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No. 24

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 7, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEPHANIE N. MURPHY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### BIGOTRY AND POLICY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. I rise today, Madam Speaker, to take a stand for liberty and justice for all against bigotry and hatred.

I rise to call to our attention, Madam Speaker, that the refusal to resign because of blatant bigotry is a symptom, the refusal to resign when it is obvious, intuitively obvious to the most casual

observer, that there is the bigotry. The refusal to resign when there is clear and convincing evidence of bigotry, when there is guilt beyond all doubt, when there is a smoking gun, the refusal to resign under these circumstances is a symptom.

The problem is at the Presidential level. It is the refusal to take on a President who has exhibited bigotry in policy. When we allow bigotry in policy to proceed with immunity, we allow persons to believe that they, too, can emulate that which comes from the highest office in the land.

Madam Speaker, this level of bigotry in policy cannot be tolerated. You have, in Virginia, a Klansman and blackface next to each other in a yearbook. It has been acknowledged as that of the Governor.

With that acknowledgment and with that additional indication that it was done on a previous occasion, blackface, there is enough evidence not only to ask that the Governor resign, but to demand that he do so.

But I understand why this level of bigotry is going to be tolerated to a certain extent, because we don't want to take on the President. If we allow the President to exist with his bigotry, how can we demand with any degree of credibility that the Governor resign?

We have to start at the top. This level of bigotry is trickling down to this extent that people are going to refuse to acknowledge their bigotry. They will lie and deny. They will do all that they can to stay in office.

We have to take a stand, and I stand today to say that we cannot allow this incident to go unchecked. Because what will we do next when there is a Nazi standing in a photograph and there is a noose in a photograph, there are swastikas?

This is going to continue. It doesn't end with Virginia. This is but one symptom, and we have to do what we have always done.

It has been our policy when this level of bigotry surfaces, when it shows its ugly head, we take it on. There is a means by which we can deal with bigotry in policy, but if we allow political expediency—the belief that we ought to defeat a bigoted President—to trump the moral imperative to remove him from office, the moral imperative to impeach bigotry emanating in policy from the Presidency, we have a moral imperative to do so, and we can do so.

There is a committee that can convene to deal with bigotry emanating from the Presidency creating the symptoms that we see in others who refuse to leave office after their bigotry has been revealed. There is a committee that we can convene. That committee is called the Congress of the United States.

Any one Member of Congress can call to the attention of this august body that such thing has happened; and when it is called to this body's attention, we can take a vote, we can go on record.

Are we going to allow bigotry to emanate from the Presidency or will we go on record? I say we go on record.

I am one Member of Congress who, after 400 years of bigotry and hatred and slavery and all of these other ugly features and evidence of harm to society—forgive me for getting so wrapped up in it, but I have to say it. After all of this, for 400 years, it is time for Congress to take this vote.

We have had 400 years to deal with it, and we haven't. What better way to deal with bigotry in this country than to say to the world: We will extricate a President from office for his bigotry?

There will be a vote on impeachment, regardless of what the Mueller commission says.

Bigotry in policy will not be tolerated.

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

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H1395

## A BETTER POLICY TOWARD CUBA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, our policy toward Cuba should be one area where Democrats and Republicans can find common ground.

There are not many communist countries left, but let's consider that, when it came to the old Soviet bloc or China and Vietnam today, we have agreed on the basics. We all differ with their human rights practices, and we say so.

We stand up for our security interests. We cooperate when we can. We support trade and citizen contact because they are good for our economy and they increase our influence.

In this vein, let me praise a few Republicans:

President Nixon for the opening to China;

President Ford for the Helsinki Accords and the principle that people and information should flow freely across borders;

President Reagan for vastly expanding engagement with the Soviet Union and its people.

These are big achievements, none of them terribly controversial, but Cuba is an exception. Only with Cuba do we regulate our own citizens' contact. Only there do we have a trade embargo that limits trade and investment: six decades of embargo, a virtual lifetime of foreign policy failure.

President Trump clearly realized this as a candidate when he supported President Obama's opening to Cuba. It was a good idea to bring Cuba "into the fold," he said. Later, he changed his view.

Now, led by his White House staff, he wants to respond to Cuba's support for the Government of Venezuela by increasing U.S. economic sanctions against Cuba.

This is a mistake. It will do nothing to change Cuba's conduct; it will not improve the situation in Venezuela; and it will harm American interests.

Specifically, he is considering allowing title 3 of the Helms-Burton Act to go into effect. This will allow Americans who lost property in Cuba, including Cubans who later became U.S. citizens, to go to U.S. courts to seek damages—three times the value of their property—by suing Cuba, foreign, and even American companies whose businesses in Cuba today are connected to those properties.

The purpose, as the law's authors made clear in 1996, is to harm Cuba's economy by making it completely inhospitable for foreign investment.

Now, it is no mystery why Presidents Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump blocked title 3 from going into effect every 6 months for the past 23 years. It is hypocritical. It penalizes companies for doing what American companies do all over the world. It is contrary to international law, which recognizes the right of expropriation and requires compensation.

It is an extraterritorial sanction that guarantees a response from our trading partners, like Canada, Spain, and the EU, including complaints at the World Trade Organization.

And if you care about agriculture, be warned:

It will open a new front in the trade war, with all the repercussions that can bring;

It will allow Cuba to claim victim status and rally international support; It will clog our courts with lawsuits;

It will make it impossible to negotiate compensation for U.S. claims in Cuba and, in the end, hurt the very Americans who seek compensation for property they lost;

It will divide us from friends and allies who are now working for a peaceful solution in Venezuela; and

It will guarantee that new investment in Cuba will come from the Russians, Chinese, and others who are hostile to the United States and whose Stated-owned companies can't be sued in U.S. courts.

Once again, the U.S. will be pursuing a strategy that has failed over and over and over again for absolutely no good result.

Madam Speaker, there is a better way that deserves vocal, bipartisan support.

We should continue to press Cuba on human rights. With our Latin American and European allies, we should challenge Cuba to play a constructive role in resolving the crisis in Venezuela, as it did in the Colombian peace process.

There are positive changes in Cuba to support: There is growing Internet access, and there is more political space for Cuban citizens, a growing private sector that now accounts for a third of Cuba's labor force. And despite policies that limit contact, there are rich cultural, educational, and intellectual exchanges between Americans and Cuba.

Madam Speaker, we should follow President Trump's original instinct and allow Americans to do business with Cuba.

We should pass Congressman CRAWFORD's bill to increase the competitiveness of our agricultural exports to Cuba. There is no reason for us to have only a one-eighth market share of Cuba's \$2 billion in annual food imports.

We should finally end U.S. travel restrictions and allow all Americans to travel freely, as they choose, to Cuba. That would serve our values and our national interests, and it is a worthy cause in which Democrats and Republicans can join.

## FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I am here today for the people. We want an agreement to continue to keep the government open and working for the people.

We are just 8 days from once again having the possibility of having 800,000 workers, Federal employees—air traffic controllers, Border Patrol agents, Secret Service personnel, and many, many more—being furloughed or forced to work without pay. That is not for the people.

We saw how the 35-day-long government shutdown affected our constituents, our communities. We heard all the stories about the shutdown. We heard stories of cancer patients being forced to choose between treatment or paying their rent. We heard the stories of families, for the first time ever, being forced to turn to food banks and soup kitchens to eat. And the list goes on and on.

Madam Speaker, what we did here was, during the State of the Union Address, President Trump spoke about how we must "reject the politics of revenge, resistance, and retaliation." He needs to heed those words and live up to his promise: "... bridge old divisions, heal old wounds, build new coalitions, forge new solutions, and unlock the extraordinary promise of America's future."

He can take an important step in that direction by letting the conference continue working to keep the government open for the people.

Democrats and Republican leaderships indicate a long-term funding agreement is just within reach. It is so imperative that the conferees be allowed to put pen to paper before rushing to judgment or to fire off another tweet labeling their efforts as a waste of time, as the President has done time and time again. That is why the President would be well served to put down his phone, to stop tweeting, and to leave the negotiations to Congress.

Members on both sides of the aisle agree that another government shutdown would be disastrous for the economy, for the people, and unnecessarily harm tens of millions of Americans in the process.

The President, on Tuesday, said he was ready and willing to turn a new leaf. Madam Speaker, let's turn that new leaf. Let's keep the government open.

Madam Speaker, House Democrats are committed more than ever to keeping the government open and funding and finding commonsense solutions to the issues affecting my constituents and all Americans.

Madam Speaker, it is simple: Democrats are for the people.

## 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 10 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

## AFTER RECESS

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

## PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this day of the National Prayer Breakfast, we gather as a Nation founded by people of faith. In their wisdom and, we hope, with Your inspiration, our Founders recognized that the power of government ought not be utilized for the advancement of religion, nor validated by religion, but, rather, to guarantee the freedom of citizens to worship as they feel called by God's spirit to do.

From its inception, a predominantly Protestant, colonial population has become a national population of Protestants, Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Mormons, and countless other congregants, Americans all, who have flourished on this continent, not without trials and tribulations.

We pray together that Your blessing continues upon us all and, most especially, on the Members of this assembly, trusting that, in the depths of our hearts, we are seeking to hear Your call in the following of our consciences.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done here be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

## CONGRESS ON YOUR CORNER CONCERNS

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

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I held a Congress on Your Corner in Tucson, Arizona. I met face-to-face with my constituents at a supermarket. They shared their grave concerns over the President's words and actions.

One woman had never attended an event like this, but she stopped by to tell me she was terrified of losing her health insurance. Another woman was concerned about how inaction on climate change would impact her children.

No one President can solve every issue, but we need a President that unifies and fights for America's future, not divides us by party, economic status, or the country we were born in.

President Trump's address on Tuesday was more of the same. He doubled down on his divisive and destructive agenda with blatant lies. Time and again, he has failed the middle class and misinformed the public from the power pulpit. The President didn't even utter a word about climate change, and he mischaracterized activity at the border.

But I am listening, and I am here to work. I am focused on investing in hardworking families and fighting for people, not corporations. We will have votes on the floor this week that prove our investment in and care for these issues.

## WITHDRAWING FROM INF TREATY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump made the courageous decision to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty last week. This was long overdue. Sadly, there have been obvious Russian violations since 2011.

The 1987 INF Treaty was achieved by President Ronald Reagan to prohibit development of ground-launched cruise missiles. The INF Treaty was seen as the gold standard of arms control agreements for years, but Russia has been in violation of the agreement, while we have continued to limit our research and development.

Allowing Russia to violate the INF Treaty endangers American families. Now, Russia will find more incentive to return to the negotiating table, encouraged by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

We must continue to seek peace through strength. It was this strategy implemented by President Reagan that prompted Moscow to sign the INF Treaty in the first place.

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

## PAY WORKERS WHAT THEY HAVE EARNED

(Mr. HORSFORD asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about legislation that I introduced to protect Nevadans from the pain of another government shutdown.

Federal employees and contractors shouldn't be on the hook for the fees, interest, and fines that pile up when the government shuts down. That is why yesterday I introduced legislation to ensure these workers don't just receive backpay, but they also get paid back for the late fees and overdue rent notices they receive, through no fault of their own, during any government shutdown.

This bill also requires the Federal Government to reimburse States and Tribes for extra funds that they were forced to spend during shutdowns, ensuring Nevada taxpayers aren't picking up the tab when the Federal Government refuses to do so.

The President made clear on Tuesday night that he is willing to create another self-imposed crisis so that he can get money for a border wall. This bill will ensure that our Federal workers and State and Tribal governments aren't footing the bill for that crisis.

SHOW YOUR WORK  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

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

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office is supposed to help Congress evaluate the fiscal costs and benefits of legislation. Given the weight these scores have on the ability of Members of Congress to make policy decisions, it should be a top priority that the CBO standards are of the highest possible quality.

CBO should improve and could improve the accuracy of its projections by adopting a transparent process that would allow independent experts to provide technical contributions and verify their conclusions, as is the standard for all academic journals.

That is why I have introduced the CBO Show Your Work Act, which would require the CBO to publish online all nonproprietary data, models, and processes utilized in the analysis and scoring of legislation.

CBO is the internal accountant for every Member of Congress. Therefore, Members of Congress, and the public they serve, should have access to the data, models, and processes that create the numbers we rely on.

## RECOGNIZING PAULA MASSEY

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

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Black History Month. This month, as we pay tribute

to the pioneers, the trailblazers, and the leaders who have helped bend and force the moral arc of our Nation closer to that more perfect Union, I rise to recognize my constituent, Paula Massey of Hanford, California.

Paula is the founder of Women with Visions Unlimited, a nonprofit organization that works with youth in literacy and summer school programs to improve the academic attainment of children in the Central Valley.

Through her organization, Paula raises scholarships for high school seniors; organizes numerous events to empower African-American women; and focuses on bringing awareness to valley fever, an illness deep in and dear to her heart.

Paula lost her son to valley fever in 2017 and quickly realized there was a lack of knowledge about the disease, not only from the community, but from the physicians treating their patients.

Thanks to the advocacy of Paula and many others, in 2018, California Governor Brown signed a bill requiring the California Department of Public Health to create outreach and awareness to educate healthcare providers and physicians in the public about the symptoms and treatment of valley fever.

As Paula put it: "Awareness is the key. In the Central Valley, we are an agriculture community with many open fields where the dust and dirt blow in the air. Unless there is awareness, many more people will contract this disease and not know until it is too late."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Paula in the 21st Congressional District.

#### NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, one of the finest American traditions took place this morning, the National Prayer Breakfast.

Penny and I were honored and inspired to join Members of Congress and leaders from across the globe gathered here in Washington, D.C., for what has become an international forum.

Since 1953, the National Prayer Breakfast has united people, nations, religions, and even politicians who come together to celebrate faith, fellowship, and prayer. It is a time where we reflect on faith and focus on the year ahead. It is a time where we put aside differences and unite to pray for our leaders, our friends, and our families.

Every President since President Eisenhower has attended the National Prayer Breakfast, and President Trump delivered excellent remarks this morning, urging the Nation to build a culture that cherishes the dignity and sanctity of life.

President Trump said: "Let us always give thanks for the miracle of life, creation, and the grace of God."

Mr. Speaker, I agree. It is my hope the unity and fellowship we felt this morning stays with us always in our work and in our lives.

#### HONORING DETECTIVE BILL BREWER AND LIEUTENANT NICK DEROSE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor some of our local heroes. This past weekend in Clermont County, Ohio, two police officers came under fire when responding to a call that was believed to be an attempted suicide. Instead, it turned out to be an ambush.

