INSURANCE PROVIDER.—The term ‘‘LTSS insurance provider’’ means a public or private entity that—

(A) provides funds for long-term services and supports; and

(B) is engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.

(11) PUBLIC ENTITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘‘public entity’’ means an entity that—

(i) provides or funds institutional placements for individuals with LTSS disabilities; and

(ii) is—

(I) a State or local government; or

(II) a department, agency, entity administering a special purpose district, or other instrumentality, of a State or local government.

(B) INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a public entity shall be considered to be a person engaged in commerce or in an industry or activity affecting commerce.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (a)(2) or any other provision of this section shall be construed to preclude an individual with a disability from receiving community-based services and supports in an integrated community setting such as a grocery store, retail establishment, restaurant, bank, park, concert venue, theater, or workplace.
the public entity or LTSS insurance provider—

(A) ensures that individuals with LTSS disabilities receive assistance through hands-on assistance or may not meet the safety monitoring, including access to backup systems, with—

(i) activities of daily living;
(ii) instrumental activities of daily living;
(iii) health-related tasks; or
(iv) other functions, tasks, or activities related to an activity or task described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or (iv);

(B) coordinates, conducts, performs, provides, or funds discharge planning from acute, rehabilitation, and long-term facilities to promote individuals with LTSS disabilities living in the most integrated setting chosen by the individuals;

(C) issues, conducts, performs, provides, or funds policies and programs to promote self-direction and the provision of consumer-directed services and supports for all populations of individuals with LTSS disabilities served;

(D) issues, conducts, performs, provides, or funds policies and programs to support informed choice and consumer control services for individuals with LTSS disabilities; and

(E) ensures that all types of LTSS disabilities are able to live in the community in an independent life, including ensuring that the individuals have maximum control over the services and supports that the individuals receive, choose the setting in which the individuals receive those services and supports, and exercise control and direction over their own lives.

(5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(A) PUBLIC ENTITY.—The regulations issued under this section shall require each public entity to carry out an extensive public participation process that involves holding a public hearing, providing an opportunity for public comment, and consulting with individuals with LTSS disabilities, in preparing the LTSS insurance provider’s self-evaluation under paragraph (5) and transition plan under paragraph (10).

(B) LTSS INSURANCE PROVIDER.—The regulations issued under this section shall require each LTSS insurance provider to carry out a public participation process that involves holding a public hearing, providing an opportunity for public comment, and consulting with individuals with LTSS disabilities, in preparing the LTSS insurance provider’s self-evaluation described in subparagraph (A) on file, and may be required to produce such self-evaluation in the event of a review, investigation, or action described in section 1115(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315(d)(2)), except that—

(i) “at the State level” shall be disregarded; and

(ii) the reference to an application shall be considered to be a reference to the self-evaluation or plan involved.

(4) ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.—

The regulations issued under this section shall establish circumstances under which a public entity or LTSS insurance provider shall provide community-based long-term services and supports under this section beyond the level of community-based long-term services and supports which would otherwise be required under this subsection.

(5) SELF-EVALUATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The regulations issued under this section shall require each public entity and each LTSS insurance provider, not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to evaluate current services, policies, and practices, and the effects on individuals with LTSS disabilities, or may not meet the requirements of this Act and, to the extent modification of any such services, policies, and practices is required to meet the requirements of this Act and make the necessary modifications. The self-evaluation shall include—

(i) collection of baseline information, including the numbers of individuals with LTSS disabilities in various institutional and community-based settings served by the public entity or LTSS insurance provider;

(ii) a review of community capacity, in communities served by the entity or provider, in providing community-based long-term services and supports;

(iii) identification of improvements needed to ensure that all community-based long-term services and supports provided by the public entity or LTSS insurance provider to individuals with LTSS disabilities are comprehensive, accessible, and are not duplicative of existing (as of the date of the identification) services, meet the needs of persons who are likely to require assistance in order to live, or lead a life, as described in section 1115(a), and are high-quality services and supports, which may include identifying system improvements that create an option to self-direct receipt of such services and supports for all populations of such individuals served; and

(iv) a review of funding sources for community-based long-term services and supports and an analysis of how those funding sources could be organized into a fair, coherent system that is affordable, accessible, and timely access to community-based long-term services and supports.

(B) PUBLIC ENTITY.—A public entity, including an LTSS insurance provider that is a public entity, shall—

(1) include in the self-evaluation described in subparagraph (A) on file—

(i) an assessment of the availability of accessible, affordable transportation across the State involved and whether transportation barriers prevent individuals from receiving long-term services and supports in the most integrated setting; and

(ii) an assessment of the availability of integrated community supports in the jurisdiction served by the public entity for individuals with LTSS disabilities; and

(2) provide the self-evaluation described in subparagraph (A) to the Attorney General and the Administrator.

(C) LTSS INSURANCE PROVIDER.—An LTSS insurance provider shall keep the self-evaluation described in subparagraph (A) on file, and may be required to produce such self-evaluation in the event of a review, investigation, or action described in section 1115(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1315(d)(2)), except that—

(i) “at the State level” shall be disregarded; and

(ii) the reference to an application shall be considered to be a reference to the self-evaluation or plan involved.

(11) ANNUAL REPORTING.—

(A) establish measurable objectives to address the barriers to community living identified in the self-evaluation under paragraph (5); and

(B) establish specific annual targets for the transition of individuals with LTSS disabilities, and shifts in funding, from institutional settings to integrated community-based services and supports, and related programs;

(C) describe specific efforts to support individuals with LTSS disabilities to avoid unwanted institutionalization through the provision of LTSS; and

(D) describe the manner in which the public entity or provider has obtained necessary funding and resources needed for implementation of the plan (regardless of whether the entity began carrying out the requirements of this Act prior to the date of enactment of this Act).
(A) IN GENERAL.—The regulations issued under this section shall establish annual reporting requirements for each public entity covered by this section.

(2) PRIORITIES, OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, AND EFFORTS.—The regulations issued under this section shall require each public entity that has submitted a transition plan to submit to the Administrator an annual report on the progress the public entity has made during the previous year in meeting the measurable objectives, specific annual targets, and specific deadlines described in subparagraph (A).

(12) OTHER PROVISIONS.—The regulations issued under this section shall include such other requirements as the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services determine are necessary to carry out the objectives of this Act.

(C) LOCAL PROVISIONS PLANS.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—The Administrator shall review a transition plan submitted in accordance with subsection (b)(10) for the purpose of determining whether the transition plan meets the requirements of this Act, including the regulations issued under this section.

(2) DISAPPROVAL.—If the Administrator determines that a transition plan reviewed under this subsection fails to meet the requirements of this Act, the Administrator shall modify the transition plan to identify the public entity that submitted the transition plan of, and the reasons for, such disapproval.

(3) MODIFICATION OF DISAPPROVED PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of disapproval of a transition plan under this subsection, the public entity that submitted the transition plan shall modify the transition plan to meet the requirements of this section and shall submit to the Administrator, and commence implementation of, such modified transition plan.

(4) INCENTIVES.—(A) DETERMINATION.—For 10 years after the issuance of the regulations described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall annually determine whether each State, or each other public entity in the case of a public entity that is comprising with the transition plan or modified transition plan the State or other public entity submitted, and obtained approval for, under this section. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines under this subparagraph that the State or other public entity is comprising with the transition plan or modified transition plan the State or other public entity submitted, and obtained approval for, under this section, with respect to any increases in the Federal medical assistance percentage under section 1905(b) of the Act or the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)) with an adjustment for an increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage under section 1905(b) of the Act or the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)), beginning with the first quarter of fiscal year 2019, the Secretary shall maintain the increase in the Federal medical assistance percentage described in subparagraph (B) for the State for amounts expended by the State determined under section 1905(b) of the Act or the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)), and in such circumstances as the Administrator may determine to be in the best interest of the State.

(B) INCREASE IN FMAP.—On making the determination described in subparagraph (A) for a public entity (including a State), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, as described in subparagraph (C), increase the FMAP described in subparagraph (B) if such person has actual notice that the transition plan is not being implemented in accordance with the regulations issued under this section or any other federal law, relating to integration of individuals with disabilities into the community and enabling those individuals to live in the most integrated setting.

(C) PERIOD OF INCREASE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall increase the FMAP described in subparagraph (B) if—

(i) beginning with the first quarter that begins after the date of the determination; and

(ii) ending with the quarter in which the next annual determination under subparagraph (A) occurs.

(D) ADDITIONAL CONDITION FOR PAYMENT.—

(i) STATE REPORT.—As a condition for the receipt of a payment based on an increase described in subparagraph (B) with respect to the reporting year, the Secretary shall report to the Secretary, for the reporting year, the amount of funds expended by the State for home and community-based services (as defined in paragraph (2)(D)(i)) in that year. The State shall make the report in a format developed or approved by the Secretary.

(ii) REDUCTION IN PAYMENT IF FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EFFORT.—If the amount reported under clause (i) by a State with respect to a reporting year is less than the amount reported under clause (i) with respect to the previous reporting year, whichever was the greater reported amount, the Secretary shall provide for a reduction in the payment to the State based on the increase.

(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(I) FMAP.—The term "FMAP" means—

(A) the Federal medical assistance percentage for a State determined under section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(b)) without regard to any increases in that percentage applicable under other subsections of this section or any other provision of law, including this section;

(II) HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES DEFINED.—The term "home and community-based services" means—

(I) home and community-based services provided under subsection (c), (d), or (i) of section 1915 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n et seq.); or

(II) as the court determines to be appropriate;

(III) Personal care services.

(IV) Services described in section 1905(a)(26) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(a)(26)) (relating to PACE programs);

(V) Self-directed personal assistance services provided in accordance with section 1915(j) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(j));

(VI) Community-based attendant services and supports provided in accordance with section 1915(k) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(k));

(VII) Reimbursable services, within the meaning of section 1905(a)(13) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396n(a)(13));

(VIII) REPORTING YEAR.—The term "reporting year" means fiscal year preceding the date of a report under subparagraph (D)(i).

(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (b) or any other provision of this Act shall be construed to limit the rights, protections, or requirements of any other Federal law, relating to integration of individuals with disabilities into the community and enabling those individuals to live in the most integrated setting.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL PURPOSES.

(a) VIOLENT CRIMES.—

(i) DENIAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—

(A) AUTHORITY.—The Attorney General shall investigate allegations of violations of this Act, and shall undertake periodic reviews of the compliance of public entities and LTSS insurance providers under this Act.

(B) POTENTIAL VIOLATION.—The Attorney General may commence a civil action in any case
appropiate Federal district court if the Attorney General has reasonable cause to believe that—

(i) any public entity or LTSS insurance provider, including a group of public entities or LTSS insurance providers, is engaged in a pattern or practice of violations of this Act; or

(ii) any individual, including a group, has been subjected to a violation of this Act and the violation raises an issue of general public importance.

(2) AUTHORITY OF COURT.—In a civil action under paragraph (1)(B), the court—

(A) may grant any equitable relief that such court considers to be appropriate, including relief in the form of an order—

(i) granting temporary, preliminary, or permanent relief; and

(ii) requiring the modification of a policy, practice, or procedure, or the provision of an alternative method of providing LTSS;

(B) may award such other relief as the court considers to be appropriate, including damages to individuals described in sub-

section (a)(2), when requested by the Attorney General; and

(C) may, to vindicate the public interest, assess civil penalty against the public enti-

ty or LTSS insurance provider in an amount—

(1) not exceeding $100,000 for a first viola-

tion; and

(2) not exceeding $200,000 for any subse-

quent violation.

(3) SINGLE VIOLATION.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(C), in determining whether a first or subsequent violation has occurred, a determination in a single action, by judgment or order, that the public entity or LTSS insurance provider has engaged in more than one violation of this Act shall be counted as a single violation.

SEC. 9. CONSTRUCTION.

For purposes of construing this Act—

(1) section 4(b)(11) shall be construed in a manner that takes into account its similarities with section 302(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii));

(2) the first sentence of section 6(b)(5)(A) shall be construed in a manner that takes into account its similarities with section 35.105(a) of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act);

(3) section 7 shall be construed in a manner that takes into account its similarities with section 807(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3607(a));

(4) section 8(a)(2) shall be construed in a manner that takes into account its similarities with section 308(a)(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(a)(1)); and

(5) section 8(d)(1)(B) shall be construed in a manner that takes into account its similarities with section 308(a)(1) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12188(b)(1)(B)).

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WAREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 127. A Bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the City of Vallejo, California, for the transfer of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery in Vallejo, California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. President, today I rise to request the Senate pass the Mare Island Naval Cemetery Transfer Act, which would transfer control of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery from the City of Vallejo in California to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) where it belongs.

The Mare Island Naval Cemetery is the oldest military cemetery on the West Coast. Opened in 1856, it was originally part of Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the first U.S. naval base established on the Pacific Ocean. The historic cemetery is the final resting place for 860 veterans and their loved ones, including three Medal of Honor recipients. Anna Arnold Key, the daughter of Key is also buried there, next to her husband who fought in the War of 1812. After the base closed in 1996, the nearby City of Vallejo assumed control of the naval property and cemetery.

Unfortunately, the city doesn’t have the necessary funds to properly care for the cemetery. The city is also ineligible for VA support since it’s not part of the State or Federal government. The maintenance, therefore, is left to volunteers who lack the expertise necessary to maintain this historic cemetery.

The cemetery has fallen into disrepair and is no longer a fitting tribute to the brave men and women buried there. Gravestones are topped over, broken, or sinking into the ground. Plants and weeds are overgrown, and water is pooling due to the lack of proper drainage. The cemetery’s current condition requires urgent action to restore the gravestones and grounds to an acceptable condition. Our bill would accomplish this by transferring control to the VA’s National Cemetery Administration.

The transfer would not only allow the VA to restore the cemetery, but also ensure that it’s maintained for future generations to pay their respects to the heroes buried there. I want to thank Congressman MIKE THOMPSON (D-CA) for leading this effort in the House. Passing this bill would be a small, but important, token of our gratitude to the veterans to whom we owe so much.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 18—AUTHORIZING THE SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE SENATE IN TEXAS V. UNITED STATES

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Senate in Texas v. United States, No. 4:18–cv–00167–O (N.D. Tex.)

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. CAPUANO, Mr. REED, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. LEAHY, Ms. MURRAY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BENNET, Ms. BERNSTEIN, Ms. SCHULTZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. JONES, Mr. HINCH, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. WAREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PETTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. CARPER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 18

Whereas Texas, Wisconsin, Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Paul LePage (Governor of Maine), Mississippi (by and through Gov-

ernor Phil Bryant), Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, West Virginia, and individual plaintiffs have filed suit in the United States District Court for the North-

ern District of Texas seeking to strike down the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148; 124 Stat. 119) and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–5; 124 Stat. 266) as unconstitutional and should be enjoined, by asserting that the requirement under these Acts to maintain minimum essential coverage (commonly known as the ‘‘individual responsibility provision’’ in section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is unconstitutional following the amendment of that provision by the Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to titles II and V of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018 (Public Law 115–77; 121 Stat. 2054) (commonly known as the ‘‘Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’’);

Whereas these State and individual plaint-

iffs also seek to strike down the entire Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act as not severable from the individual responsibility provision;

Whereas, on June 7, 2018, the Department of Justice refused to defend the constitutionality of the amended individual responsibility provision, despite the well-established duty of the Department of Justice to defend Federal statutes where reasonable arguments can be made in their defense;

Whereas the Department of Justice not only refused to defend the amended individual responsibility provision, but it affirmatively argued that this provision is unconstitutional and that the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act guaranteeing issuance of insurance coverage regardless of health status or pre-existing conditions (commonly known as the ‘‘guaranteed issue provision’’), sections 2701 and 2705(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–1, 300gg–3, 300gg–4(a)), and prohibiting discriminatory premium rates (commonly known as the ‘‘community rating provision’’), sections 2701 and 2705(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg(a)(1), 300gg–4(b)), must now be struck down as not severable from the individual responsibility provision; and

Whereas the district court in Texas v. United States, No. 4:18–cv–00167–O (N.D. Tex.) issued an order on December 14, 2018 declaring that the individual responsibility provision in section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is unconstitutional and that all the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act are not severable and therefore are invalid: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent the Senate in Texas v. United States, No. 4:18–cv–00167–O (N.D. Tex.), including seeking to—

(1) intervene as a party in the matter and any appellate or related proceeding; and

(2) defend all provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, the amendments to those Acts to other provisions of law, and any amendments to such provisions, including
the provisions ensuring affordable health coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that Rahmon Ross of my staff be granted floor privileges for today’s proceedings.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, January 16, further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 2, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; finally, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to S.J. Res. 2 occur at 12:30 p.m., tomorrow, and if cloture is not invoked, S.J. Res. 2 be returned to the calendar.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

MEDICARE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I rise to talk about the Medicare Program and in particular a story that came to our attention this past weekend.