The gunman lured Detective Bill Brewer, who is remembered in this photo, along with Lieutenant Nick DeRose, into his home, where he proceeded to fire at both deputies through a wall.

Lieutenant Nick DeRose was injured, and Detective Bill Brewer gave his life, in the line of duty. Detective Brewer died trying to help a member of his community, as he always strived to do.

I pray that God will bring comfort to his family; his wife, Jamie; his young son, Braxton; my friend Sheriff Leahy; the Clermont County Sheriff's Department; and all those in our community grieving this loss.

I pray for a speedy recovery for Lieutenant DeRose.

While God has called Bill Brewer away from us, the positive effects of his works in this lifetime shall never perish.

#### ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the Alzheimer's Working Group on the Ways and Means Committee, I rise today to raise awareness about this disease that has a profound impact on so many families across Illinois and our country.

Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia, causing issues with memory and behavior. More than 3 million individuals are diagnosed with Alzheimer's per year.

Alzheimer's transcends race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic standing, touching families of all backgrounds. For 2019, more than \$400 million was allocated for research, but it is more than just funding that is needed to find a cure.

As a Member of Congress, I have been proud to support legislation aimed at finding a cure for this disease, such as the RAISE Family Caregivers Act and the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act, both of which were signed into law.

While we have taken important strides to find a cure for this disease, we still have much work to do. I look forward to working with Members on both sides of the aisle to find a cure for this devastating disease.

□ 1215

#### REMEMBERING EDWARD EMBREY, NELSON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD CAPTAIN

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about a great man, a man who was a proud son of my home, Nelson County, Virginia, Edward Embrey, former Faber Volunteer fire chief and Nelson County Rescue Squad captain, after a courageous battle with cancer. His courage reflects how he lived his life.

Raised in my home county of Nelson, Eddie dedicated his life to helping friends and neighbors who found themselves in harm's way. He fought countless wildfires across the Commonwealth and Nation, leading to his commendation as Forest Warden of the Year in Virginia. He was asked to serve as captain of the Nelson County Rescue Squad and chief of the Faber Volunteer Fire Department.

His dedication to public safety and to helping all the men and women of Nelson County should be recognized and commended. He put his life at risk time after time to save people he didn't even know across the entirety of the Commonwealth. Eddie lived a life of selflessness, and for that, we are all thankful.

From me and all those who have served: Rest easy, Chief.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN HARMS LEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the leadership of both parties to end the possibility of another government shutdown before next Friday.

Many in this Chamber oppose President Trump's plans to secure our border because they believe that doing so would send a negative message, a message that immigrants are not welcome in this Nation. This is simply not true.

Just yesterday, I met with farmers from my district who told me how very much they rely on skilled foreign labor. One farmer in particular advertised 800 jobs and, in fact, did not receive a single American applicant.

These farmers also expressed concern that, if the government shutdown continued, they will be unable to hire workers abroad because the State Department would not conduct the necessary hearings for H-2A visas. This is

not acceptable, and we can and must do better.

The strong economy led by President Trump has created more jobs than there are Americans to fill them, and we want to encourage legal immigration not only to fill a need, but also because immigrants create a stronger America. After all, without legal immigration, my great-grandfather, Francisco Spano, would not have immigrated here from Italy, and I would not be standing before this House today.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for this House to come together to avert another shutdown, continue growing our economy, and push for an immigration system that is fair, just, and inclusive for all.

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Black History Month.

Kansas is no stranger to the fight for equality. At times in our Nation's history, Kansas has led the charge.

Bloody Kansas was a series of violent civil confrontations, in the 1850s, surrounding slavery. Brown v. Topeka Board of Education helped end racial segregation.

In 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., chose Kansas to deliver his speech, titled, "The Future of Integration." In that speech, he said that, if democracy is to live, segregation must die.

Let us strive to live up to his memory; let us strive to come together; and let us choose greatness.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2019.

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 February 7, 2019, at 11:11 a.m.:

Appointments:

Joint Committee on Taxation.

Members of the Senate Finance Committee as Congressional Advisers.

John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Training and Development.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 840, VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 86, PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 105 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 105

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116-3. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against that amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, 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. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the amendment in the nature of a substitute made in order as original text. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. House Resolution 86 is hereby adopted.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of February 15, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority

Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 105, providing for consideration of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, under a structured rule.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The rule makes in order 21 amendments, each debatable for 10 minutes. The rule also provides for adoption of H. Res. 86, a resolution providing interim funding for our two new select committees.

Lastly, the rule provides suspension authority through next Friday, February 15.

Mr. Speaker, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would make permanent the VA's childcare pilot program, allowing more veterans to access cost-free childcare when they receive mental or other intensive healthcare treatment through the VA.

A nearly identical piece of legislation passed in the House last year under a Republican majority with bipartisan cosponsors and without objection. It is my hope that this Congress will support these efforts to make it easier for our brave servicemembers to get the care they need while supporting their families.

Millions of working families across the Nation are struggling to afford the rising cost of childcare. Families in my own State of New York often pay upwards of \$15,000 each year to place one child in a childcare center. Some parents may find themselves owing their entire salary each month to provision of daycare. This cost can be so debilitating that parents are being driven out of the workforce—many of them women.

For veterans, these struggles can be even more acute. Many veterans are primary caregivers to their children or even their grandchildren. These brave men and women rely on the VA for their healthcare, but many of them are forced to miss appointments or forgo treatment altogether because they

have no childcare options. For many, that can be devastating. We have seen the harm that can be done when military veterans do not receive high-quality mental health services.

This Nation is facing a crisis. Each day, 20 American veterans take their own life. Studies have shown that mental health disparities are a leading cause of high suicide rates among veterans who struggle with depression or post-traumatic stress.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has shown that the suicide rate has increased faster among those veterans who have not recently received treatment through the VA system. Addressing inadequate access to lifesaving mental health and intense health services is critical as we seek to reform our veterans' healthcare system, and we know that making care more accessible will save lives.

Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates a pilot program to provide cost-free childcare to help primary caregivers seeking mental health treatment at selected VA facilities across the country. This program has been extended by Congress several times and has provided care for more than 10,000 children already.

Congress now has an opportunity to extend not only this pilot, but to expand this essential service to every VA facility in the Nation. This will allow thousands more veterans to receive cost-free childcare, ensuring that they never have to choose caring for their family over caring for their own mental health well-being.

This legislation is especially important for female veterans across the Nation, many of whom are single parents or primary caregivers. An increasing number of female veterans have been in combat. One in five female veterans seen by the VA report military sexual trauma.

It is clear that female veterans face unique health challenges and unique barriers to accessing the care they need. This legislation will work to dismantle those barriers so the VA can build on the progress we have made in treating female veterans.

For many veterans, it is not only essential that they receive mental and intensive healthcare, but that they receive care quickly. When facing a serious mental health crisis, veterans shouldn't have to worry about their babysitter dropping out or how they will pay for a day of daycare or how they will find someone to take care of their child while they go to the hospital and receive services. We must ensure that the men and women who have laid their lives on the line for our Nation have timely access to the lifesaving services they need and that we have promised to provide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this rule and the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

and I want to thank my friend from New York for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am not going to have the opportunity very often, so I want to make sure I do it while the gentleman and I are together today to tell him I agree with absolutely everything Mr. MORELLE had to say. It doesn't happen very often on the Rules Committee.

If you are ever having a good day and you need to bring some discord into your life, I want you to head upstairs to the third floor, where there is a 9-to-4 majority-minority distribution, and you can find discord up there every day of the week. It doesn't matter whether it is Republicans leading the institution or Democrats leading the institution.

Last night, we had a chance to come together and talk about something that unites us all; but I oppose the rule today, Mr. Speaker, because this is a bill that passed the Congress last year, and when we passed it last year, we passed it unanimously through the Veterans' Affairs Committee. All the Republicans and all the Democrats voted "yes." Then we brought it to the House floor, and we passed it unanimously here on a voice vote.

But the difference between the bill we have before us today and the bill we had before us last year is that, when we made new promises to our veterans for much-needed benefits last year, we went and we found ways to pay for those promises—not controversial ways, not divisive ways, but ways that we agreed to unanimously at the committee and the full House level. When the bill reappeared this year, those pay-fors were miraculously absent.

I am concerned about that for two reasons, Mr. Speaker, and I think this body should reject this rule and give us a chance to improve this bill. We tried to improve it with an amendment last night, and the amendment was non-germane.

For folks who are new to the institution, understand that, if the committee that sends the bill to the House floor decides they are not going to pay for it, then any effort to try to pay for it is non-germane. So, once a committee sends a bill that is flawed to the Rules Committee, unless there is a waiver of the House rules to allow a pay-for amendment, pay-for amendments are not in order.

□ 1230

So what happens is we are making a new commitment of about \$120 million to our veterans, a wonderful commitment.

Again, I agree with absolutely everything the gentleman from New York had to say. His heart for veterans is pure, and his words were true.

But that \$120 million commitment we are making, Mr. Speaker, gets folded into the Veterans' Affairs budget that we don't increase by one penny, which means we now have to go cut \$120 mil-

lion worth of other veterans' benefits in order to pay for this veterans' benefit.

That is not what anybody on this floor wants to do. In the Budget Committee today, we were talking about the caps, talking about how to deal with caps. Nobody wants to dip into the already promised benefits that we have made to American veterans.

But the mystery to me is that, in this Chamber that America perceives as being so divided, in this town that America perceives as being so broken, we came together last year, unanimously, to do it the right way; and with new House leadership this year, Mr. Speaker, we have instead chosen to do it the easy way.

I think our veterans deserve better, but, more importantly, I know the Members of this institution can do better. We have, and we can again.

I hope my friends will reject this rule and give us a chance to go back, pay for this, make sure there are not unintended consequences of cutting other veterans' benefits that every man and woman in this Chamber supports.

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

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

First of all, I appreciate the comments by my distinguished and wholly entertaining colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL). I do want to just make a couple of points related to his comments.

First of all, as the gentleman indicated, the amendment that he talked about was not germane, not before the House, and that was ruled such yesterday. But, as it relates to the paygo rule, we are entirely in compliance with that. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office advised us that there is no direct spending in the bill.

As my mother is often wont to say: You can't be holier than the church. CBO has ruled on it and indicated that the bill does not add a single penny to our deficit or to the national debt, period.

I do, Mr. Speaker, however, find it somewhat ironic. I was thinking about this just yesterday after our conversation in the Rules Committee, and I do note that the appropriation over the next 5 years, \$120 million—that is million with an M, not billion with a B, and certainly not trillion with a T. And I do find it ironic to some agree that the gentleman and his colleagues last year would enact a tax cut which provided that 83 percent of its benefits went to the wealthiest Americans.

And, if we were here each day, Mr. WOODALL and I, for 365 days a year, for the next 30 years—10,000 days, 10,000 times—that tax bill would have spent more money than this would during that time, if we did this for 10,000 days. Think about it.

The work that we do here: authorized spending on a program for veterans, not our wealthiest Americans; those who are struggling; those who have,

during their time, provided great service and sacrifice to our country; those who have kept us safe. And I know Mr. WOODALL and I share an appreciation for all the work our veterans do.

But this is a policy bill, Mr. Speaker. It is not an appropriations bill, and it has no direct spending. What it does: It helps save the lives of veterans, and it helps put them on a safer, more sound bearing for the future.

The cost for implementing it is, as I said, \$120 million over the next 5 years. And it seems to me, it seems to my colleagues, that this is appropriate given the priorities we have for our Nation and for our veterans.

So the next step, as the gentleman knows, is to provide funding through the appropriation process, and I hope that this Congress does invest in our veterans, particularly those who have challenging health issues, whether they be physical, mental, or behavioral, who also happen to be the parents or caretakers of our young children.

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

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

It is not like me to correct the Chair because he serves the entire House, but, I will tell you, it is entirely possible that Mr. MORELLE and I could yield each other time back and forth today. That is the nature of this institution's support for veterans.

And, I have to tell you, that is what hurts me the most about the way this bill has come to the floor. My friend is exactly right, Mr. Speaker, when he says that the CBO says this: There is no direct spending in this bill at all.

I just want you to think through that with me. We are promising veterans new benefits that cost money, and the scorekeeping institution of the United States House of Representatives says this bill will cost nothing.

Now, why is that true? It is true because there are other laws on the books, the budget caps that are on the books that say: If you add one penny of veterans funding in this category, you have got to cut a penny from this category.

When we did this bill last year, we all recognized that. I am not telling anybody anything they don't already know, and it pains me to see the defense of this bill as "we didn't have to," "they didn't make us," "it is not required." All of those arguments were true last year, too. They didn't make us. We don't have to. It is not required.

It is just the right thing to do. And we came together, and we did it.

You have a different vantage point of this Chamber, Mr. Speaker, than I do. From your chair, it may look like that bipartisanship breaks out across this Chamber in mass quantities every day of the week, but, from my position behind this podium, we don't find that many things that both spend money and save money, those things that make new promises while revising old

promises that weren't working as well, those things that make promises today but pay for them today instead of passing the bill on to our children and grandchildren.

And we did that together last year. We did it together. How can folks forget? Yes, we have lots of new freshmen in this Chamber, but we came together last year, unanimously, to do this bill right, to tell veterans: We do want to serve you better; we are going to create a new benefit; and we are not going to force cuts to other benefits as a result.

I am not going to give up on bipartisanship breaking out in this Chamber again and again and again, and I am certainly not going to give up on the bipartisan commitment that we have to serving our veterans. There are only so many days in a year. There are only so many weeks in a Congress. We cannot waste them doing a halfway job when we could have done the job right.

In this case, it is not as if we don't have a roadmap of how to do the job right. We did it. It is not as if we thought about doing it; we voted unanimously together to do it.

Yet, in this new day, we have chosen a different path, an inferior path. I just challenge my colleagues, as Paul Ryan used to say: Raise your gaze. This is a good idea. This is a good programmatic policy. But we need to pay for it, not cut veterans' benefits in order to squeeze it in.

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I inquire of the gentleman whether or not there are other speakers or whether I should use this opportunity to close.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I would welcome my friend to close, but, in the spirit of bipartisanship, I will be happy to begin that process.

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

It is a different job in the minority. The power that Mr. MORELLE has to open this debate and close this debate, it lends credence to his words. As I stipulated at the beginning, everything he said was true. It is what he didn't say that we can do better on.