This is the headline from a story dated January 11, late in the day, and it is by The Hill newspaper. You will not be able to find it in a database, but the headline reads, “Trump officials consider allowing Medicaid block grants for states.”

Here is what just the first two short paragraphs outline. The story begins as follows:

The Trump administration is considering moving forward with a major conservative change to Medicaid by allowing States to get block grants for the program, sources say. Capping the amount of money that the federal government spends on the health insurance program for the poor through a block grant has long been a conservative goal. It was a controversial part of the ObamaCare repeal debate in 2017, with much of the public rallying against cuts to Medicaid.

After the failure of that repeal effort, the Trump administration is now considering issuing guidance to states encouraging them to apply for caps on federal Medicaid spending in exchange for additional flexibility on how they run the program, according to people familiar with the discussions.

I will not read the rest of the story, and I will not enter the whole story into the RECORD because folks can look it up, and there are other stories as well that cover this same news. So, in a sense, it is a big new development, but it is an old story.

It is an old story of Members of Congress and the administration coming together to try to make changes to the Medicaid Program. In this case, it differs only slightly in that, so far at least, this seems to be an initiative that is an administration-led initiative. We are not aware of any—as far as I know—congressional involvement, but it is not all that much different, right? It is the same thing.

We had a long debate in 2017 about whether we should not only repeal the Affordable Care Act but thereby do two things to Medicaid—one is to end over time Medicaid expansion, and second would be to have cuts to Medicaid that would result from this same idea, the so-called block granting of Medicaid.

I believe we litigated—if we can use that word in a legislative sense—that in 2017. The repeal bill did not pass the Senate in the summer of 2017. There were other attempts that didn’t come to a vote on full repeal. Then we had an election in 2018. Healthcare was a major part of that debate, most of it centering on protections for pre-existing conditions and other consumer protections run the program, according to the ObamaCare.

If you look at the last 2 years, we had one-party rule in Washington—Republican President, House, and Senate. There were major efforts by the administration and by both majorities in the Houses of Congress to make substantial changes to Medicaid, and it did not happen. So failing all those attempts, now the administration, I would assume, is trying to do it secretly but, you know, wants to give States access to Medicaid by way of granting waivers and inviting States to, in essence, change Medicaid at the State level.

This initiative will not affect Pennsylvania—or it is highly unlikely to affect Pennsylvania in the near term. So this is about major parts of the country but not every State. It is a bad idea, in short order, because what this block granting means is benefits get cut.

It is very simple. When you cut a program that is focused on healthcare for low-income children, healthcare coverage for those with disabilities, children and adults, and helping seniors from Philadelphia to Philadelphia, what you do is you make it harder for States to pay for a nursing home—that is another benefit of Medicaid—you are talking about benefits being cut over time. Maybe there will be more cuts in one State versus the other, depending upon the nature of the waiver and the particularities of the program in that State, but it is going to be cutting Medicaid. It is a bad idea, and I think the American people understand that, especially after the debate in 2017. It is a bad idea, and I think the American people understand that.

Maybe there are some folks who didn’t really appreciate Medicaid; probably a lot of them in Washington didn’t appreciate Medicaid in the 2017 and 2018 debates. Maybe there are folks who weren’t paying attention for a lot of years and didn’t realize the scope of Medicaid, didn’t realize it covers 70 million Americans. I know that is why some Republican officials in the Congress are very hostile to it; they think it covers too many people. But after 2017, those who were misinformed or had forgotten or just were never aware of the benefits of Medicaid got a real good reminder because of the debate we had. That was one positive outgrowth of that long and difficult debate on healthcare generally—the Affordable Care Act specifically—but also, by extension, Medicaid.

I propose this to block-grant Medicaid, which was proposed numerous times here in Congress over the last couple of years, hurts basically those three groups of Americans. It hurts kids, hurts people with disabilities, and hurts our seniors.

I think the part of it that people tend to forget is that this program helps middle-class families as well. If you have a disability, your income might be higher than low income, but you get the benefit of Medicaid. A lot of middle-class families have a loved one in a nursing home who would not be able to afford that kind of long-term care without the benefit of Medicaid. A lot of those families are middle class.

When it comes to children, of course, it is for children from low-income families, but those children are getting
what many believe to be the gold standard for children's healthcare.

I like to say that in Pennsylvania, Medicaid is a 40-50-60 program. It is real simple: 40 percent of the kids in our State, thankfully, have the benefit of Medicaid. 50 percent of people with disabilities—roughly, about half of the people in our State with disabilities get the benefit of Medicaid. Thank goodness they do. Thirdly, 60 percent of people who require long-term care in Pennsylvania could not get it without the benefit of Medicaid.

In some States, the percentages might be higher or lower than that, but when you have a program that covers 40 percent of your children, 50 percent of your population with disabilities, and 60 percent of your seniors could get long-term care, which they need—those folks who have long-term care need it and have to have it. When you have that kind of program—which covers roughly 2 million people in Pennsylvania and 70 million nationwide—you are going to get the attention of a lot of people when you are messing with it. That is what I mean by “messing with it.” By saying, to some degree, under the cover of darkness—not having a debate on the floor of the House or the Senate but sending guidance to States, inviting them to apply for a waiver, and it takes a while to approve the waiver, then all of a sudden it comes out, and the waiver is granted—guess what. If you live in a State where that happens and you are on Medicaid, you might not have Medicaid a year from now. If you are granted it, it is obvious, but also the benefits she received because of Medicaid—in Pennsylvania we call it Medical Assistance, or by the shorthand, MA.

I will not read the whole letter, but Pam talks about, in just one example of what Medicaid means, the wrap-around services—all of the services that a child who has a disability gets, maybe on either the autism spectrum or a psychosocial disability or maybe a child who has Down syndrome.

In this case, Rowan is on the autism spectrum. She talks about the behavioral specialist consultant and the therapeutic staff support work that helps her and the benefits of that and what that means to Pam, as a mom, and to her family—but also what it means to her son Rowan. She talks about Rowan benefiting “immensely from a program called the Child Guidance Resource Center,” which recently started a new program called the CREATE Program. It is a social skills program specifically for autistic children ages 3 to 21. She enrolled Rowan in that so-called CREATE Program.

She goes on to say: “I am thrilled by Rowan’s daily progress. I cannot say enough great things about this program.”

“That program would not be part of the life of that family, absent Medicaid. That program would not be part of the life of that family in the instance where that family was living in a State that had been granted a waiver that allowed block grants that, thereby, are state cuts that resulted in that family not getting that kind of service.

Thankfully, she is in a State where the Medicaid Program is strong and will be defended aggressively. But I don’t want a Rowan in another State or a Pam—a mom in another State—not having the benefit that Rowan in Pennsylvania has and that Pam in Pennsylvania has.
low tax rates, but I think a lot of those Americans want to preserve the Medicaid Program, want to strengthen it, want to make changes that are appropriate, want to make it more efficient where we can, but there are a lot of Americans out there of great means who want this program preserved. So we have a lot of work to do to make sure we move in the right direction.

Let me make one or two more final points, and I will conclude.

One of the questions is, What happens if a block grant proposal goes through nationwide but even in more limited instances?

Way back in November of 2016, one of the many organizations that track this kind of a program over time—the Medicaid Program or healthcare programs—issued a report. It has issued many of these reports, but here is just one for your consideration. The name of the organization is Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. It is here in Washington and has been around a long time. It was very helpful in the debate on healthcare and about the impact of various proposals.

Here is what the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said in November of 2016. The date was November 30, 2016. In order to save some space, I will not read the whole report, and I will not enter it into the RECORD. People can look it up, right?

Here is the headline: Medicaid Block Grant Would Slash Federal Funding, Shift Costs to States, and Leave Millions More Uninsured.

Here is one of the headlines say in the report. The first one reads ‘‘A block grant would cap Federal Medicaid funding in order to achieve savings for the Federal Government.’’ That is what the proposal is intended to do.

No. 2, ‘‘The likely magnitude of the Federal funding cuts and resulting cost-shift to States would be very large.’’

No. 3, ‘‘Such a block grant would push states to cut their Medicaid programs deeply.’’

The last two are as follows: ‘‘Medicaid is already efficient and innovative.’’ That is true. We don’t talk about that enough, but it is true.