I will say this one more time because, again, for new Members of this Chamber, you may not understand how the Rules Committee works. If a committee does not pay for legislation, if a committee just makes promises and does not find a way to pay for it, it is not appropriate, under House rules, to then try to add a pay-for. It requires a waiver from the Rules Committee of House rules in order to include a pay-for in a bill that is not already paid for. We offered that amendment last night. It was rejected on a party-line vote in the Rules Committee. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question today, we will offer a solution.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, the amendment that we will offer if the previous question is defeated would add the language that, by collecting fees on housing loans that would pay for this new childcare benefit so that we don't have to go deep into the Veterans' Affairs budget, cutting other benefits in order to pay for this, so we don't have to violate budget caps and borrow from our children and from our grandchildren, so that we can make promises to men and women who deserve and need this benefit and know that we have come together and done the heavy lifting to pay for it today.

I hope my friends will unite, as we did last year, in approving this funding language, unite in defeating the previous question, so that I can bring this amendment up and we can do this in the same honorable, bipartisan, collaborative way that we unanimously passed this very same language just a few short months ago.

I urge my friends: Know that we can do better.

Mr. Speaker, while I contemplated yielding back, I am going to reserve my time just in case there are any more speakers who have been affected by my words and want to come and join this effort that we have today. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I apologize. I am still learning this. The lingo on the floor of the House is much different than the lingo on the floor of the New York State Assembly, where I had the privilege of serving, and I do appreciate the gentleman's help through this. He has me at a bit of a disadvantage.

I do want to just reiterate before I yield that, in fact, this is a policy that we set with this bill and this rule. It will be up to the appropriators to make a decision about whether this is a priority as they go through this process and determine whether there will be funding for it in the appropriations bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me say that the gentleman from New York is doing an excellent job. He has translated the great leadership of the New York legislature and brought it here to the House. We thank the gentleman for his service.

I have been affected by the gentleman from Georgia's comments. We have been on this floor together, and I know that we have a heart of service. As well—coming from Georgia, coming from Texas—we know veterans and we certainly know Active-Duty persons as well.

So I rise to support the policy underpinnings of this legislation that has been so well articulated by the gentleman from New York.



And it is important to note, just as background: When this government was wrongly shut down, we lost \$11 billion, \$3 billion that we will never see again and \$8 billion that we may see again. But, in the course of that, all of us interacted with our veterans, many of them devastated because some of them were in positions that caused them to be furloughed. That means they were not getting a paycheck.

Some of them, of course, are disabled veterans or veterans who are engaged in the veterans' health system.

And we know that these veterans have pride. So this bill is an authorizing bill that affirms that pride, that allows veterans—many of them young veterans, having been in the Afghanistan war, having been in the Iraq war, having been in Syria—many of them young with young children, that they can go to get their medical care—that is well needed—by now having childcare during their medical care visits.

And I am glad the gentleman from New York made it clear over and over again that this is an authorizing bill. There is no need for paygo. There is no need for the offset. That will be handled. This is a policy point.

This is Democrats, hopefully joined by Republicans, to affirm our commitment to the service of veterans. But, as I do that, maybe the gentleman from Georgia would join me in reconsidering the new tax cuts by the GOP, which would cost \$3.8 trillion to the deficit this second round and create \$3.2 trillion in the Federal deficit over a decade.

□ 1245

Maybe my good friend will join me and indicate that our veterans are more important, that services to our families are more important, and, therefore, let's reconsider this deficit-busting GOP tax bill.

But as relates to this policy, I am grateful to the leadership of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank the gentleman from New York in the Rules Committee for bringing forward this thoughtful, smart veterans bill. Remember, you have been hearing us talk about smart border security, and we are working on that right now to keep the government open, but this is a smart bill.

I have a veterans hospital in my area, formerly in my district, and I know how important Medicare is.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the rule, and I rise to support the underlying legislation, which is authorizing legislation to help veterans have childcare when they go to get their medical care.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is troubling to me that we have those things that divide us, that permeate these conversations that could be uniting. Again, I don't think we have that many opportunities where we are able to come together as

an entire institution unanimously to support legislation, so I deeply regret we have missed that opportunity.

I want to encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle not to fall under the same trap that I think Republicans fell into just 8 short years ago. Every single conversation we have now in the Rules Committee, the tax cuts come into it.

The fact that so many of my Democratic friends didn't want tax cuts for the American people isn't a mystery to me. I got not one Democratic vote on the entire bill. I get it. One team thought it was a good idea, one team didn't, but we cannot use that disagreement as an excuse not to do the very best that we can on each and every bill going forward.

I will give you that example from the Republicans experience. I was categorically opposed to the Federal takeover of healthcare that was the Affordable Care Act. I was categorically opposed to the way that small businesses lost options. And my friends that were promised they could keep their doctor and they could keep their plan, those promises were broken.

But I still came together with my Democratic friends on the floor to find additional dollars for veterans healthcare and plus-up those accounts, to find additional ways to serve veterans who had not been served through healthcare and plus-up those accounts. The fact that we disagree on really big important issues does not mean we cannot come together and do the very best that we can.

And with that in mind, I want to give credit where credit is due. I have talked a lot about how we unanimously passed this bill last Congress. It is true. We unanimously passed it out of committee, and we unanimously passed it on the floor of the House. But what that means is, it came to the floor of the House on the suspension calendar, which meant no amendments were made in order.

The way that my friends on the other side of the aisle have brought the bill up, amendments are made in order, and the Rules Committee made 21 different amendments in order. We passed the bill unanimously under our leadership, but there was not an opportunity to improve it.

My friends on the other side have chosen a different path that does allow an opportunity to improve it, but doesn't allow the opportunities that I am seeking to pay for it.

I don't have to demean my friends or their intentions because their intentions are pure, and they are thoughtful, honorable Members of this institution. The fact that we disagree about policy does not mean we have to disagree about the motives of one another. And when we have these opportunities to do not just good but better; not just good, but good in a way that we don't pass the bill on to our children and our grandchildren, we take care of that bill today.

I will close with this, Mr. Speaker. Again, I can't disagree with any of the words my friend from New York tells because the half of the story that he tells is absolutely true. This is an authorizing bill where we make a new promise to veterans.

If this bill passes the floor of the House today, it then goes to the Appropriations Committee to fulfill this promise that we all celebrate today, and the Appropriations Committee will have not one new penny to pay for this new promise.

We have all been in this business long enough to know what happens to promises that folks don't put any money behind and what happens to promises that don't get paid for. The law prevents the Appropriations Committee from funding this new promise, unless they cut dollars from existing veterans promises today.

This bill is doing all the right things for all the right reasons. Let's not make another veteran have to pay in a cut for what we are promising to one of his brothers or sisters in a new benefit.

Defeat the previous question; allow us to pay for this bill; and let's put our money where our hearts and our mouths are.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his indulgence and his patience as I hopefully will get the training wheels off at one of these points, but I appreciate his comments.

I do want to note that this bill, the amendment which the gentleman speaks of, will not have been germane in the previous Congress either, and it was not ruled germane during the Rules Committee deliberations.

But, Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank all my colleagues for the words of support for H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act. The Veterans' Access bill, I want to especially thank the sponsor, Congresswoman JULIA BROWNLEY and Chairman MARK TAKANO of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, as well as the ranking member, Mr. ROE, for their work in supporting our Nation's veterans.

I am proud that this rule provides for the consideration of so many diverse ideas, including minority and bipartisan amendments, something that would not be allowed in the previous Congress. I am proud we have taken this bipartisan approach, and I appreciate all the work that Chairman MCGOVERN has done to make sure that that is part of the work that we do.

I urge a "yes" vote on the rule and a "yes" vote on the previous question.

The material previously referred to by Mr. WOODALL is as follows:

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding any other provision of this resolution, the amendment printed in section 5 shall be in order as though printed as the last amendment in the report



of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution if offered by Representative Bilirakis of Florida or a designee. That amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

SEC. 5. The amendment referred to in section 4 is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO COLLECT FEES FOR HOUSING LOANS GUARANTEED BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2028” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

**TIFFANY JOSLYN JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019**

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 494) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 494

*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 “Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2019”.

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

Part R of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796ee et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 1801(b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “graduated sanctions” and inserting “graduated sanctions and incentives”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “hiring juvenile court judges, probation officers, and

court-appointed defenders and special advocates, and”;

(C) by striking paragraphs (4) and (7), and redesignating paragraphs (5) through (17) as paragraphs (4) through (15), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (11), as so redesignated, by striking “research-based bullying, cyberbullying, and gang prevention programs” and inserting “interventions such as researched-based anti-bullying, anti-cyberbullying, and gang prevention programs, as well as mental health services and trauma-informed practices”;

(2) in section 1802—

(A) in subsection (d)(3), by inserting after “individualized sanctions” the following: “, incentives,”;

(B) in subsection (e)(1)(B), by striking “graduated sanctions” and inserting “graduated sanctions and incentives”;

(C) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) by inserting after “A sanction may include” the following: “a range of court-approved interventions, such as”; and

(II) by inserting after “a fine,” the following: “a restorative justice program.”; and

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

“(3) INCENTIVES.—The term ‘incentives’ means individualized, goal-oriented, and graduated responses to a juvenile offender’s compliance with court orders and case disposition terms designed to reinforce or modify the skills and behaviors of the juvenile offender. An incentive may include a certificate of achievement, a letter of recommendation, a family or program activity, a meeting or special outing with a community leader, a reduction in community service hours, a reduced curfew or home restriction, a decrease in required court appearances, or a decrease in the term of court-ordered supervision.”;

(3) in section 1810(a), by striking “\$350,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2009” and inserting “\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 1811. GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.**

“(a) DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ‘applicable committees’ means—

“(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

“(2) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

“(b) ACCOUNTABILITY.—All grants awarded by the Attorney General under this part shall be subject to the following accountability provisions:

“(1) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

“(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term ‘unresolved audit finding’ means a finding in the final audit report of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice that the audited grantee has utilized grant funds for an unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallowable cost that is not closed or resolved within 12 months after the date on which the final audit report is issued.

“(B) AUDIT.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, and in each fiscal year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of grants awarded by the Attorney General under this part to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The Inspector General shall determine the appropriate number of grantees to be audited each year.

“(C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient of grant funds under this part that is found to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be eligible to receive grant funds under this part during the first 2 fiscal years beginning

after the end of the 12-month period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this part, the Attorney General shall give priority to eligible applicants that did not have an unresolved audit finding during the 3 fiscal years before submitting an application for a grant under this part.

“(E) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an entity is awarded grant funds under this part during the 2-fiscal-year period during which the entity is barred from receiving grants under subparagraph (C), the Attorney General shall—

“(i) deposit an amount equal to the amount of the grant funds that were improperly awarded to the grantee into the General Fund of the Treasury; and

“(ii) seek to recoup the costs of the repayment to the fund from the grant recipient that was erroneously awarded grant funds.

“(2) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, the Attorney General shall submit to the applicable committees an annual certification—

“(A) indicating whether—

“(i) all audits issued by the Inspector General of the Department of Justice under paragraph (1) have been completed and reviewed by the appropriate Assistant Attorney General or Director;

“(ii) all mandatory exclusions required under paragraph (1)(C) have been issued; and

“(iii) all reimbursements required under paragraph (1)(E) have been made; and

“(B) that includes a list of any grant recipients excluded under paragraph (1) from the previous year.

“(C) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Attorney General awards a grant to an applicant under this part, the Attorney General shall compare potential grant awards with other grants awarded under this part by the Attorney General to determine if duplicate grant awards are awarded for the same purpose.

“(2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards duplicate grants under this part to the same applicant for the same purpose, the Attorney General shall submit to the applicable committees a report that includes—

“(A) a list of all duplicate grants awarded under this part, including the total dollar amount of any duplicate grants awarded; and

“(B) the reason the Attorney General awarded the duplicate grants.”.

**SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of the Congress that the use of best practices is encouraged for all activities for which grants under part R of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 may be used.

**SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.**

Section 1001(a)(16) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10261(a)(16)) is amended to read as follows:

“(16) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out projects under part R \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

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

extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very special bill to my heart and to my constituents and to the many, many advocates dealing with the reformation of the juvenile justice system and the importance of such.

I would like to take note of many of them, but, in particular, the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council and Coalition that represent decades of work all over the Nation, organizations that recognize that the best place for our young juveniles that have had some encounter with the system is not in a detention-like jail.

I hope that as we move forward on criminal justice reform and juvenile justice reform that we can reform the places and the attitudes toward juveniles who run awry of the system all over the Nation.

This bill is named for Tiffany May Joslyn, a champion for criminal justice reform, who formerly served as deputy chief counsel of the Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations Subcommittee, and whose life tragically was cut short on March 5, 2016, in a car accident, which sadly also claimed the life of her brother Derrick. She was just 33 years old.

Her family loved her. Her family still remembers how much she talked about her work on the House Judiciary Committee and the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations that I served on at that time as the ranking member.

So passage of this bill last Congress in this body was both bitter and sweet, but I would understand that Tiffany, in the place where she is, would have been proud as she championed these causes fearlessly. This moment is for both her and for all of the millions of young people that will be helped by this bill.

We worked very hard on this bill, and it is a bipartisan bill. It has, I believe, those who have an interest in doing the very best for our Nation and for our young people.

The Tiffany Joslyn bill will help stem the epidemic of juveniles within the criminal justice system by reauthorizing the juvenile justice system and the juvenile accountability block grant program and providing funding to State and local governments for the creation of antibullying and antigang prevention programs and intervention.

It is clearly important to recognize that it is only us that can begin to reframe the old-fashioned attitudes about "lock'em up." We know that there was a period of time, Mr. Speaker, when it was a shift so that schools and the education system were saying: Get the bad apples out of your classroom, not even into the principal's of-

fice or not even into the auditorium for detention.

They leaped from the classroom into the hands of law enforcement officers who then, as we have seen some of the untoward actions, had to wrestle them down or there was emotional encounters, but they went downtown, as many of us would say, to the county jail or to the detention center.

We hope that we will provide other tools to be able to intervene on behaviors by way of providing resources to some of our well-documented groups and organizations and new ones that have creative ways of intervening in a juvenile's life. How many of us have heard the story of how a pilot, a lawyer, a doctor started out their life, and then how they wound up as being contributing citizens because someone intervened. This bill is about intervention.