The last headline is ‘‘A Medicaid block grant would lead to draconian cuts to eligibility, benefits, and provider payment rates.’’ What they didn’t mention there is that cuts to Medicaid would profoundly harm our communities and in their States because of the opioid crisis. It is everywhere. It is urban, rural, and suburban. It is everywhere, and it is devastating. We have never seen a public health problem like that in this country. It is at least not anything worse than it. It is a problem in Pennsylvania, and it is a problem in every State, as I am sure the Presiding Officer would agree. Yet here is the part they don’t talk about. Sometimes the same people say, ‘I really am worried about the opioid crisis, and I want to do the following to help people who are in the grip of that addiction, and I want to institute a program or provide funding or otherwise,’ and that is wonderful when they have that initiative. Yet, at the same time, Members of Congress, in the next breath, will say, ‘But I want to block grant Medicaid’ or ‘I want to cut or cap Medicaid’ or ‘We need to cut back on what we spend on Medicaid,’ and they vote for budget after budget after budget and bill after bill to cut Medicaid.

What do you think is the No. 1 payer when it comes to the opioid crisis, the primary payer for opioid treatment and recovery? You guessed it—Medicaid. If you are going to go down this road and talk about this program as if it were some far-off program for them, for someone else, you should look in the mirror because Medicaid is an ‘us’ program, not a ‘them’ program and not a program for some far away. It is for our neighbors. It is for our friends if they have opioid addictions and can only get treatment and services mostly because of Medicaid expansion—actually, as part of the Affordable Care Act.

Medicaid itself, the core program, of course, is a program that makes sure that a child has healthcare. Even if he is of low income and his mom or his dad or the person taking care of him is not working and doesn’t have employer coverage, he gets the benefit of Medicaid. Guess what. When that low-income child gets Medicaid, we all benefit. That child is more likely to grow up healthy, and he or she will be more productive and will be a stronger part of our economy. So Medicaid for low-income children or children from low-income families helps all of us. It doesn’t just help that child. It is not just help that is the right thing to do, but it is also very practical.

Medicaid helps people with disabilities whether they have profound disabilities or otherwise. They have to be eligible for it based upon their disabilities, but we have made a decision that that is a good thing to do for that individual and for society. The same is true of people making decisions about a loved one’s going into long-term care and having to sell one’s assets, and there is usually a big gap after one spends down. Middle-class families—sometimes people above middle class—spend down. They can’t afford the cost of nursing home care, and the State says the Federal Government says: We want to help you.

That is why Medicaid is so critical to nursing homes. If you look at the dollars spent, it would not be entirely inaccurate to say that Medicaid is a nursing home program with help for children and people with disabilities as well.

I am just putting the administration on notice that if it wants to continue to pursue this, we are going to have a big fight about it, and it is a fight that will go on for a long time. It will go on in the courts. We will litigate it on this floor. We will litigate it in committees and fight about it in the House and in the Senate. We will fight in the streets of our States, and we will do it for a long time until we win because we have other things to do to lift people up around here. We have to do more on healthcare—lower the cost of healthcare, lower the cost of prescription drugs—and make sure that these programs work well. We don’t have time for throwing millions of people off of healthcare or tens of millions off of healthcare. There is a broad, bipartisan consensus on a whole range of things we could do on healthcare. That is why we should work on it.

The administration, if it is doing the right thing, would abandon these reckless, extreme ideas on Medicaid and join us—join both parties in both Houses—in trying to do something positive and constructive and American on healthcare. I don’t think it is American to say to a child, ‘Yes, you had Medicaid before, but we couldn’t afford it. You are not going to have healthcare any longer’ or to say that to someone with a disability or to a senior.

If the administration wants to fight, we are going to be ready to fight, and
we will punch hard in that fight—figuratively speaking, of course. We will fight every minute of every day against this.
I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow. Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:10 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 16, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named air national guard of the United States officer for appointment in the reserve of the air force to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12200 and 12212.

To be brigadier general

BRIG. GEN. PAUL J. ROCK, JR. BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH F. SHADBOLT BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN D. BRINK

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be lieutenant colonel

SALIEH P. DAGHER JAMAIL K. EVANS JOHN N. MIRELES NEVILLE A. WELCH

IN THE ARMY

The following named army national guard of the United States officer for appointment in the reserve of the army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12200 and 12212.

To be brigadier general

BRIG. GEN. ROBERT D. HARTER

The following named officers for appointment in the reserve of the army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. DAVID W. LING

COL. JOSEPH P. DIETENSKY

COL. ROYDANT J. FISCHER

IN THE NAVY

The following named officers for appointment in the United States navy to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) RONNY L. JACKSON

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be brigadier general

COL. DAVID NATHANSON

COL. LEONARD P. ANDERSON IV COL. WILLIAM R. SOUZA III

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be general

BRIG. GEN. JULIAN D. ALFORD BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL A. CEDERLOM BRIG. GEN. DENNIS A. CRAW BRIG. GEN. KAYLYN W. CRANDALL BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM M. JURNEY BRIG. GEN. TRACY W. KING BRIG. GEN. CHRISTOPHER J. MARONEY BRIG. GEN. GREGORY L. MASHELLO BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN M. NEARY BRIG. GEN. AUSTIN R. RENFORTH

BRIG. GEN. PAUL J. ROCK, JR. BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH F. SHADBOLT BRIG. GEN. STEPHEN D. BRINK

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Marine corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be brigadier general

COL. MARCUS B. ANNABALE COL. MELVIN D. CARTER COL. ROBERT C. FULFORD COL. DANIEL Q. GREENWOOD COL. JOSEPH A. MATOS III COL. JASON L. MORFIN COL. THOMAS S. SAVAGE COL. DANIEL L. SHIPLEY COL. JAMES R. WELLONS COL. BRIAN N. WOLFORD

The following named officers for appointment to the grade indicated in the United States Marine corps under title 10, U.S.C., section 842.

To be lieutenant colonel


CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
January 15, 2019
Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor outgoing Merced NAACP President Darryl Davis. Mr. Davis’s tenure as president and his various leadership roles highlight his distinguished lifetime of public service and commitment to serving our community.

Mr. Davis began his decades of service to the greater Merced community in 1987 when he was stationed at Castle Air Force Base. After his time in the military and graduation from the Criminal Justice Training Center (Police Academy) at Modesto Junior College, Mr. Davis began his career in law enforcement. Throughout his career, he worked in multiple capacities with the Merced County Sheriff’s and District Attorney’s Offices and then as an officer at UC Merced. In each of these roles and in his current job as a fraud investigator with Merced County, Mr. Davis has served with distinction and exhibited strong professionalism, leadership, and integrity, which have made him a well-respected member of the community.

Having been a member of the NAACP for many years, Mr. Davis was sworn in as the Merced branch president in 2015 and has since used his unique perspective gained throughout his career to further the NAACP’s mission to ensure equal rights and eliminate race-based discrimination. During his four years as president, Mr. Davis has continued to build the organization’s membership and relationships to further educate others about the social issues facing our country and community, including topics such as the effects of gangs and incarceration on minority youths, police encounters, and lawful protests.

Mr. Davis has exhibited the same level of commitment, integrity, and professionalism during his time as the local NAACP president that he has had during his law enforcement career. The unique perspective he has as a police officer, combined with his ability to bring people together and desire to help others have undoubtedly had a positive impact on the greater Merced community.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring a man who has made significant contributions to our country and community through his distinguished career and extensive civic involvement. It is both fitting and appropriate that we honor Darryl Davis and wish him the best as he concludes his term as president of the Merced NAACP branch.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 30.

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, due to circumstances outside of my control, I was unable to be present for this vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 28.

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the incredible work Barbara Plante has done for the United States Air Force and Luke Air Force Base in my home district. Barbara is retiring this month after an incredibly distinguished career serving our country. She has served the Air Force for 35 years, including 26 of those years at Luke Air Force Base.

Currently, Barbara serves as the Deputy Director of the Community Initiatives Team at Luke Air Force Base. She was on the public affairs team for Luke Air Force Base from 1995 until 2013, except for when she was deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 and 2012. During those years, she welcomed local officials to the base, educated the public, and helped Luke Air Force Base with recruitment. In 2013, she transitioned from public affairs to help lead the Community Initiatives Team, where she learned and concentrated on state laws and zoning.

Luke Air Force Base is home to one of the largest fighter wings in the world, the 56th Fighter Wing, in the middle of a growing metropolitan area. The Air Force strives for safe and supportive environments around its bases, leading to Luke Air Force Base’s creation of the Community Initiatives Team in 2003. While not every base has one, Barbara’s leadership has demonstrated how successful they can be. She has been essential to the base and the 56th Fighter Wing’s success.

Barbara has built tremendous support for the base in West Valley. Her commitment to educating city officials, real estate professionals, politicians and residents about the state laws restricting development around the base and why they are important has helped secure Luke Air Force Base’s future for years to come. As of 2017, the base supports approximately 15,070 jobs, $923 million in wages, and $2.4 billion in direct and indirect economic impact to Arizona.