In addition to reauthorizing the juvenile justice programs, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant, and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act clarifies how to address the occurrences of bullying through developmentally appropriate intervention and prevention techniques, which center on evidence-based models and best practices.

Best practices bring people together, because it doesn't matter whether you are Republican or Democrat, it brings people together, and that is best practices that rely on schools and communities rather than the involvement from law enforcement and the justice system.

What we want is to put a big red stop sign in front of the life of every juvenile that might be awry with the system, and procedures and rules to be able to find an alternative way.

H.R. 494 is designed to help both the victims and perpetrators of bullying. Research studies have shown that approximately 25 percent of school bullies will be convicted of a criminal offense in their adult years. Let's put a stop sign there. Let's not have that happen.

□ 1300

We also recognize that cyberbullying has become an epidemic, particularly for young people. Their life is centered around technology. Many times they are in their home, bedroom, et cetera, only with technology, and they use that in a way—because their brains are not matured until 25 and over, they use it in a way that they don't fully comprehend how vicious, how devastating this could be to the receiver of that information, how exposing that could be to the receiver of that information.

Let's get in their lives. Let's use this legislation to do so.

It also includes provisions for gang prevention programs which will help guide our children toward socially beneficial paths. If we want our children to learn, we must be able to maintain a safe and healthy school environment.

Bullying is a massive issue in our Nation's schools. Over the years, I have

worked with young children as young as 10 or 12. Some of them have organized their own antibullying organizations, looking to us to affirm them, and I hope in this legislation we will have the opportunity to do so. If we want our children to learn, that is what we must do.

The National Center for Educational Studies shows that 14 percent of 12- to 18-year-olds surveyed reported being victims of direct or indirect bullying. One out of four kids is bullied. Cyberbullying is in the midst of that. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

I also urge them to consider that we may have short memories on some things, but I am sure many of us can go back and remember that middle school, that early age leading up to 18 and then going off, some to college and some on, at some point, to work. We remember that indecisive moment. We remember wanting to have friends and wanting to be liked. And then we remember the alternative of those who might take advantage of that.

With that in mind, here we are with an opportunity to deal with best practices and to help our young people in the best way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the "Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act", which we passed in the last Congress, here in the House.

This bill is named for Tiffany May Joslyn, a champion for criminal justice reform, who served as Deputy Chief Counsel of the Crime Subcommittee and whose life tragically was cut short on March 5, 2016, in a car accident, which sadly also claimed the life of her brother, Derrick. She was just 33 years old.

So passage of this bill last Congress in this body, was both bitter and sweet. Tiffany would have been proud, as she championed these causes fearlessly. This moment is for both her and for all the millions of young people that will be helped by this bill.

The Tiffany Joslyn bill will help stem the epidemic of juveniles within the criminal justice system by reauthorizing the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program (JABG) and providing funding to state and local governments for the creation of bullying and gang prevention programs.

It also includes provisions for gang prevention programs, which will help guide our children towards socially beneficial paths.

If we want our children to learn, we must be able to maintain a safe and healthy school environment. Bullying is a massive issue in our nation's schools.

The National Center for Educational Studies reports show that 14 percent of 12- to 18-year-olds surveyed, reported being victims of direct or indirect bullying. One out of 4 kids is bullied.

This is why I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

It will authorize such appropriations as may be necessary, which is anticipated to be at least \$30 million per year.

In addition to reauthorizing juvenile justice programs, the Tiffany Joselyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and

the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act clarifies how to address the occurrences of bullying through developmentally appropriate intervention and prevention techniques, which center on evidence-based models and best practices that rely on schools and communities rather than involvement from law enforcement and the justice system.

H.R. 494 is designed to help both the victims and perpetrators of bullying. Research studies have shown that approximately 25 percent of school bullies will be convicted of a criminal offense in their adult years.

Bullying is not just in a schoolyard anymore; it is a crisis that's taking over our nation. Gone are the days that children can come home and seek solace and escape from their bullies; technological advances have made it easy for young people to be tormented on social networks at any time from any place.

They are never out of harm's reach. This needs to end. Americans children should be protected, and no child should be persecuted for exercising their American right to be themselves.

It is time for us to come to a conclusive solution to America's bullying crisis so that we may keep all of our children safe.

My bill, H.R. 494, provides the solution that we need.

This is why I support this bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 494, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2019. The bill reauthorizes the Justice Department's Juvenile Accountability Block Grant—JABG—program, strengthens the program to reduce youth crime, and contains vigorous accountability and oversight mechanisms to ensure taxpayer dollars are efficiently and wisely utilized.

I would like to say thank you to the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, for her hard work and, as she just explained in great detail, the many things about this bill that are good for us and why I would support this bill.

When young people commit crimes, it has a serious and long-lasting detrimental impact. Our children represent the promise of a bright future and the hope for continued prosperity. That means improving the juvenile justice system and reducing juvenile crimes is crucial to preserving and protecting the future of our children and our Nation.

The JABG program provides grants to States, Tribes, and localities to strengthen juvenile justice systems and reduce recidivism among offenders.

The program currently has 17 authorized purpose areas, including the implementation of graduated sanctions for juveniles; support for prosecutorial initiatives aimed at curbing drug use, violence, and gangs; accountability-based school safety initiatives; the establishment of juvenile drug courts;

and bullying and cyberbullying prevention.

The JABG has a long history of bipartisan support among members of the Judiciary Committee and in Congress as a whole.

Again, I thank my colleague, Congresswoman JACKSON LEE, for her hard work on this legislation, and I would encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me, first of all, thank the ranking member for his kind support of this legislation. I think we have been together long enough to know how important this kind of work is; and a tribute to his father, who certainly probably ran across a few juveniles in the course of his work as a law enforcement officer. So I thank the gentleman so very much.

I want to thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. NADLER, for his support of this legislation and continued work in this area.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. JOHNSON), the chair on the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 494, the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2019.

We cannot, as a nation, continue to condemn our children into the criminal justice system. African American youth are significantly more likely to be tried as adults. In 2014, although Black youth were only 14 percent of the juvenile population, they represented 52 percent of the youth tried as adults in this country.

This legislation reauthorizes important programs that ensure sentences for our young people are appropriate and not excessive, and it funds accountability-based programs to intervene when youth are most vulnerable in the system. I support this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no other additional speakers for this and would inquire of the gentlewoman from Texas if she is ready to close on this piece of legislation.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman.

We are inquiring, and I am just going to say it publicly. We were about to engage the ranking member, but we are inquiring to be sure that the bill is complete. Its language was, "and Anti-Bullying and Intervention Act." That is what the bill has carried over a period of time, so I was trying to get a ruling about that addition to the title.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Is it my understanding the gentlewoman is asking for a correction to the short title? Is that what we are looking for?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. That is clearly what we are trying to do. If I might engage the gentleman in a dialogue: it reads, "the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act," and it has always read, over the years, "and Anti-Bullying and Intervention Act." It is in my text here, "and the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act."

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I see the gentlewoman's concern here on lines 4, 5, and 6 of the bill. I mean, are we awaiting a ruling from—

Ms. JACKSON LEE. We are awaiting a ruling, and may have to—but I at least want to get it on the RECORD. You see what I am saying?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. I understand.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. And that is the name that has been carried over the years that we have had—

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Look, personally, from my perspective, to continue our colloquy here, I have no problem with the name. I think it was probably an oversight in drafting from a previous time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I believe so.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. But I am not sure how we would do it at this point, unless we could agree.

#### PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. From an inquiry position, is it possible here that we could unanimous consent a change to this title?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman may withdraw her pending motion and re-offer the motion with the amended text.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, continuing my parliamentary inquiry, could it also be a possibility for the gentlewoman to understand that this is the intent, and we have this into the RECORD; that if she was to move ahead with this, that I am sure this will be probably well-respected and well-founded in the Senate; that we could make the change in the Senate and have it back over for us so that we could make this, and not hold up the further proceedings today?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. That is not a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Well, it is a proper question.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, if I might, I assume I can proceed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. First of all, I want to thank the ranking member for his courtesies, and thank the committees for their courtesies.

I would not desire to not move forward H.R. 494. So any motion for amending at this time, I would like unanimous consent to withdraw and to emphasize what the bill is in my debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Does the gentleman seek to withdraw the pending motion?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I seek to not withdraw H.R. 494, just any request for editing the legislation.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Will the gentleman yield?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. If I hear the gentleman correctly, what she is asking is continuing as we were 5 minutes ago into this process and continuing on. Is that the gentleman's intention?

Ms. JACKSON LEE. That is my desire at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. Does the gentleman?

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. No, I do not.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

So I will close at this time asking for support of this legislation. But as I do so, I cannot help but thank—I think we have had—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas will suspend.

The gentleman from Georgia is recognized to close debate on his side, and then the gentleman will close.

The gentleman from Georgia is recognized.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, obviously, the gentleman from Texas has ultimate passion on this bill and I would not say anything except that we support this legislation. We look forward to moving it. I am sure that she will be able to make any changes she needs to.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for engaging in the colloquy on this important issue, and I think we have created a record that indicates that this bill is the Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program Reauthorization Act, and it does cover bullying prevention and intervention, and we will move forward with that understanding and recognize the importance of those elements of the bill.

I want to just take a moment in my closing to acknowledge again the National Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Coalition and to indicate their support for a bill that has gone unfunded now for 6 years, and to indicate in their letter that H.R. 494 updates the JABG to reflect current research and practices; incentivizes States to use graduated sanctions and incentives grounded in positive youth development; enhanced antibullying measures, gang prevention programs, and additional youth violence prevention and intervention services. It also updates the JABG to include evidence-based practices such as trauma-informed practices and mental healthcare.

I am excited about this legislation. And I close by saying bullying is not just a schoolyard action anymore; it is a crisis that is taking over our Nation.

Gone are the days that children can come home and seek solace and escape from their bullies. Technological advances have made it easy for young people to be tormented on social networks at any time from any place. They are never out of harm's reach.

This needs to end. American children should be protected, and no child should be persecuted for existing or exercising their American right to just be themselves. It is time for us to come to a conclusive solution to America's bullying crisis so that we may keep all of our children safe. I think we are on the right path by passing H.R. 494 and moving it to the Senate. That is why I support this bill and ask my colleagues to do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 494, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1315

#### PREVENTING CRIMES AGAINST VETERANS ACT OF 2019

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 450) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 450

*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 "Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL TOOL TO PREVENT CERTAIN FRAUDS AGAINST VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### "§ 1352. Fraud regarding veterans' benefits

"(a) Whoever knowingly executes, or attempts to execute, any scheme or artifice to defraud an individual of veterans' benefits, or in connection with obtaining veteran's benefits for that individual, shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

"(b) In this section—

"(1) the term 'veteran' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of title 38; and

"(2) the term 'veterans' benefits' means any benefit provided by Federal law for a veteran or a dependent or survivor of a veteran."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 63 of

title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"1352. Fraud regarding veterans' benefits."

#### SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Ms. BASS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 450, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2019, as amended, which would make it a crime to knowingly engage in any scheme to defraud a veteran of his or her veterans benefits.

This legislation provides an important, additional tool for Federal prosecutors to use to combat veterans benefits fraud.

Because we honor their service and because of the sacrifices our veterans have made for us, it is particularly important that we protect them from fraud and ensure the integrity of the system of benefits we provide for them.

Currently, there are about 21 million veterans of the U.S. military, men and women who selflessly serve our Nation. Unfortunately, many of our veterans, as a result of their service, have been scarred, whether physically, mentally, or both. Often, it is the scars that we cannot visually see that are the hardest to address.

There are well over 1 million American veterans with service-connected disabilities.

The suicide rate among veterans is 300 percent above the national average, and it is estimated that about 30 percent of all Vietnam veterans and 20 percent of veterans of the recent Middle East conflicts suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder in a given year.

In addition, veterans are more likely than nonveterans to become homeless. They comprise 17 percent of our homeless population. On any given night, an estimated 50,000 veterans are sleeping on American streets. That is just not right.

In recognition of the extreme sacrifice by our veterans and the hardships many of them continue to face after their military service, it is our duty to provide, to the best of our ability, an appropriate measure of compensation for them, particularly those in need.

This is the least we can do, and it is still not enough. There continue to be issues with the medical care we provide our veterans and problems about some benefits never being processed and paid because of the loss of claims by the Veterans Benefits Administration.

That is why we must prohibit any schemes that would defraud a veteran of their benefits. Under H.R. 450, anyone convicted of such crime could be fined, imprisoned, or subject to both penalties.

This bill is important because it fills in a gap in enforcement for the protection of veterans. Under current law, the VA allows agents or attorneys to assess a nominal fee to assist claimants who are appealing different aspects of their benefits.

It is illegal for a nonattorney or a person not registered as an agent to assist such claimants. However, if an unauthorized individual offers a veteran assistance in person, they cannot be prosecuted under current Federal law. The wire fraud statutes do not extend to such in-person contact.

Because of this, fraudsters routinely take advantage of this loophole. I am aware of at least one specific instance in which a bad actor visited an assisted living facility in Florida and asked the staff to round up all veterans for a seminar. He could not be prosecuted under the law as it stands today. This is unconscionable. We need this bill, because the example I just gave is not an isolated incident.

More broadly, those who defraud veterans or their surviving spouses or dependents endanger our system of veterans benefits not only by harming the victims, but also by diminishing resources required to pay the claims and fund the programs that are needed to help those who have served our country.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the bill's sponsors, Mr. DEUTCH and Mr. MEADOWS, for their hard work and bipartisan efforts to address this critical problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today makes a small but significant change to the Federal fraud statutes to protect veterans from fraudsters who seek to steal their benefits. It does so by inserting a new provision into the criminal code to complement the mail and wire fraud statutes.

In recent years, there have been reports of criminals entering nursing homes in search of elderly veterans with the intent to defraud them of

their Federal benefits. Like many crimes of fraud, Mr. Speaker, the worst part is that people often present themselves as helpful to the veteran. This is a truly heinous crime worthy of Congress' attention.

This legislation has passed this House twice by overwhelming margins, and it also incorporates technical assistance from the Department of Justice, ensuring it will be effective in practice.

This is a bill that is supported by many. My colleague, Mr. MEADOWS from North Carolina, has spoken eloquently about this, and we will be entering his message under general leave as well.

As a member of the Air Force Reserve and an Iraq veteran, Mr. Speaker, this issue is near and dear to my heart. I have introduced numerous pieces of legislation over the years to protect our veterans and to expedite the benefits process.