Barbara’s warm personality and desire to build and maintain strong relationships has helped her successfully manage the growth at Luke Air Force Base and the surrounding community. Her team works with 11 cities, Arizona state government and the federal government. Her efforts have seen direct results, including how our surrounding cities work together for the greater good of the community and the base. Barbara’s work has created a fantastic and trusting relationship between our communities and Luke Air Force Base.

Barbara’s great achievements reflect her selfless dedication to serving our community in Arizona. Her passion for Luke Air Force Base and her devotion to her work for the Air Force has opened many doors for the base. It is an honor to be among the many in congratulating her on this most worthy accomplishment. I wish her my sincerest congratulations and hope her well-earned retirement is filled with good health and much happiness.

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor the service and sacrifice of home-town hero and Medal of Honor recipient PFC Garfield M. Langhorn.

PFC Langhorn served as a radio operator with Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Aviation Brigade, when his unit

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Gregory J. Lucien Sr., a native of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mr. Lucien was raised in the 9th ward in New Orleans. He graduated from George Washington Carver Sr. High School. After completing high school, he moved to Lafayette, Louisiana to attend the University of Southwestern Louisiana (USL), which is now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. While attending USL, he enlisted in the United States Army Reserve. In 1990 he returned to New Orleans. Upon his return, he was hired by the Orleans Parish Sheriffs office, where he has been employed for twenty-eight years.

In 1991, Mr. Lucien was activated to serve in Operation Desert Storm. Upon completion of his duty he again returned to New Orleans and the Sheriff’s office. He was promoted to Sergeant within three years and then to Lieutenant.

Mr. Lucien was eager to make an impact in his community. He joined the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. In 2009, he became an associate member and the next year became a full member. Once in the Zulu club, he joined the Ambassador’s Krewe. Additionally, he joined the Safety, Election, Carnival Activities and the Coronation Committees.

Mr. Lucien is an avid sports fan and was not fulfilled watching sports on television, therefore, he decided to become a high school referee. In 2012, he became a football referee for the Louisiana High School Officials Association (LHSOA) and in 2013 a basketball referee for LHSOA.

Mr. Lucien has been married to the 1991 Zulu Ambassadress, Talana M. Suarez-Lucien, for 19 years. Their loving family consist of three children—Jasmine, Tayler, and Gregory Jr.—and their first grandchild, Jaxon.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Gregory J. Lucien Sr.

Mr. WILSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Gordon Pearce, a Coloradan, veteran, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who recently passed away.

Mr. Pearce was born in Kokomo, Indiana and later joined the U.S. Navy. As a member of the U.S. Navy, Mr. Pearce served this country for nearly three decades, bravely defending American freedoms during World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. After his military service, he sailed for 20 years as a civilian as a Radio Electronics Officer in the U.S. Merchant Marines. Throughout all his years of serving his country, he had the opportunity to visit over five continents and 70 countries. One of his favorite pastimes was sharing old stories of his travels with family and friends.

Not only did Mr. Pearce have a fulfilling professional life, but a rich personal life. He is survived by his loving wife Ruth Anne, who he was married to for 49 years. He also left behind his son Jeff Pearce, daughter Julie Powell, brother-in-law John York, grandchildren Scott Pearce, Elizabeth Atwood, Christopher Powell, and great-granddaughter Abigail Atwood. Of all his accomplishments, he enjoyed being around the ones he loved the most.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and admiration that I take this time to honor Mr. Ronald Powell and to wish him well upon his retirement from his position as president of Local 881, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union, and as vice president of the UFCW International. Ron has devoted his life to the working men and women of the UFCW, and for his unwavering dedication, he is to be commended. Mr. Powell will be honored at a retirement celebration taking place at Gibbons Bar & Steakhouse in Oak Brook, Illinois, on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

In 1961, Ronald Powell began his career for Local 881 when he was hired as a field representative. Due to his hard work and commitment, Ron was promoted to field staff supervisor in 1968, and went on to become vice president/director of field operations in 1973. His career continued to thrive, and in 1983, Mr. Powell became president of Local 881. In addition, he served as vice president of the UFCW International. Currently, Ron serves as vice president of the Illinois AFL-CIO and is a trustee for the UFCW Midwest Pension and Benefits Fund. Throughout his successful career, Mr. Powell fought for the rights of union members and American workers. Under his direction, Local 881 has become a progressive leader on behalf of its members in the areas of work-site representation, membership services, benefits, communication, and activities.

In addition to his successful career, Ron has dedicated much of his time and efforts to charitable endeavors for organizations including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Jackson Park Hospital, Little City Foundation, and United Way of Illinois, to name a few. Mr. Powell’s dedication to the community and his career is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. Ron and his beloved late wife, Lois, have four amazing children, twelve grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Ronald Powell for his outstanding contributions to Local 881, and to the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) International Union. Throughout my career, Ron has been a tireless advocate for working people and an even better friend. For his lifetime of leadership and tireless dedication to his community, Ron is worthy of the highest praise, and I wish him well upon his retirement.

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize William Gordon Pearce, a Coloradan, veteran, father, grandfather and great-grandfather who recently passed away.

Mr. Pearce was born in Kokomo, Indiana and later joined the U.S. Navy. As a member of the U.S. Navy, Mr. Pearce served this country for nearly three decades, bravely defending American freedoms during World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam. After his military service, he sailed for 20 years as a civilian as a Radio Electronics Officer in the U.S. Merchant Marines. Throughout all his years of serving his country, he had the opportunity to visit over five continents and 70 countries. One of his favorite pastimes was sharing old stories of his travels with family and friends.

Not only did Mr. Pearce have a fulfilling professional life, but a rich personal life. He is survived by his loving wife Ruth Anne, who he was married to for 49 years. He also left behind his son Jeff Pearce, daughter Julie Powell, brother-in-law John York, grandchildren Scott Pearce, Elizabeth Atwood, Christopher Powell, and great-granddaughter Abigail Atwood. Of all his accomplishments, he enjoyed being around the ones he loved the most.
HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated woman of God, great wife, steadfast mother, and friend of longstanding, Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier. She passed away on December 27, 2018. Her funeral service was held on Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 11 am at the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier was born on October 22, 1926, in Columbus, Georgia to the union of Cleola Daniel Brown and John Brown, Sr. She gave her life to Christ and was baptized at an early age at Rosehill Memorial Baptist Church. From that time on, God continued to be the center of her life until her passing. She served as the Sunday School Superintendent and Church Clerk at Rosehill before moving her membership to the Fourth Street Missionary Baptist Church in 1957. Her first pastor at Fourth Street was the late Reverend Henry Harris. Mrs. Collier paved the way for others as she was the first Church Secretary at Fourth Street. She was a natural and gifted leader as she served in a variety of leadership positions at Fourth Street to include the Deacon’s Wives (she served as Chairman for two terms), PICCM Community Leader in Zebulon Community, Women’s Day Speaker, 1961, Chairperson of Program and Pastoral Relations Committee, and was the Roast and Toast Honoree n 1996.

Mrs. Collier was the epitome of a great wife and mother. She married the late Deacon Samuel Lee Collier on April 26, 1950. God blessed this union for many years until Deacon Collier’s untimely death on May 27, 1984. Six children were born to this union to include two sets of twins: Bernice Collier Collins, Bernard Collier (deceased), Agnes Collier Averett, Samuel Lee Collier, Jr., Michelle Collier McClain, and Michael Collier. Fred Rogers once said that, “It’s not so much what you have in life that matters, It’s what we do with what we have.” Mrs. Collier did a lot for others with what she had. In addition to her own children, she served as a mother figure to her siblings and countless others she found in need of guidance and a helping hand.

Former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm once said that, “Service is the rent that we pay for the space that we occupy here on this earth.” Mrs. Collier paid her rent and she paid it well. She served in a variety of community organizations to include: Electric City Chapter 482 of the Order of the Eastern Stars (Worthy Matron), Spencer High Alumni (Class of 1943), and she was a Muscogee County Board of Elections Voting Precinct Manager and she traveled to various state conventions to further her knowledge of the voting process. She was also an entrepreneur and a photographer. Her professional career took her to the Medical Center, the Area Mental Health Clinic, and the Enrichment Services Program. Her benevolence extended throughout the community and she often used her influence and networking to help others to find gainful employment.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the more than 730,000 constituents of the Second District of Georgia, salute and honor the life of Mrs. Johnnie Lee Brown Collier. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to Mrs. Collier’s family during this 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 JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF STEVE KOZISEK’S RETIREMENT

HON. LIZ CHENEY
OF WYOMING
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Johnson County Sheriff Steve Kozisek on his retirement.

Sheriff Kozisek retired after 46 years of dedicated service for the people of Wyoming. After serving his country in the U.S. Army, Sheriff Kozisek began his distinguished career as a police officer in his hometown of Newcastle, Wyoming. Having served as Johnson County Sheriff for 16 years, Sheriff Kozisek has decided to lay down his badge and his gun and pursue a quiet retirement spending time with his wife and grandchildren.

The people of Johnson County are incredibly proud of Sheriff Kozisek and grateful for his decades of service. Again, Madam Speaker, I wish to extend my sincere congratulations to Sheriff Kozisek on his retirement and I thank him for his dedication to service and helping others, including the Johnson County Sheriff that make the state of Wyoming great.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES R. BAIRD
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Speaker, due to weather-related transportation issues beyond my control, I was unable to vote on January 14, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 30.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CRAIG M. STEPHENS

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Craig M. Stephens, age 74, who passed away peacefully at his home on August 28, 2018, surrounded by his family.

Craig was born in Columbus, Kansas in 1944, the son of two teachers. After moving to Ohio in 1956, he attended Kent State University High School before graduating from Kent State University in 1968. Craig was actively involved in student government. He was elected as the first Student Body President at Kent State University in 1968.

After graduation, Craig enlisted in the U.S. Army and served as Special-Agent Military Intelligence for 3 years. Following his honorable discharge, Craig enrolled in Akron University Law School where he began his career in the law offices of Giulitto and Dickinson and graduated in 1973. Soon after, he started his own private practice where he represented the rights of the working class specializing in criminal law. Craig was well respected throughout the region as an intelligent, straight shooting attorney who always told it like it is. Beyond his practice though, Craig volunteered his time and expertise to organizations such as the NAACP, Boys & Girls Club, NEOCAP, Juvenile Detention Center, Portage County Community Action Council, and Waterloo School District. Until his death, Craig continued to selflessly serve his community as the Chairman of the Portage County Democratic Party and Member and Chairman of the Portage County Board of Elections.

Over 50 years of service, Craig played a critical role in the campaigns of over 60 local, state and national officials turning Portage County into a stronghold for the Democratic Party with his labeled “green machine” featuring his candidates’ signature green political signs. Labeled the “King Maker”, Craig was known for challenging the Democratic establishment and introducing new candidates into the party. Over the same time period, Craig took similar pride turning the family property in Randolph from an old farm into a showpiece that held every County Democratic Picnic since the early 1990s, numerous wedding and birthday celebrations and kid’s camping overnights. He could typically be found working in his barn or out operating equipment, most recently joined by his grandson, Xavier, who liked nothing more than working on equipment with his Grandpa.

Craig was married to the love of his life and his better half, Ruth (Enlow), for 42 years. Together they have two children, Justin Stephens and Samantha (Hank) Stephens/Brooks; and two grandchildren, Xavier and
Simone. Craig is survived by his sisters, Sylvia (Pete) Klas of Minnesota, and Pam Valentine of Ravenna; nephews Matt (Ashley) and Rob Valentine and Paul (Angela) Klas and numerous family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Adalyn Stephens and his brother, Chuck Stephens.

Craig Stephens leaves a lasting impact. I know he is dearly missed by his family and the entire community. I extend my deepest and sincerest condolences.

HOw TO THE LIFE OF STEPHEN STRANAHAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Stephen Stranahan, an outstanding, accomplished, and uniquely generous lifelong citizen of the Toledo area. A veteran, civic leader, and philanthropist who never forgot his roots. He persevered in uplifting the economic, civic, and cultural life of our region.

Steve was born on May 3, 1934 to Virginia Secor Stranahan and Duane Stranahan, Sr. His father was the only child of Frank D. Stranahan, who with his brother R.A. Stranahan, Sr., formed the Champion Spark Plug Co. The product was regarded as the finest in the world during its time, and its dependability contributed to U.S. victory in World War II. Steve’s mother grew up in the Old West End, her father a Toledo resident since the 1850s and a prominent banker. She helped found the Junior League of Toledo and the League of Women Voters in Perrysburg.

Steve attended Maumee Valley Country Day School, Brooks School in North Andover, and Dartmouth College, where he majored in music.

He served as a specialist in the 107th Armored Cavalry Regiment of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Steve’s first job was in the marketing department of the legendary Champion Spark Plug and where he worked his way up to serve as the director of the company.

An entrepreneurial, creative business leader, he found an opportunity to buy a small airport at Telegraph and Alexis roads, National Airport, and operated National Flight Services, which later moved to Toledo Express Airport as a fixed-base operator. He became a dealer of Beechcraft airplanes, tracing his affinity for flight back to his father, who was a pioneer of Champion Spark Plug and where he worked his way up to serve as the director of the company.

Throughout the 1960s, Steve took the mantra of community wide leadership and became a rising civic leader, serving as president of Downtown Toledo Associates, the Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce, and Civic Pride Inc., which owned the Toledo Blades hockey team.

In 1964, he, along with Ned Skeldon, Willard I. Webb III, and Henry Morse, arranged for the return of the minor league baseball team—the Mud Hens—to Toledo.

Steve joined Paul Block, Jr., Ned Skeldon, and Thomas Anderson to form Clear Water Inc. to campaign for cleaning up the Lake Erie watershed. His firm, Riverview One, erected Fiberglas Tower in downtown Toledo and he was a leader in Arrowhead Park, a Maumee business development.

A pianist himself, he took his love of music and applied it to the Toledo Symphony, an institution his paternal grandmother, Marie Ce- leste Stranahan, helped to found. Having served as a long-time board member and president of the Toledo Symphony, he stressed financial prudence and Steve and his wife were recognized in 2015 by the Toledo Symphony for their stewardship of the institution.

Steve’s overarching influence was most impactful on the University of Toledo, having served as chairman of the Board of Trustees and as chairman of the University of Toledo Foundation trustees. His insistence on having an endowment fund set up for the University and his leadership through much of the institutional growth helped transform the University of Toledo from a municipal school to a state university.

Toledo has been blessed with his life as a rare leader. Though an “Ivy League” success story, he dedicated his substance to the advancement of life for all in the Toledo area.

Steve will ultimately be remembered for his dedication not only to his family, but the family of greater Toledo. On behalf of a grateful community, please let me offer his wife Ann Anderson Stranahan, his children Frances Parry, Abbot Stranahan Ward, Stephen “Josh” Stranahan and Daniel Stranahan, his eight grandchildren and great-grandson, his sister Mary Stranahan and brothers Michael, George, and Duane “Pat” Stranahan, Jr., and his many friends and associates our prayers and hope that they find comfort in the wonderful memories and lasting accomplishments of Steve, and of his inspirational role in bettering our way of life. His legacy lives on.

HOw TO THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FATHER JEROME LEDoux

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Father Jerome LeDoux, a beloved Catholic priest who pastored St. Augustine Catholic Church in New Orleans. Father LeDoux passed away on Monday, January 7, 2019 at the age of 88.

Father LeDoux was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, in 1930. He attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and at the age of 13, he traveled to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, to attend high school at St. Augustine Seminary. This was the only seminary in the nation that trained African-American men for the priesthood. His spiritual training continued in Illinois and Iowa, and he returned to St. Augustine Seminary for further study.

Father LeDoux was ordained to the Catholic priesthood on May 11, 1957. Following ordination, he studied in Rome for five years in Rome, where he earned a master’s degree in sacred theology and a doctorate in church law. He returned to St. Augustine Seminary in Mis- sissippi and taught theology and church law for six years. In 1969, he began teaching at Xavier University and continued in this role for more than a decade.

In 1981, Father LeDoux became pastor of St. Martin de Porres Church in Praire View, Texas. He moved back to Louisiana in 1984 to lead Baton Rouge’s St. Paul the Apostle Church. And in 1990, his 16-year pastorate began at St. Augustine Parish in New Orleans.

In 2006, Father LeDoux accepted an assignment from his order, the Society of Divine Word, to become pastor of Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Fort Worth, Texas. Since 1969, Father LeDoux would write a weekly column entitled “Reflections on Life,” syndicated in several Catholic weeklies, Louisiana Weekly in New Orleans, and Seacoast Echo in Bay St. Louis.

Father LeDoux loved the city and the people of New Orleans. His legacy will forever be a part of the city and his dedication to community embodies the spirit of New Orleans. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Father LeDoux, but surely, we can try to match his sense of service. We cannot match his courage, but we can strive to match his devotion.