Our men and women in uniform have sacrificed much for us. They are entitled to our gratitude, our respect, and our protection.

As President Abraham Lincoln reminded us 156 years ago, it is our duty "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan."

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in my mind more heinous than someone who tries to defraud a veteran of what they have earned. This is something that we can all come around on. This is something we can all support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTCH).

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from California for the time and for her support of this legislation, and I thank Mr. COLLINS from Georgia for his service and for his support of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's veterans. Our veterans distinguish themselves in service to our country, but that distinction is too often recognized and preyed upon by scam artists.

H.R. 450, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act, will close a loophole in our criminal law and will give Federal law enforcement the tools they need to crack down on financial fraud schemes that target our veterans.

My friend, veteran, and former Congressman Tom Rooney introduced this bill with me in the past two Congresses. It passed by a voice vote in the 115th Congress and passed unanimously 411-0 in the 114th.

It is time to pass it again and to finally make it law to help our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to Representative MEADOWS for continuing this important bipartisan work to protect America's veterans.

In a 2017 survey, AARP found that 78 percent of veterans receive scam

itches specifically targeted to their military service. They also found that 16 percent of veterans lost money to financial fraud over the past 5 years, double the rate of nonveterans.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Greg Dover of Palm Beach County Veterans Services, who sounded the alarm and helped fight for this important legislation.

I have heard too many stories from south Floridians—veterans, survivors, families, and their veterans service officers—who have been taken advantage of through so-called pension poaching scams that target the supplemental aid and attendance pension benefit.

In one case, a veteran responded to a solicitation with the hope of securing additional pension benefits. He was met with a high-pressure sales tactic in his own home. The sales representative tried to convince him to apply for benefits that he didn't want and that he wasn't eligible for.

In addition to filing an improper claim on the veteran's behalf, the scammer lied and told the veteran that he was required to enter into a long-term healthcare contract in order to receive the benefits.

Pension poachers comb through south Florida's senior communities to look for targets. They gather residents for high-pressure sales pitches to convince them to file inaccurate claims.

In one case, a scammer intentionally withheld spousal income from a veteran's application to illegally unlock additional benefits. The veteran paid excessive filing fees of over \$600, but that wasn't the worst of it. The VA eventually learned about the additional unreported income. They learned that the veteran was not eligible, and they sought to claw back nearly \$50,000 in overpayments.

By the time the veteran faced financial ruin, the scammer had disappeared and couldn't be found.

As our senior population continues to grow, aging veterans will require assistance with activities of daily living that the veterans aid and attendance benefit can provide. The application of financial eligibility requirements offers an opportunity for scam artists to take advantage of our most vulnerable American veterans with empty promises and hidden consequences.

Veterans don't have to face benefit hurdles alone, but they shouldn't be easy targets for criminals either.

This legislation will help law enforcement fight back against pension poachers and other scammers. It will root out scam operations. And it will protect our veterans from falling prey to these plays.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to be there for our veterans, just as they have been there for us. Please vote "yes" on this important legislation.

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership, and I thank

both the ranking member and the full committee chair. And I thank Mr. DEUTCH from Florida, for it looks like, in this instance, Florida and Texas and many other States certainly are—how should I say it?—in coalition with the number of veterans that we have and the stories that we have heard about fraudulent activities as it relates to our veterans.

I would think that all veterans want to do after battling on behalf of this Nation and securing this Nation is to come home to a safe and secure community and people who welcome them and treat them with the dignity that they deserve. Unfortunately, because veterans have resources through their veterans benefits, they are targeted by those who have no goodwill, but evil intent.

Currently, there are approximately 21 million veterans of the United States Armed Forces living in our country. It is estimated that about 30 percent of all Vietnam veterans have had post-traumatic stress disorder, and up to 20 percent of veterans serving in more recent conflicts in the Middle East are estimated to suffer from PTSD in a given year.

Given the extreme sacrifice of our veterans and the hardships many of them continue to face after their military service, it is our duty, to the best of our ability, to have an appropriate measure of compensation for them, particularly for those in need.

For instance, we provide disability payments to those with service-connected disabilities, pensions for veterans with limited income, education and training under the GI Bill, and various life insurance benefits.

Over 71,000 veterans live in my congressional district.

H.R. 450 provides law enforcement with another tool to bring to justice those who knowingly defraud a veteran of their benefits or engage in fraud in connection with obtaining veterans benefits.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, there are many of them. 476,515 veterans are living with PTSD and need their benefits.

Mr. Speaker, how many have come to us in our offices and indicated that, through a telemarketing scheme, they have given up their benefits or they have taken their benefits to invest or buy something that either is never seen or doesn't help them, and never is their money returning back to them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida in particular for being sensitive enough to listen to his constituents. In listening to my constituents and solving cases in our offices, there are cases that come into our offices where veterans have had their benefits taken away or they wind up homeless because resources are taken away and they don't have the necessary resources.

This is a good, good step to acknowledge their service and how important they are; to stop those who think that

they are easy prey from defrauding our veterans; and to make the right kind of legal traps, if you will, that law enforcement can place, not for veterans who have served us, but for those who wish to defraud them.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from Florida and ask my colleagues to support H.R. 450, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 450, the "Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017," which provides an additional tool to deter, detect, and punish fraudulent activity against veterans.

The Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2017 would make it unlawful to knowingly execute, or attempt to execute, any scheme or artifice to defraud an individual of veterans' benefits, or in connection with obtaining veterans benefits.

We honor our veterans' service and their sacrifices; it is important that we protect veterans from fraud and ensure the integrity of the system of benefits we provide for them.

Currently, there are approximately 21 million veterans of the United States Armed Forces living in our country.

It is estimated that about 30 percent of all Vietnam veterans have had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and up to 20 percent of veterans serving in more recent conflicts in the Middle East are estimated to suffer from PTSD in a given year.

Given the extreme sacrifice by our veterans and the hardships many of them continue to face after their military service, it is our duty to provide, to the best of our ability, an appropriate measure of compensation for them—particularly for those in need.

For instance, we provide disability payments to those with service-connected disabilities, pensions for veterans with limited incomes, education and training under the GI Bill, and various life insurance benefits.

Over 71,749 veterans reside in my 18th Congressional District and one of my top priorities is to fight for their benefits and to fight for the rights of our most patriotic Americans.

H.R. 450 provides law enforcement with another tool to bring to justice those who knowingly defraud a veteran of their benefits or engage in fraud in connection with obtaining veterans' benefits.

Mr. Speaker, 476,515 veterans are living with PTSD and need their benefits to obtain needed care for their disorder; it is criminal that some are left untreated.

Those who defraud veterans and the system of veterans' benefits harm the victims and diminish resources needed to pay the claims and fund the programs that are needed to help those who have served their country.

I urge all Members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 450.

□ 1330

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I think this is something we can all get around. I think, again, when we deal with our veterans, I have made the comments many times before, not specifically in dealing with this fraud and dealing with the issues here that are just heinous—and anybody who would do this definitely would put themselves on the margins of society—but also on a broader picture with our veterans.

I think this scenario where we can all come together—I long for a time in which my constituents services folks back in Georgia, I long for a time when I listen to their report each week, and I want to come to a time when there are no veteran issues.

We should strive in our country to have a time in which no veteran should feel the need to have to go to their Congressman to get help. That is something that we can all shoot for. That is a worthy goal. I would love to have that time to let them help other people and not these men and women who have served us so proudly. Mr. Speaker, I know you would join me in that.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, we should do everything we can to protect our veterans who have given so much of themselves to our Nation.

Our veterans have laid their lives on the line. We owe them much, and we should repay our gratitude whenever we can. Certainly, helping to ensure that their veterans benefits are protected against fraud, as H.R. 450 would do, is one way of expressing our appreciation, and it is the right and the just thing to do. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a bill to provide real consequences against those who would seek to commit fraud at the expense of America's Veterans.

H.R. 450, the Bipartisan "Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act," would close loopholes in existing laws and provide law enforcement with additional tools to crack down on fraud cases in connection with Veterans' benefits.

In recent history, financial predators have increasingly begun targeting America's veterans, particularly those in low income housing, looking to commit fraud and rob them of their federal benefits. Many of these fraudsters pose as federal caseworkers, offering to expedite Veterans' claims or assist them with unanswered questions—only to charge them exorbitant fees while providing little or no service in return.

Absolutely no veteran should be defrauded of their well-earned benefits, particularly those in need. Those who defraud veterans and their families of their benefits not only harm these victims, but they also diminish resources required to pay the claims and fund the programs needed to assist those who have served our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has both a responsibility and an obligation to step up and protect our Veterans against this activity.

Unfortunately, current law hamstrings prosecutors and allows for criminals engaging in this type of conduct to escape with minimal penalty.

H.R. 450 would make needed changes to that process. It would impose new penalties on fraudsters—including a fine, imprisonment of up to five years, or both. By attaching a criminal penalty to this behavior, the bill provides prosecutors with the tools to take adequate and appropriate legal action against those who seek to defraud veterans.



This is a common sense reform that would send a loud and clear message of support to those who have served our country so faithfully and protect them against any effort to rob them of their hard earned benefits.

Finally, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida, TED DEUTCH, who is the lead Democratic cosponsor, for his leadership on this important measure.

I support this bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 450, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### PUT TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FIRST ACT OF 2019

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 507) to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 507

*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 “Put Trafficking Victims First Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. TRAINING FOR PROSECUTIONS OF TRAFFICKERS AND SUPPORT FOR STATE SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

It is the sense of Congress that a portion of the funds available for training and technical assistance under section 107(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2)(B)(ii)) should be devoted to advancing the following goals:

(1) Increasing the personal safety of victim service providers, who may face intimidation or retaliation for their activities.

(2) Promoting a trauma-informed, evidence-based, and victim-centered approach to the provision of services for victims of trafficking.

(3) Ensuring that law enforcement officers and prosecutors make every attempt to determine whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking before arresting the individual for, or charging the individual with, an offense that is a direct result of the victimization of the individual.

(4) Effectively prosecuting traffickers and individuals who patronize or solicit children for sex, and facilitating access for child victims of commercial sex trafficking to the services and protections afforded to other victims of sexual violence.

(5) Encouraging States to improve efforts to identify and meet the needs of human trafficking victims, including through internet outreach and other methods that are responsive to the needs of victims in their communities.

(6) Ensure victims of trafficking, including United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and foreign nationals are eligible for services.

#### SEC. 3. WORKING TO DEVELOP METHODOLOGIES TO ASSESS PREVALENCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

##### (a) WORKING GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with other Federal entities engaged in efforts to combat human trafficking, shall establish an expert working group, which shall include survivors of human trafficking, experts on sex and labor trafficking, representatives from organizations collecting data on human trafficking, and law enforcement officers. The working group shall, utilizing, to the extent practicable, existing efforts of agencies, task forces, States, localities, tribes, research institutions, and organizations—

(A) identify barriers to the collection of data on the incidence of sex and labor trafficking; and

(B) recommend practices to promote better data collection and analysis.

(2) PILOT TESTING.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall implement a pilot project to test promising methodologies studied under paragraph (1).

##### (b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center, shall submit to Congress a report on—

(A) Federal efforts to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking at the national and regional levels;

(B) the effectiveness of current policies and procedures to address the needs of victims of trafficking; and

(C) an analysis of demographic characteristics of victims of trafficking in different regions of the United States and recommendations for how to address the unique vulnerabilities of different victims.

(2) INPUT FROM RELEVANT PARTIES.—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall seek input from the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, victims of trafficking, human trafficking survivor advocates, service providers for victims of sex and labor trafficking, and the President’s Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking.

(c) SURVEY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in coordination with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments, and private organizations, including victim service providers and expert researchers, shall develop and execute a survey of survivors seeking and receiving victim assistance services for the purpose of improving the provision of services to human trafficking victims and victim identification in the United States. Survey results shall be made publicly available on the website of the Department of Justice.

(d) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out this section.

#### SEC. 4. REPORT ON PROSECUTORS SEEKING RESOLUTION IN TRAFFICKING CASES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, shall submit to Congress a report on efforts to increase restitution to victims of human trafficking.

#### SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ENCOURAGING STATES TO ADOPT PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING.

Congress recognizes and applauds the State legislative bodies that have taken tremendous steps to adopt protections and services for victims of trafficking. Congress encourages States to—

(1) uphold the dignity of human trafficking survivors;

(2) ensure the safety, confidentiality, and well-being of victims of trafficking, while recognizing symptoms of trauma and coping mechanisms that may impact victims’ interactions with law enforcement, the justice system, and service providers;

(3) implement screening mechanisms to identify and extend appropriate services to children in the custody of child protective services agencies, the juvenile justice system, or the criminal justice system who are victims of trafficking;

(4) promote greater access to child welfare services for, rather than criminalization of, child victims of sex trafficking;

(5) develop a 24-hour emergency response plan by which victims of human trafficking may receive immediate protection, shelter, and support from a victim assistance coordinator when those victims are first identified;

(6) adopt protections for adult victims of trafficking, such as protection if the victim’s safety is at risk, comprehensive trauma-informed, long-term, culturally competent care and healing services, mental health services to relieve traumatic stress, housing, education (including, where appropriate, vocational training and employment assistance), mentoring, language assistance, drug and substance abuse services, and legal services;

(7) ensure that child sex trafficking victims are treated as children in need of child protective services and receive appropriate care in the child welfare, rather than juvenile justice, system;

(8) encourage the adoption of procedures for human trafficking victims that are consistent with those afforded to victims of sexual assault, rape, child sexual abuse, or incest to allow human trafficking victim to clear records, expunge convictions, and vacate adjudications related to prostitution and nonviolent offenses that arose as a direct result of being trafficked, including protections for foreign nationals who are being removed and those who are losing or determined to be inadmissible for immigration benefits as a result of the aforementioned human trafficking victim related conviction or arrest; and

(9) ensure victims of trafficking, including United States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and foreign nationals are eligible for services.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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



Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 507, the Put Trafficking Victims First Act, with my colleague, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

I thank Mrs. WAGNER for her hard work over the years on this important legislation. We are here today because of her dedication and willingness to work in a bipartisan manner to address the problems faced by victims of trafficking. We both recognize that Congress must do more to combat this heinous crime.

H.R. 507 is designed to ensure that survivors of human trafficking do not go unnoticed. First, it expresses the sense of Congress that law enforcement set aside a portion of the funds they receive for combating human trafficking to ensure that victims receive support that is trauma informed and victim centered. This will provide victims with a better chance of recovering from their experiences.