Father LeDoux survivor’s include a sister and two brothers.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Father Jerome LeDoux.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB GIBBS
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. GIBBS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend votes on January 14th due to a doctors appointment in my home state of Ohio. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 30.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE

HON. DAVID P. ROE
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. ROE. Madam Speaker, today I join in paying tribute to the sesquicentennial of my hometown of Johnson city, Tennessee.

The City of Johnson City was founded in Northeast Tennessee, where three railroads—East Tennessee and Western North Carolina Railroad, Clinchfield Railroad, and Southern Railroad—converged, holding its first election on Jan. 3, 1870, with 60 registered voters.

Voters elected entrepreneur Henry Johnson, owner of Johnson’s Depot, to serve as the City’s first mayor. The City charter defined the city limits as being the area within a half-mile radius of Johnson’s Depot, the city’s first commercial business. Johnson’s Depot operated as a railway depot, freight station, and post office, and also served as a hotel, restaurant, and store.

The Watauga Tannery, the city’s first major industry, was established in November 1883 covering 130 acres and employing as many as 300 men. Today, Johnson City boasts a diverse economy led by healthcare and education.

The Mountain Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers opened in 1903. Now known as the James H. Quillen VA
On roll call vote 26, had I been present, I would have voted "YAY."

On roll call vote 27, had I been present, I would have voted "YEA."

On roll call vote 28, had I been present, I would have voted "YEA."

On roll call vote 29, had I been present, I would have voted "YEA."

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, January 11, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 24, the Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019. Saturday marked the longest federal government shutdown in history. It is true that we have been able to get back pay for federal employees who were furloughed or who worked without pay for every shutdown in recent history. However, Congress has acted not out of the kindness of its heart with respect to workers who worked without pay; we acted because, under the Constitution, specifically the Fifth and Thirteenth Amendments, people cannot be made to work without compensation, particularly if they are federal employees. That would be a constitutional violation, and Congress knows it, and that is why we provide back pay to those employees who are forced to work during a shutdown without pay. We must also protect those who were not allowed to work during the shutdown, but, nevertheless, still incurred all their normal living expenses. We cannot be sure that the necessary appropriations will be forthcoming, especially in a government where one party controls both the Presidency and the Congress has acted not out of the kindness of its heart with respect to workers who worked without pay; we acted because, under the Constitution, specifically the Fifth and Thirteenth Amendments, people cannot be made to work without compensation, particularly if they are federal employees. That would be a constitutional violation, and Congress knows it, and that is why we provide back pay to those employees who are forced to work during a shutdown without pay. We must also protect those who were not allowed to work during the shutdown, but, nevertheless, still incurred all their normal living expenses. We cannot be sure that the necessary appropriations will be forthcoming, especially in a government where one party controls both the Presidency and the Senate. The Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019, guaranteeing back pay, is an essential safeguard that federal employees are due.

At the same time, furloughed federal contract employees perform the same, if not more, jobs as federal employees, are not being paid. Therefore, I have introduced a bill that would grant back pay to low-wage federally contracted retail, food, custodial and security service workers who are furloughed during the current and any other federal government shutdown this fiscal year (fiscal year 2019). Polls have consistently shown that Americans oppose this shutdown and are anxious for the president and for Congress to get on with the essential tasks of governing. The Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019 will operate as an IOU to federal employees who deserve no less, but, indeed, much more.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DONALD F. GUERRA

HON. TIM RYAN
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my cousin Donald F. Guerra, age 73, who passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 13, 2018, at the Hospice of The Valley Hospice House in Poland. Donnie was the life of our family parties. He was the family member who remembered and told all the best family stories. He captured the love and humor of our Italian immigrant family. He treated our family and was always there for all of us. He helped on my first campaigns by getting family and friends to ride their motorcycles in local parades wearing my campaign tee shirts. He was a staunch Democrat and a Union man through and through. He was born February 11, 1945, in Warren, Ohio to Fabian and Rita Bologna Guerra. He graduated from Niles McKinley High School in 1964 and following that, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona, Florida. Upon completing his university studies, Don was employed as a journeyman pipe fitter at WCI, Thomas Steel and Delphi Packard and retired in 2000. He also owned and operated Guerra’s Dental Lab in Youngstown for 10 years and was a flight instructor for 50 years. Don was a United States Army veteran, serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam for 13 months and then returning to the United States to serve at NORAD in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex.

He was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Niles and a Trumbull County Democratic Precinct Committee Member. Don was an avid Green Bay Packers and New York Yankees fan and enjoyed golfing, riding his motorcycle, spending time with his granddaughters.

He will be sadly missed by his wife, Donna Stabile Guerra, whom he married November 23, 1972; his son Donald Guerra and his wife Andria and their children Sophia and Gabriella of Niles; David Guerra and his wife Cathy, and their children Macey and Anna of McDonald; a brother Fabian Guerra, Jr. and his wife Nancy of Pasadena, Maryland; a sister Nina Miller and her husband Jim of Amelia Island, Florida; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

He will miss Cooge. Life just won’t be the same without him.

HON. JARED F. GOLDEN
OF MAINE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. GOLDEN. Madam Speaker, due to the inclement weather, my flight to Washington, D.C. was delayed and I was unable to vote on January 14, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 30.

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Alsie R. Dunbar, a lifelong resident and native of Gonzales, Louisiana who served tirelessly and with dedication to her community should inspire us all. Ms. Dunbar is the daughter of Allen “Jubilee” and Rhonda Dunbar. Her mother,
Rhonda, a retired librarian with the Ascension Parish School Board with 40 years of service. Her father, Allen, is a retired professional football player. Ms. Dunbar is a dual-service. Her father, Allen, is a retired professional football player. Ms. Dunbar mentors girls who excel in math and science and encourages them to pursue careers and advanced degrees in STEM majors where women and minorities are underrepresented.

This program has mentored more than 650 girls in conjunction with the Ascension Parish School Board, with six participants receiving Student of the Year distinctions. The program has since expanded to several surrounding parishes including Iberville, St. Helena, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist and East Baton Rouge.

In addition to recently being selected to be a part of the 2019 Baton Rouge Area Chamber’s Leadership Class and the highly competitive Greater Baton Rouge Business Report’s Executive Leadership Academy, Ms. Dunbar was appointed to serve on the Regional Council for STAR (Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response) and the Advisory Board for Emerge Louisiana. The 2017 LSU Esprit de Femme Honorolee was also selected to serve on the 2018 LSU Esprit de Femea Honorary Chair this past Spring for her continued professional accolades and community endeavors.

Ms. Dunbar also serves on the executive Board of Directors for the Ascension Fund, Volunteer Ascension, the Louisiana Coalition for Healthier Communities, APEX STEM College Academy, the chartering chapter of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women for Metropolitan Baton Rouge, and the Arc of Ascension.

During Ms. Dunbar’s tenure as President-Elect for the Arc of Ascension, she was instrumental in helping the Arc raise over $100,000 last year for its annual Dancing for a Cause fundraiser.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the work that Ms. Alsis R. Dunbar has done to make her community a better place.

Dissenting Views to the Activity Report of the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the U.S. House of Representatives for the One Hundred Fifteenth Congress (Activity Report). The Activity Report, which was filed by the Republican majority on January 2, 2019, should have included these dissenting views, however, they were not included. I am taking this action to ensure that the House Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats can exercise their right under House Rule XI to submit these dissenting views. These views are made part of the official House record.

House Rule XI gives the majority party authority and the responsibility for setting our committee’s agenda and to determine which jurisdictional areas and matters (and the extent to which) they are made part of the official House record.

The Energy and Commerce Committee marked up and reported out important bipartisan legislation in the 115th Congress, like H.R. 6, H.R. 304, H.R. 931, H.R. 1320, H.R. 2430, H.R. 2345, H.R. 3367, H.R. 5333, and H.R. 6378. Each of these bills was considered pursuant to regular order at every major legislative stage and should be seen as being displays of some of our greater legislative accomplishments.

We would have been more successful as a committee if the Congress had our Republican majorities believed in and followed regular order more consistently. Regular order was nowhere to be found at the beginning of the 115th Congress. Republican House leaders and committee chairs exiled regular order at the start of the 115th Congress on their party’s promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act as soon as possible after assuming unified government following the 2016 Presidential and federal elections.