Second, this legislation addresses the tremendous need for expanded victim services, improved data gathering on the prevalence and trends in human trafficking, and effective mechanisms to identify and work with victims in an effective and respectful manner.

It directs the Attorney General to form a broadly representative working group to assess the status of the collection of data on human trafficking and recommend best practices, conduct a survey of providers regarding the provision of services to them, as well as prepare a report to Congress on Federal efforts to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking, the effectiveness of current policies addressing victims' needs, and analyzing the demographic characteristics of trafficking victims, and recommendations on how to address their unique vulnerabilities.

The bill also directs the Attorney General to implement a pilot project testing the methodologies identified by the working group and requires the Attorney General to report on efforts to increase restitution to victims of human trafficking.

With this type of information in hand, Congress can provide appropriate oversight of efforts to combat human trafficking; and researchers, advocates, and law enforcement agencies will all have a shared resource as they continue to develop innovative approaches to stop traffickers.

Finally, the bill expresses the sense of Congress that States should implement trauma-informed, victim-centered care for all trafficking victims.

Forced labor and human trafficking are among the world's fastest growing enterprises. Globally, these inhumane practices generate an estimated \$150 billion a year in profit. That is three times the amount that the top Fortune 500 companies made in 2016.

Criminals are profiting from the systematic abuse of vulnerable people around the globe. Sadly, women and girls represent approximately 71 percent of these victims.

The U.S. State Department estimates that between 14,000 and 17,000 people

are trafficked into our country from other nations every year. These victims are part of the estimated hundreds of thousands of victims of trafficking currently living within our communities.

My home State of California has the ninth largest economy in the world. It is also one of the Nation's top four destinations for human traffickers, especially for child sex trafficking.

In 2018, of the 5,000 reports to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 760 of them were from California. As the founder of the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, I am very aware of the risks to vulnerable youth. Foster youth, along with runaways and homeless youth, are at the highest risk of being sex-trafficked.

Experts agree that the foster care system is yielding a disproportionate number of human trafficking victims. Nearly 60 percent of all child sex trafficking victims have histories in the child welfare system. We cannot allow this to continue.

Washington, D.C., is home to the most powerful government in the world, yet even in D.C., women and girls are being trafficked.

Organizations like Courtney's House are working to improve the outcome of trafficking survivors.

H.R. 507 will improve the implementation of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.

Trafficking victims face many challenges, even after they are freed from trafficking rings, ranging from access to social services and utilizing assistance programs. Survivors face difficulties navigating social services and assistance programs.

A component of H.R. 507 encourages law enforcement and prosecuting agencies to make every attempt to determine whether an individual has been a victim of human trafficking before charging them with offenses that are the result of their victimization. This is of particular concern to communities of color.

Mr. Speaker, Congress' intent is clear. Protecting victims from the heinous crime of human trafficking is of the utmost concern. I am proud to have worked across the aisle with Congresswoman WAGNER on this important legislation, and I urge our colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 507, the Put Trafficking Victims First Act of 2019.

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, which has taken its toll on communities across our Nation. It is a multibillion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to nearly 25 million people around the globe.

Traffickers use violence, threats, deception, debt bondage, and other horrendous tactics to force people to engage in commercial sex or to provide labor or services against their will.

This creates an enormous need for expanded victims services, improved data on the prevalence and trends of human trafficking, and effective mechanisms to identify and rescue trafficking victims.

H.R. 507 expresses the sense of Congress that a portion of the funds available under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 should be devoted to increasing the safety of victim service providers, many of whom are threatened because of their positions. It also promotes a trauma-informed, evidence-based, and victim-centered approach for providing services to the victims of trafficking.

Additionally, H.R. 507 promotes the effective prosecution of human traffickers and individuals who patronize or solicit children for sex. It encourages States to improve efforts to identify and meet the needs of human trafficking victims.

The bill also establishes a working group to identify barriers to the collection of data on the incidence of sex and labor trafficking and recommended practices to promote better data collection and analysis.

Finally, H.R. 507 will provide assistance to trafficking victims seeking restitution, many of whom still face many obstacles in Federal court. The bill directs the Attorney General to report on efforts to increase mandatory restitution for victims by providing Congress with the relevant data.

Mr. Speaker, this has been an issue in my home State of Georgia. It is one that I am very proud to know that, under Governor Deal, our previous Governor, and continuing under Governor Kemp, that around, especially, the city of Atlanta, a very international city, it has also, unfortunately, become an area in which sexual exportation and human trafficking was something that became a scar and is still affecting our city. We saw that around the Super Bowl and the several arrests that took place.

This is something that needs to be erased from our vocabulary. This is something that does not need to be talked about. Again, human trafficking anywhere in the world is wrong and, hopefully, will be relegated to the annals of the history books at some point.

I want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) and also my friend, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), for their tireless devotion to continuing this path and bringing this forward each Congress.

I am looking forward to this actually becoming law during this session, and I would urge all of my colleagues to support this.

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas, (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman very much, and I acknowledge the words of the

ranking member of the full committee and acknowledge the work of the chairman, Mr. NADLER, of the committee.

I am glad that these bills that we have just debated and one coming up that I know is Mr. COLLINS' bill dealing with the fees to provide resources to those who file lawsuits, justified lawsuits, and have no recourse, these bills are coming out of the Judiciary Committee in a bipartisan manner.

This is a very important statement that we are making with the new majority and working with the minority on very important issues.

This is an issue that has claimed our attention for decades, the fact that we are working every day to improve and, as Mr. COLLINS has just indicated, to never to have to talk about sex trafficking, human trafficking again. If we can eliminate this scourge, I think all of us will find peace.

Just a few years ago, as the ranking member on the Homeland Security Committee, we did the first human trafficking hearing with then-Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON in Houston, Texas, to listen to many who claimed and documented that Houston, Texas, was the epicenter of human trafficking in that region, in the Nation.

It is not something that we are proud of, but we are proud of the advocates who work without ceasing with law enforcement to put, again, a red stop sign in front of this travesty.

So I acknowledge the work that has been done by many of my colleagues, the work that has been done by Congresswoman WAGNER and many others who gathered.

That hearing was the first in history in that community, and the first field hearing that was addressing that question. It was quite a few years ago.

But I want to acknowledge from my hometown Jackie Aluotto, who has found and saved lives of victims of human trafficking in our own community; Kathryn Griffin, who, likewise, has been at the forefront of stopping human trafficking, and particularly of young children sex trafficking, and has been a refuge for many who have suffered; Constable Alan Rosen; Constable May Walker; Sheriff Gonzalez; Mayor Sylvester Turner, who has an outstanding program in the city of Houston.

So I rise to support H.R. 507 for several reasons, not the least of which being how much it will impact the local community and the work that is being done. This measure will strengthen the effectiveness of the 2017 act in various ways, which I am very proud to have supported.

□ 1345

The 2017 act directed the Attorney General to study issues related to human trafficking in response to trafficking concerning services and benefits for victims, criminal justice, domestic sex trafficking of children, and interagency coordination and training.

For example, H.R. 507 increases the personal safety of victim service providers who may face intimidation or retaliation for their activities. While many of us may not realize, sometimes these providers within the context of the law, may have one or two of these individuals at their own homes, or have secreted them somewhere, so they are in the eye of the storm.

As I indicated, we had the first human trafficking hearing of any committee in Houston, Texas, several years ago under the auspices of the Homeland Security Committee.

I am proud of the facts that came out, giving the local people the opportunity to talk about the difficulties and challenges that they face trying to stop the scourge of human trafficking, particularly with young people.

Our committee determined this very point, that the safety of these victims should be our number one concern. Innocent people who have been turned into human trafficking products by the heinous traffickers deserve our protection. As such, this training and funding is critical to ensure that human trafficking victims are treated as victims and afforded justice, respect, and dignity.

Second, H.R. 507 ensures that law enforcement officers and prosecutors make every attempt to determine whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking before arresting the individual for or charging the individual with an offense that is a direct result of victimization of that individual.

This will ensure that law enforcement officers do not add trauma and pain to the victims that have already endured an enormous amount of suffering.

Let me remind my colleagues, that human trafficking, even beyond the scourge of drugs, is a product that can be used or is used over and over again. How devastating, how deadly, how heinous it is that these individuals can be used in human trafficking, sex trafficking, and the acts that they may be called upon to do over and over again.

As a result, H.R. 507 will ensure that most effective practices are standardized so that sex trafficking victims are ultimately protected and treated with respect at all times.

Lastly, the legislation ensures the effective prosecution of traffickers and individuals. For these reasons, I would say that this would be a bill that all of us support. Let's put up more than a stop sign and fight human trafficking and sex trafficking.

Support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 507, which directs the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

Madam Speaker, it is of the utmost importance that we pass this important legislation and uphold the ideals of this country by protecting human trafficking victims.

This bill is intended to improve the implementation of the Putting Trafficking Victims First Act of 2017.

The 2017 act directed the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking in response to trafficking concerning services and benefits for victims, criminal justice, domestic sex trafficking of children, and interagency coordination and training.

I support H.R. 507 for several reasons. This measure will strengthen the effectiveness of the 2017 act in various ways, which I was proud to support.

For example, H.R. 507 increases the personal safety of victim service providers, who may face intimidation or retaliation for their activities.

We had the first human trafficking hearing of any committee in Houston, Texas, several years ago under the auspices of the Homeland Security Committee.

Our committee determined this very point: that the safety of these victims should be our number one concern.

Innocent people who have been turned into human traffic products by the heinous traffickers deserve our protection.

As such, this training and funding is critical to ensure that human trafficking victims are treated as victims and afforded justice, respect, and dignity.

Second, H.R. 507 ensures that law enforcement officers and prosecutors make every attempt to determine whether an individual is a victim of human trafficking before arresting the individual for, or charging the individual with, an offense that is a direct result of the victimization of the individual.

This will ensure that law enforcement officers do not add trauma and pain to the victims that have already endured an enormous amount of suffering.

As a result, H.R. 507 will help ensure the most effective practices are standardized so that sex trafficking victims are ultimately protected and treated with respect at all times.

Lastly, the legislation ensures the effective prosecution of traffickers and individuals who patronize or solicit children for sex and facilitate access for child victims of commercial sex trafficking to the services and protections afforded to other victims of sexual violence.

H.R. 507 identifies a broad range of important initiatives that States should undertake that would provide meaningful assistance to these victims: increasing victims' personal safety, ensuring the correct treatment of human trafficking victims by law enforcement and, ensuring the effective prosecution of all traffickers.

Each of these initiatives should help ensure that these victims are not revictimized and help enable them to be guided back to a normalized life.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, I am pleased to support this bill.

This legislation is all about pointing out, finding, saving the victims, making sure they get treatment, and making sure that human trafficking is identified.

I am also pleased that this measure, maintains the commitment to maintaining a report on State safe harbor laws.

As we all know, safe harbors play a critical role in preventing youth, forced into the sex trade, from being revictimized again and stigmatized a second time by the criminal justice system, almost similar to the little girl who was looking for love.

Instead, she got victimized and turned into a human trafficking product.

H.R. 507 also fosters better collaboration among the Federal, State, and local law enforcement in the fight against sex trafficking and encourages States to adopt protections for trafficking victims by providing rehabilitation and recovery services for victims of human trafficking.

Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to support this measure and, as well, to be reminded of all those children who will be helped and saved.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER). She is someone to whom this has been a tireless call. She has been a sponsor of this, and outspoken on this, a fighter on this, along with the other folks who have talked about this.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member very much for his voice on this issue and so many others, and I thank my dear friend from California, KAREN BASS, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Put Trafficking Victims First Act, which I wrote and introduced in the last Congress with Congresswoman KAREN BASS.

The bill passed unanimously in May of 2017, and I hope that the House will again stand with the victims of human trafficking. Too often, trafficking victims are overlooked and underserved.

In my home State of Missouri, I have met with many survivors and listened to their painful stories. They need help to rebuild their lives and that is exactly what this legislation will do.

America's courtrooms need to adopt victim-centered practices oriented towards justice and recovery. While victims technically have access to mandatory restitution in Federal courts, the sad reality is that according to one estimate, sex trafficking victims get restitution in only 14 percent of Federal sex trafficking cases. This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker.

This legislation will direct the Attorney General to work on increasing restitution and to adopt victim-friendly procedures in criminal cases. We believe the trauma-informed care helps victims recover and cooperate with law enforcement so we may put pimps and buyers behind bars.

Lack of help for victims in the justice system can lead to revictimization, or even result in victims being criminalized for offenses that they were forced to commit.

The Putting Trafficking Victims First Act of 2019 encourages training for agencies, law enforcement, and prosecutors across the country to implement victim-centered approaches to investigating and preventing trafficking.

We also encourage law enforcement to make every attempt to determine whether an individual's participation in trafficking is free from force, fraud, and coercion before arresting or charging them.

The lack of good data on how to find and rescue victims of trafficking is an-

other major challenge in the United States. We don't really know how best to identify and locate victims; what proportion are coming from foster care; or their ages; ethnicity; or other characteristics. We can't help victims if we can't find them, and we desperately need to improve victim outreach.

The Putting Trafficking Victims First Act of 2019 establishes a national working group to develop a public survey of survivors and robust methodologies to estimate the prevalence of trafficking. This will help us understand how and where victims are accessing help to improve service provision.

Finally, victims of trafficking are mostly served at the State level. So it is critical that States improve how they respond to victims. We need to make sure that all child trafficking victims receive the same level of care that any other child abuse survivor would receive. The bill encourages States to improve outreach, screen children entering child welfare services and the justice system, screen foreign nationals who will be labor trafficked, create safe harbor laws, and develop emergency response plans.

Together, we can get victims of trafficking out of dangerous and abusive situations and make trauma-informed services more accessible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to put trafficking victims first and join Congresswoman BASS and myself in voting for this legislation.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN).

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. BASS for yielding. I just wanted to stand on this bill because this is an important area and I want to commend Representative BASS for bringing it.

I am happy to be a cosponsor, but I particularly thank Congresswoman ANN WAGNER. When we had a bill last year, the SOAR Act, Stop, Observe, Act and Respond, to Health and Wellness Act, a pilot program to train healthcare workers who come into contact with people who have been sexually trafficked, they oftentimes do see healthcare workers because they have either been beaten up by their pimps or they have gotten a venereal disease.