Less than two months from the Committee’s organization at the beginning of 2017, our Committee’s Republican majority hurriedly noticed for full committee markup a draft print, titled the American Health Care Act (AHCA). The AHCA was subsequently introduced and numbered as H.R. 1628. As we noted in our Minority Views to that bill’s legislative report that accompanied it to the House floor:

Despite the wide-ranging, serious implications of this legislation for the health and financial security of all Americans, the Committee did not dwell on the details and effect of the legislation. Notably, stakeholders have not had the ability to weigh in on the impacts of the bill to the health care system the Committee received letters from hospitals, doctors, and patient and advocacy groups outlining the significant concerns with the legislation. Additionally, despite Speaker Ryan’s claims that the bill would be considered through regular order and through a transparent process, the repeal bill was drafted in secret and introduced less than two days before markup.

The minority is deeply concerned by the decision to proceed to markup without first receiving the CBO score on the impact of this legislation on health insurance coverage, costs, and the federal budget.

This exercise, which signaled that Committee Republicans might apply regular order sporadically and unpredictably, set the tone for the 115th Congress.

Bills that the Republican majority chose not to put through regular order were appreciably more partisan and controversial. These included H.R. 1628 and other troublesome bills to change the Clean Power Plan, other bills to amend the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulations and standards. Other Republican practices reflected in legislation acted on by the Committee, which Democrats saw and opposed, included attacks on funding and programs that promote and protect Democratic priorities, such as the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

Committee Democrats also took issue at times with bills that relied on weak justifications and policies to support Congressional action, change, or clarification to existing statutes and federal programs that would weaken environmental and consumer health, public safety, and privacy protections. These legislative measures implemented policies and amended regulations to create loopholes and other compliance safe harbors. Our Republican majority acted on legislation that rolled back environmental and other consumer health and safety protections by moving further into the future well-noticed compliance deadlines for EPA new source performance standards applying to new residential wood and hydronic heaters and forced-air furnaces as well as national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants for brick and structural clay products and clay ceramics manufacturing and power plants using coal refuse facilities under the Clean Air Act. While some of these bills and amendments were intended to provide more legal and operational certainty to industry; a good deal of them extended more regulatory relief than needed to properly balance the respective interests of all actors and stakeholders.

The Committee appropriately exercised its jurisdictional discretion and prerogatives at times to convene very important oversight hearings. For example, the Republican majority conducted formal oversight to raise critically important questions about Facebook’s data protection and security practices and policies, and why those practices were insufficient to prohibit and prevent Cambridge Analytica from collecting and using Facebook user and other platform data to influence 2016 Presidential election voters. The Republican majority, however, suppressed its oversight duties and responsibilities to call more fervently upon the Trump Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to appear before the Committee and explain its role in relation to the Administration’s “zero tolerance” policy. As a result, the Ranking Member of the Committee, Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr., introduced H. Res. 982, a resolution of inquiry (RoI), requesting President Trump and directing the Secretary of HHS to transmit certain information and records to the House of Representatives relating to the separation of children from their parents or guardians in connection with the President’s “zero tolerance” policy.

In his dissenting views to the report covering the Committee’s RoI proceeding, Ranking Member Pallone asserted that the Committee should have acted more quickly and decisively to understand and to give official views regarding the family border separation crisis.

My resolution of inquiry is ripe for action to . . . For better, far more than worse, family unification is vital to all of [us] as individuals and to our physical, mental, and social health and overall well-being. Regardless of one’s citizenship status or the country from which they are migrating to the United States, happy and stable families are undeniably essential to becoming and staying healthy. For that reason alone, separating children from
their families, regardless of whose policy it is or the objectives behind that policy, is suspect on its face and must be balanced by (our thorough) input, as a separate and co-equal branch of the federal government. Our Committee should not allow or tolerate further delay but this Administration in providing answers to our questions or soliciting our advice and reactions regarding this unabated crisis. In order to perform our sworn duties as elected representatives and leaders, we must convene an oversight hearing as soon as possible. For these reasons, H. Res. 982 should have been favorably reported.

While our Committee continued its important bipartisan traditions this Congress, in the 115th Congress the Republican majority failed to conduct any legitimate oversight of the Trump Administration, failing to hold them accountable for the cost of their policies to undermine critical health care, environmental and consumer protections. Republicans also failed to prioritize the lives of everyday Americans. Energy and Commerce Committee Democrats pursue policies that help everyday people by building a stronger economy, creating more good paying jobs, and protecting consumers from skyrocketing costs that make it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.
Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S187–S231

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 115–136, and S. Res. 18.

Measures Considered:

Strengthening America’s Security in the Middle East Act: Senate began 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.

Sanctions With Respect to the Russian Federation—Agreement: Senate began consideration of S. J. Res. 2, disapproving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation, after agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Prior to the consideration of this measure, Senate took the following action:

By 42 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 4), Senate failed to table the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution.

By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 5), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the joint resolution, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Tuesday, January 15, 2019, a vote on cloture will occur at 12:30 p.m., and if the motion to invoke cloture is not agreed to, the joint resolution be returned to the calendar.

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.
6 Army nominations in the rank of general.
26 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Marine Corps

Messages from the House:

Measures Referred:

Executive Communications:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Privileges of the Floor:

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—5)

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:10 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S227.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee began hearings to examine the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, after the nominee, who was introduced by former Senator Orrin G. Hatch, testified and answer questions in his own behalf, but did not complete action thereon.
Hearing recessed subject to the call and will meet again at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, January 16, 2019.

BUSINESS MEETING
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee adopted its rules of procedure for the 116th Congress.

INTELLIGENCE
Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community. Committee recessed subject to the call.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 36 public bills, H.R. 545–580; 1 private bill, H.R. 581; and 5 resolutions, H.J. Res. 29–30; and H. Res. 42, 44–45, were introduced.

Additional Cosponsors: Page H603

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H. Res. 43, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, and waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 116–2).

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Welch to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H547

Recess: The House recessed at 11:03 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. Page H554

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 42, electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. Page H556

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:


All-American Flag Act: H.R. 113, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; Pages H566–67


Rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy: H. Res. 41, rejecting White nationalism and White supremacy, by a 2⁄3 yea-and-nay vote of 424 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 32. Pages H572–78, H579–80

Suspensions: The House failed to agree to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:


Suspension—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Grant Reporting Efficiency and Agreements Transparency Act of 2019: H.R. 150, to modernize Federal grant reporting. Pages H569–72

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H556.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H578–79, H579–80, and H580. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:44 p.m.
Committee Meetings

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 268, the “Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 268. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–2, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that clause 2(e) of rule XXI shall not apply during consideration of the bill. The rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Committee report. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in this report, may be offered only by a Member designated in this report, shall be debatable for the time specified in this report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in this report. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule waives clause 6(a) of rule XIII (requiring a two-thirds vote to consider a rule on the same day it is reported from the Rules Committee) with respect to resolutions reported from the Rules Committee through the legislative day of January 23, 2019, making or continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. Testimony was heard from Chairman Lowey, and Representatives Granger, Garamendi, Dunn, González-Colón of Puerto Rico, Panetta, Graves of Louisiana, Mullin, and Westerman.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, to hold hearings to examine the future of nuclear power, focusing on advanced reactors, 2:30 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: organizational business meeting to consider committee rules for the 116th Congress, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Andrew Wheeler, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on the Judiciary: to continue hearings to examine the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 10 a.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: to hold hearings to examine fighting elder fraud, focusing on progress made and work to be done, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House

Committee on Rules. Full Committee, hearing on legislation on the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019, 3:45 p.m., H–313 Capitol.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Wednesday, January 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. J. Res. 2, Sanctions with Respect to the Russian Federation, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the joint resolution at 12:30 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
10 a.m., Wednesday, January 16

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of H.R. 268—Disaster Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2019 (Subject to a Rule).

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Baird, James R., Ind., E45
Bishop, Sanford D., Jr., Ga., E45
Carter, Earl L. "Buddy", Ga., E43
Cheney, Liz, Wyo., E45
Costa, Jim, Calif., E43
Duncan, Jeff, S.C., E43
Frankel, Lois, Fla., E47
Gibbs, Bob, Ohio, E46
Golden, Jared F., Me., E47
Granger, Kay, Tex., E48
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E46
Lesko, Debbie, Ariz., E43
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E47
Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E48
Richmond, Cedric L., La., E44, E46, E47
Roe, David P., Tenn., E46
Ryan, Tim, Ohio, E46, E47
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E44
Visclosky, Peter J., Ind., E44
Zeldin, Lee M., N.Y., E43

With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the Congressional Record.

The Congressional Record (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶ Public access to the Congressional Record is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the Congressional Record is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶ To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶ Following each session of Congress, the daily Congressional Record is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶ With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the Congressional Record.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, Congressional Record, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.