They might have to go in for birth control or for some other reason sexually related, oftentimes health related, so that we need to train health workers to observe and to know when they were seeing somebody trafficked to stop, to observe, to see if that person might be in that situation, and then to ask them, and then to send them to an agency that can help them.

This was an important bill that we were able to pass in the Senate and make law.

Representative KINZINGER helped, Representative CÁRDENAS helped, but Representative WAGNER was my star, and I want to thank her so much for working with us and helping on the Senate side, particularly, to get it passed.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill. I also want to mention that Representative BURCHETT is a strong sponsor and supporter of this type of legislation, and a great American.

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

Mr. Speaker, much has been said about this bill. I think all of it is very timely, and I think, again, as we look at this, this is a time in which we all come together and make a very strong statement in support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Organizations like Courtney's House are working to improve the outcomes for sex trafficking survivors. Tina Frundt, the director of Courtney's House right here in D.C., asserts that African American and Latino communities are not immune to human trafficking. Her organization provides trauma-informed services to sex trafficking survivors between the ages of 12 and 19.

Tina is also a child sex trafficking survivor. As a 9-year-old girl in foster care, she was sex trafficked. By the time Tina was 14, she became one of 2 million children who run away from home each year. Nearly 200,000 of them will be sex trafficked.

In Tina's case, her adult abuser was more than twice her age, and forced her to become a child sex worker. It took her years to escape. Now Tina helps children like her recent client, a 12-year-old girl whose 25-year-old abuser called himself her boyfriend rather than her trafficker.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 507 supports efforts to stop human trafficking. We are making progress in protecting those who have been caught up in this horrific criminal activity, and this bill is a great example of what we can accomplish when we focus on helping the most vulnerable among us.

We have an obligation not only to end human trafficking, but to support people who undergo horrific experiences like these. This bill is yet another step in the right direction.

Once again, I would like to thank Congresswoman WAGNER and Congresswoman JACKSON LEE for all of their efforts in this regard. I was very pleased to team up with Congresswoman WAGNER again on this legislation, and hope that we can continue to work on these issues in the future.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 507.

The question was taken.

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

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## OPEN BOOK ON EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 752) to amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 752

*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 "Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act".

### SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROVISIONS.

(a) AGENCY PROCEEDINGS.—Section 504 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1), by striking "United States Code";

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(3) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

"(e) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section:

"(1) The case name and number of the adversary adjudication, if available.

"(2) The name of the agency involved in the adversary adjudication.

"(3) A description of the claims in the adversary adjudication.

"(4) The name of each party to whom the award was made, as such party is identified in the order or other agency document making the award.

"(5) The amount of the award.

"(6) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

"(f) The online searchable database described in subsection (f) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

"(g) The head of each agency shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of subsections (e) and (f) not later than 60 days after the date on which the request is made."

(b) COURT CASES.—Section 2412(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) The Chairman of the Administrative Conference shall create and maintain online a searchable database containing the following information with respect to each award of fees and other expenses under this section:

"(A) The case name and number.

"(B) The name of the agency involved in the case.

"(C) The name of each party to whom the award was made, as such party is identified

in the order or other court document making the award.

"(D) A description of the claims in the case.

"(E) The amount of the award.

"(F) The basis for the finding that the position of the agency concerned was not substantially justified.

"(6) The online searchable database described in paragraph (5) may not reveal any information the disclosure of which is prohibited by law or court order.

"(7) The head of each agency (including the Attorney General of the United States) shall provide to the Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States all information requested by the Chairman to comply with the requirements of paragraphs (5) and (6) not later than 60 days after the date on which the request is made."

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 2412 of title 28, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(3), by striking "United States Code,"; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "of section 2412 of title 28, United States Code," and inserting "of this section"; and

(B) by striking "of such title" and inserting "of this title".

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall first apply with respect to awards of fees and other expenses that are made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) ONLINE DATABASES.—The online databases required by section 504(e) of title 5, United States Code, and section 2412(d)(5) of title 28, United States Code, shall be established as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, but in no case later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have up to 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 752, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, a bill House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member COLLINS and I have worked on together for several years.

The Equal Access to Justice Act was enacted to allow Americans to recover attorneys' fees and costs associated with lawsuits against the Federal Government. This has enabled ordinary citizens, such as veterans, seniors, small business owners, advocates for clean air and clean water, and any other type of citizen to fight unfair or illegal government actions without fear of court costs.

The law has been a success. In 1995, however, an important reporting re-

quirement was removed from it, which made it harder for the public to know how much money the government has awarded. Our bill, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act reinstates the Equal Access to Justice Act's tracking and reporting requirements with respect to payments awarded so that American people can have access to this important information.

It would do this by requiring ACUS, an acronym for the Administrative Conference of the United States, a highly respected, nonpartisan agency, to prepare an annual report for Congress on the fees and costs awarded in these cases. The reports would also include the number and nature of the claims involved.

In summary, H.R. 752 would promote greater transparency and accountability. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join me and Mr. COLLINS in voting for this measure today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, there are so many times on this floor that we come down here and we talk about things that divide us, but I have to say, Mr. COHEN and I, we have had so many things that sometimes we don't see eye to eye on, but we are still friends, and this is one of those times where we have been pursuing this one for a long time. This is a bill that I have been very privileged to have him be a part of and sponsor.

□ 1400

H.R. 752, the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act, is to provide transparency and oversight for taxpayer dollars awarded under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

Of all the folks who have been cosponsors on this, Mr. COHEN has stood out among all. He has been such a great supporter of this, and it is good to have him with us managing this bill.

I also thank Representatives CHENEY and PETERSON for being original cosponsors and their continued leadership on this.

Also, Mr. Speaker, because this is, I believe, something we should have passed last Congress, we went ahead and worked it, and, today, we are also excited to have identical legislation that has been introduced in the Senate by Senators BARRASSO and COONS.

This bill has previously passed the House unanimously. It is common sense and restores needed congressional and public oversight.

Congress originally passed the Equal Access to Justice Act in 1980 to remove a barrier to justice for those with limited access to the resources it takes to sue the Federal Government and to recover attorney's fees and costs that go along with such suits. The law was meant to give citizens the ability to challenge or defend against unreasonable government actions where they might otherwise be deterred or unable to do so because of large legal expenses.

The Equal Access to Justice Act was intended for true David and Goliath scenarios where a wronged citizen is facing the Federal Government's vast resources. This law has been on the books for decades and remains important. However, since 1995, tracking and reporting requirements on payments under the law have been halted. Without a comprehensive Federal report on the total amount of fees under the law, we have fallen behind in oversight responsibilities and can't tell, in a meaningful way, if that law is still working as intended.

In fact, a Government Accountability Office report indicated that, without any direction to track payments, most agencies simply do not do it. We have only anecdotal evidence about how much we are spending on attorney's fees, the agencies paying out the fees, and what types of claims are being covered.

The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act reinstates needed transparency and accountability requirements to ensure that the Equal Access to Justice Act is helping individuals, retirees, veterans, and small businesses as intended. It requires the Administrative Conference of the United States to develop an online searchable database that includes information on the number, nature, and amount of the awards; claims involved in the controversy; and other relevant information. Agencies would be required to provide information requested by ACUS for the development and maintenance of the database. Importantly, ACUS would be required to withhold information from the database if disclosure is prohibited by law or court order.

As made clear in report language in previous years, I continue to expect ACUS to take appropriate measures to ensure that individual specific healthcare information, such as an individual's diagnoses and treatments, is not contained in the database. This legislation ensures appropriate protections are in place while facilitating critical public and congressional oversight.

The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act places agency expenditures under EAJA in view of a watchful public eye and restores scrutiny over taxpayer dollars.

Where the Federal Government is spending money, Congress needs to exercise oversight and ensure it is being done in accordance with the law and congressional intent.

Tracking and reporting requirements preserve the integrity of the Equal Access to Justice Act. They will enable Congress to evaluate the law to make sure it is working effectively for the people it is intended to help. We owe it to small businesses, Social Security claimants, veterans, and similarly situated individuals who rely on the law, faced with the daunting task of taking on the Federal Government, to make sure that it is working.

I look forward to continuing bipartisan efforts to move this bill forward and to the Open Book on Equal Justice Act ultimately becoming law. The consensus behind this legislation reflects the need to address this issue and Americans' right to know how their taxpayer dollars are being spent. It is time we gave them that transparency.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize a lady who served in this Congress named Cynthia Lummis. She was the original cosponsor I had on this bill and worked hard on it and was a very fine Representative.

We also worked with a man named Lowell Baier. Mr. Baier wrote a book called "Inside the Equal Access to Justice Act: Environmental Litigation and the Crippling Battle over America's Lands, Endangered Species, and Critical Habitats." He was a great supporter of this concept, and I want to recognize his efforts as well as Mrs. Lummis'.

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. CHENEY), who is a cosponsor and our Conference chair. She has been a great supporter of this.

I would also be remiss, Mr. Speaker, to not say that it was her predecessor who introduced me to this issue, Mrs. Lummis, who always seems to be around, and she keeps this agenda in focus as well. I want to say thank you to her for her previous work.

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and Republican leader of the Steering Committee, Mr. COLLINS, as well as my colleague, Mr. COHEN from Tennessee, for their work on this important issue. I thank Chairman NADLER, of course, for helping to bring this important bill to the floor. Of course, I echo my colleagues' fond words for my predecessor, Congresswoman Lummis, and all the work she did over the years on this issue and so many others for our great State. I thank them the opportunity to speak on this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Equal Access to Justice Act was enacted in 1980 for good reason: to ensure that private citizens could obtain legal representation in cases against the Federal Government, in cases where it was deserved.

While the Equal Access to Justice Act serves that important purpose in holding these Federal agencies accountable, in the past 20 years, we have seen this process abused too often by outside organizations. This program was intended to help everyday citizens seek justice, but those seeking profits have also had access to this program. They have effectively turned the Equal Access to Justice Act into their own personal wallet through frivolous lawsuits. This program was never intended to be a slush fund for serial litigators.

Making matters worse, the perversion of the Equal Access to Justice Act is funded by American taxpayers. Americans are footing the legal and attorney's fees of groups that are impeding critical activities, especially on Federal lands in my home State of Wyoming and in others.

It is clear that the Equal Access to Justice Act needs modernizing, and H.R. 752 is the first step toward that goal. This legislation still affords citizens, organizations, and other affected parties the same right to financial rewards in a prevailing lawsuit, but it finally would establish transparency and accountability for these funds.

Under H.R. 752, an online database detailing funds awarded to prevailing parties, the agency, and the party involved in the case, and a description of these claims, will be made available to the American people. This provides accountability and transparency not only to outside organizations, but to our Federal agencies and, most importantly, to the American people. The American people have a right to know how their hard-earned money is spent, and this legislation takes a crucial step toward doing just that.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, to support this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is definitely an area that I looked forward to. It should have happened last Congress, for my good friend from Tennessee. It is going to happen, I believe, in this Congress. We have both the House and the Senate, and I think this is definitely something the administration will support. I look forward to this becoming law.

This is simply a good bill that opens up transparency and allows us to make better decisions in Congress. That is what we are supposed to be about. Again, I thank my friend from Tennessee for being a cosponsor on this and for being a part of that.

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in closing, again, I would like to thank all the other people, all the members of the Academy and the producers and directors, but also Ranking Member COLLINS for his continued partnership on this bill, which passed the House last Congress and almost passed the Senate. We always have to remember the enemy is not the Republicans; it is the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives COLLIN PETERSON and LIZ CHENEY for their efforts as well. I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 752 "Open Book Equal Access to Justice Act" which will amend titles 5 and 28, United States Code, to require the maintenance of databases on awards of fees

and other expenses to prevailing parties in certain administrative proceedings and court cases to which the United States is a party, and for other purposes.

In 1980, Congress passed the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) as a means to help individuals, retirees, veterans, and small businesses recover attorney's fees and costs associated with suing the federal government.

Congress intended the EAJA to remove a barrier to justice for those with limited access to the resources it takes to sue the federal government.

Payments of EAJA attorney's fees come from the budget of the agency who action gave rise to the claim.

While the original EAJA legislation included a requirement to track payments and report to Congress annually, Congress and the agencies halted tracking and reporting of payments made through EAJA in 1995.

Without any direction to track payments, most agencies simply do not do it and Congress and taxpayers are unable to exercise oversight over these funds.

H.R. 752 reinstates the tracking and reporting requirements of the original EAJA legislation by requiring the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) to develop an online, searchable database to facilitate public and Congressional oversight over the program.

This will allow public access to information on the amount of attorney's fees being paid under EAJA, to whom the taxpayers' money is being paid, and from which agencies.

The Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act helps ensure that agencies are operating under the public eye and that taxpayer dollars are being spent effectively and properly.

Allowing plaintiffs to recoup legal costs when they sue the federal government for reparations they deserve is only fair.

Many Americans do not have the resources to take on our sprawling bureaucracy, but EAJA gave them the power to do that by removing a barrier to justice for those with limited access to resources.

Since the original reporting requirements were halted by Congress, there is no information on payments made under the law.

Tracking and reporting payments will help preserve the integrity of this law and help Congress make sure it is working effectively for the people it was intended to help.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 752.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 752.

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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 105;

Adoption of House Resolution 105, if ordered;

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 450; and

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 507.

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.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 840, VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT; PROVIDING FOR ADOPTION OF H. RES. 86, PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 105) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs; providing for the adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 86) providing amounts for the expenses of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 227, nays 189, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 68]

YEAS—227

Adams	Cisneros	Doggett
Aguilar	Clark (MA)	Doyle, Michael
Axne	Clarke (NY)	F.
Barragán	Clay	Engel
Bass	Clyburn	Escobar
Beatty	Cohen	Eshoo
Bera	Connolly	Espallat
Beyer	Cooper	Evans
Bishop (GA)	Correa	Finkenauer
Blumenauer	Costa	Fletcher
Blunt Rochester	Courtney	Foster
Bonamici	Cox (CA)	Frankel
Boyle, Brendan	Craig	Fudge
F.	Crist	Gabbard
Brindisi	Crow	Gallego
Brown (MD)	Cuellar	Garamendi
Brownley (CA)	Cunningham	Garcia (IL)
Bustos	Davidson (KS)	Garcia (TX)
Butterfield	Davis (CA)	Golden
Carbajal	Davis, Danny K.	Gomez
Cárdenas	Dean	Gonzalez (TX)
Carson (IN)	DeFazio	Gottheimer
Cartwright	DeGette	Green (TX)
Case	DeLauro	Grijalva
Casten (IL)	DelBene	Haaland
Castor (FL)	Delgado	Harder (CA)
Castro (TX)	Demings	Hayes
Chu, Judy	DeSaunier	Heck
Cielline	Deutch	Higgins (NY)

Hill (CA)	McAdams	Schiff
Himes	McBath	Schneider
Horn, Kendra S.	McCollum	Schrader
Horsford	McEachin	Schrier
Houlahan	McGovern	Scott (VA)
Hoyer	McNerney	Scott, David
Huffman	Meeks	Serrano
Jackson Lee	Meng	Sewell (AL)
Jayapal	Moore	Shalala
Jeffries	Morelle	Sherman
Johnson (GA)	Moulton	Sherrill
Johnson (TX)	Mucarsel-Powell	Sires
Kaptur	Murphy	Slotkin
Keating	Napolitano	Smith (WA)
Kelly (IL)	Neal	Soto
Kennedy	Neguse	Spanberger
Khanna	Norcross	Speier
Kildee	O'Halleran	Stanton
Kilmer	Ocasio-Cortez	Stevens
Kim	Omar	Suozi
Kind	Pallone	Swalwell (CA)
Kirkpatrick	Panetta	Takano
Krishnamoorthi	Pappas	Thompson (CA)
Kuster (NH)	Pascrell	Thompson (MS)
Lamb	Payne	Titus
Langevin	Perlmutter	Tlaib
Larsen (WA)	Peters	Tonko
Larson (CT)	Peterson	Torres (CA)
Lawrence	Phillips	Torres Small
Lawson (FL)	Pingree	(NM)
Lee (CA)	Pocan	Trahan
Lee (NV)	Porter	Trone
Levin (CA)	Pressley	Underwood
Levin (MI)	Price (NC)	Van Drew
Lewis	Quigley	Vargas
Lieu, Ted	Raskin	Veasey
Lipinski	Rice (NY)	Vela
Loeback	Richmond	Velázquez
Lofgren	Rose (NY)	Visclosky
Lowenthal	Rouda	Wasserman
Lowe	Roybal-Allard	Schultz
Luján	Ruiz	Waters
Luria	Ruppersberger	Watson Coleman
Lynch	Rush	Welch
Malinowski	Ryan	Wexton
Maloney,	Sánchez	Wild
Carolyn B.	Sarbanes	Yarmuth
Maloney, Sean	Scanlon	
Matsui	Schakowsky	

#### NAYS—189

Abraham	Duffy	Joyce (PA)
Aderholt	Duncan	Katko
Allen	Dunn	Kelly (MS)
Amash	Emmer	Kelly (PA)
Amodei	Estes	King (IA)
Armstrong	Ferguson	King (NY)
Arrington	Fitzpatrick	Kinzinger
Babin	Fleischmann	Kustoff (TN)
Bacon	Flores	LaHood
Baird	Fortenberry	Lamborn
Balderson	Foxx (NC)	Latta
Banks	Fulcher	Lesko
Barr	Gaetz	Long
Bergman	Gallagher	Lucas
Biggs	Gianforte	Luetkemeyer
Bilirakis	Gibbs	Marchant
Bishop (UT)	Gohmert	Marshall
Bost	Gonzalez (OH)	Massie
Brady	Gooden	Mast
Brooks (AL)	Gosar	McClintock
Brooks (IN)	Granger	McKinley
Buchanan	Graves (GA)	Meuser
Buck	Graves (LA)	Miller
Bucshon	Graves (MO)	Mitchell
Budd	Green (TN)	Moolenaar
Burchett	Griffith	Mooney (WV)
Burgess	Grothman	Mullin
Byrne	Guest	Newhouse
Calvert	Guthrie	Norman
Carter (GA)	Hagedorn	Nunes
Carter (TX)	Harris	Olson
Chabot	Hartzler	Palazzo
Cheney	Hern, Kevin	Palmer
Cline	Herrera Beutler	Pence
Cloud	Hice (GA)	Perry
Cole	Higgins (LA)	Posey
Collins (GA)	Hill (AR)	Ratcliffe
Collins (NY)	Holding	Reed
Comer	Hollingsworth	Reschenthaler
Conaway	Hudson	Rice (SC)
Cook	Huizenga	Riggleman
Crawford	Hunter	Roby
Crenshaw	Hurd (TX)	Rodgers (WA)
Curtis	Johnson (LA)	Roe, David P.
Davidson (OH)	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Davis, Rodney	Johnson (SD)	Rogers (KY)
DesJarlais	Jordan	Rooney (FL)
Diaz-Balart	Joyce (OH)	Rose, John W.



Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Staubert  
Stefanik

Steil  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski

Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

## NOT VOTING—16

Allred  
Cleaver  
Cummings  
Dingell  
Hastings  
Jones

LaMalfa  
Loudermilk  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McHenry  
Meadows

Nadler  
Smith (NJ)  
Steube  
Wilson (FL)

□ 1434

Messrs. REED, AMASH, NUNES, HUNTER, and Ms. FOXX of North Carolina changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 193, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]

## YEAS—225

Adams  
Aguilar  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar

Cunningham  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Engel  
Escobar  
Español  
Evans  
Finkenauer  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Gabbard  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gottheimer  
Green (TX)  
Haaland  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Heck  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford

Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Huffman  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (TX)  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Lamb  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lujan  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Matsui

McAdams  
McBath  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Murphy  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Norcross  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter

Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Ruiz  
Rice (NY)  
Richmond  
Rose (NY)  
Rouda  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan  
Sanchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger

Speier  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
(NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Weston  
Wild  
Yarmuth

## NAYS—193

Abraham  
Aderholt  
Allen  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (UT)  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Cline  
Cloud  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Cook  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ferguson  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foxx (NC)  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert

Gonzalez (OH)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hagedorn  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill (AR)  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kartko  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
Lamborn  
Latta  
Lesko  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Marchant  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McHenry  
McKinley  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Mullin  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Nunes  
Olson

Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Posey  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Rutherford  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sensenbrenner  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spano  
Staubert  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Taylor  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Turner  
Upton  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Watkins  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

## NOT VOTING—14

Allred  
Cleaver  
Cummings  
Dingell  
Grijalva

Hastings  
Jones  
LaMalfa  
McCarthy  
Meadows

Nadler  
Sires  
Steube  
Wilson (FL)

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1444

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PREVENTING CRIMES AGAINST VETERANS ACT OF 2019

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. 450) to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 70]

## YEAS—417

Abraham  
Aguilar  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brindisi  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham

Butterfield  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Cook  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham

Curtis  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Davis, Rodney  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Estes  
Evans  
Ferguson  
Finkenauer  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foxx (NC)  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Fulcher  
Gabbard  
Gaetz



Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Green (TX)  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Haaland  
Hagedorn  
Harder (CA)  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hayes  
Heck  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (AR)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis

Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luján  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norman  
Nunes  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olson  
Omar  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose (NY)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouda  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz

Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spano  
Speier  
Stanton  
Staubert  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Taylor  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
(NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Upton  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Barr  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Welch  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady  
Bridis  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Zeldin

## NOT VOTING—15

Allred  
Bishop (UT)  
Cleaver  
Cummings  
Dingell

Hastings  
Jones  
LaMalfa  
McCarthy  
Meadows

Nadler  
Rutherford  
Sires  
Steube  
Wilson (FL)

□ 1451

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for the vote on H.R. 450—Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Roll Call No. 70.

PUT TRAFFICKING VICTIMS FIRST  
ACT OF 2019

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. 507) to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, 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 on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) 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 414, nays 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 71]

YEAS—414

Abraham  
Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Axne  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady  
Bridis  
Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett

Burgess  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Byrne  
Calvert  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Cook  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw

Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cunningham  
Curtis  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Davis, Rodney  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españillat  
Estes  
Evans  
Ferguson  
Finkenauer  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foxx (NC)

Frankel  
Fudge  
Fulcher  
Gabbard  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Green (TX)  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Haaland  
Hagedorn  
Harder (CA)  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hayes  
Heck  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (AR)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis

Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lowenthal  
Lowe  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luján  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCaul  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McHenry  
McKinley  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norman  
Nunes  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olson  
Omar  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose (NY)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouda  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz

Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Shimkus  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spano  
Speier  
Stanton  
Staubert  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Stewart  
Stivers  
Suozi  
Swalwell (CA)  
Takano  
Taylor  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Thornberry  
Timmons  
Tipton  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres Small  
(NM)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Upton  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Vela  
Velázquez  
Visclosky  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walden  
Walker  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watkins  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Welch  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Woodall  
Wright  
Yarmuth  
Yoho  
Young  
Zeldin

## NAYS—1

Amash

## NOT VOTING—17

Allred	Johnson (LA)	Meadows
Cleaver	Johnson (SD)	Nadler
Cummings	Jones	Sires
Davis (CA)	LaMalfa	Steube
Dingell	Marchant	Wilson (FL)
Hastings	McCarthy	

□ 1459

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I am back home in Dallas, Texas, on paternity leave with my family, I submit the following vote explanation.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 68, "yea" on rollcall No. 69, "yea" on rollcall No. 70, and "yea" on rollcall No. 71.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I missed this vote series due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 68, "nay" on rollcall No. 69, "yea" on rollcall No. 70, and "yea" on rollcall No. 71.

#### PROVIDING AMOUNTS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, House Resolution 86 is considered as adopted.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 86

*Resolved,*

#### SECTION 1. AMOUNTS FOR EXPENSES OF SELECT COMMITTEES.

(a) SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS.—

(1) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than \$70,000 for the expenses of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis established under section 104(f) of House Resolution 6, as agreed to January 9, 2019, to be available during the period beginning at noon on January 1, 2019, and ending on March 31, 2019.

(2) VOUCHERS.—Payments under this subsection shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, signed by the chair of the Select Committee, and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

(b) SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS.—

(1) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives not more than \$50,000 for the expenses of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress established under title II of House Resolution 6, as agreed to January 9, 2019, to be available during the period beginning at noon on January 1, 2019, and ending on March 31, 2019.

(2) VOUCHERS.—Payments under this subsection shall be made on vouchers authorized by the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, signed by the chair of the Select Committee, and approved in the man-

ner directed by the Committee on House Administration.

(c) REGULATIONS.—Amounts made available under this resolution shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.

#### REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Survivors Protection Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

## PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. SCALISE. A parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. SCALISE. I understand the guidelines the Chair decided, Mr. Speaker, but seeing no objection from either side of the House, would that constitute clearance and allow the Chair to entertain my motion under the rules of the House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. A unanimous-consent request for the consideration of that measure would have to receive clearance by the majority and the minority floor and committee leaderships.

The Chair is unaware of such clearance; therefore, the Chair cannot entertain that request at this time.

Mr. SCALISE. Further parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. SCALISE. Again, seeing no objection on either side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, can the Chair advise what is required pursuant to section 956 of the House rules to allow my motion to be considered?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will have to be made aware of clearance.

Mr. SCALISE. So, Mr. Speaker, is there any guidance under section 956 of the House rules to have that motion be in order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Again, the Chair has not been made aware of the requisite clearance.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, can the ruling of the Chair be challenged?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has sought unanimous consent. The Chair has not ruled.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Chair to rule on the motion of unanimous consent.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman was not recognized for his

unanimous consent request. Under the guidelines, the request cannot be entertained.

Mr. SCALISE. So, Mr. Speaker, is there a motion that can be made under the rules that have been cited to allow for the immediate consideration of H.R. 962?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair does not issue advisory opinions.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request can't be entertained, I would urge the Speaker and the majority leader to schedule the born-alive bill immediately so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life, and I would ask all others to join in in that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

#### VETERANS' ACCESS TO CHILD CARE ACT

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 840.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 105 and Rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 840.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1507

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, with Ms. PLASKETT in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act.

We ask our servicemembers to risk their lives in service of our country, and in return, we promise to provide healthcare and benefits so they can live happy, healthy, and successful lives, and provide for their families.

As our veteran population becomes increasingly diverse, as the number of LGBTQ and minority and women veterans goes up, we must ensure every veteran has the opportunity to access their healthcare and benefits. Addressing underserved veterans is a pillar of my VA 2030 vision, which will drive our work on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the 116th Congress.

I proudly chose Congresswoman BROWNLEY's Veterans' Access to Child Care Act as the very first bill our committee would bring to the House floor because it addresses a sometimes overlooked group of veterans: veterans who are parents and caregivers to young children.

Providing cost-free, safe, and convenient healthcare so that veterans can see a mental health provider for treatment of post-traumatic stress, military sexual trauma, cancer resulting from exposure to Agent Orange, spinal cord injury, or even treatment for drug or substance abuse is the least we can do to make their lives easier so they, in turn, can be loving parents and caregivers to the children who depend on them.

Under my leadership of the most diverse and talented Committee on Veterans' Affairs in the history of this Chamber, underserved veterans, especially women veterans, minorities, LGBTQ veterans, and veterans from our tribal communities, homeless veterans, and even deported veterans will be a top priority.

We will work together to shatter the barriers and structural challenges underserved veterans face in this country they selflessly served by first attending to their most basic and essential needs: healthcare.

Ms. BROWNLEY, the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health and the head of the Task Force on Women Veterans, has been a tireless advocate for veterans since being elected to Congress. Her bill makes an already successful and popular pilot program permanent, a program that helps mothers, fathers, grandparents, and caregivers who need their VA healthcare, but struggle to find safe and convenient childcare or struggle to afford the high cost of childcare for their children.

A veteran should never be made to choose between caring for their children and their health. This bill will make sure veterans will no longer have to make this terrible choice.

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act first authorized the pilot program we are making permanent today. Under the pilot, VA could provide childcare services to eligible veterans seeking mental healthcare, intensive mental healthcare services, and other inten-

sive healthcare services that require veterans to travel to VA hospitals, clinics, or vet centers for regular or frequent appointments.

The first childcare program started at the VA Medical Center in Buffalo, New York, in October of 2011. Within 2 years, VA expanded the program to Northport, New York, and American Lake, Washington, and later brought childcare to Dallas, Texas.

The 2-year pilot program was meant to end in September 2013, but Congress has reauthorized the program for the past 6 years due to its success and popularity.

Since the beginning, over 10,000 children have used the childcare pilot program, and as more veterans and their children use the program, the cost decreased.

Last Congress, the legislation authorizing this program passed unanimously, and now we will have an opportunity to improve this already great bill with amendments we will be considering today and tomorrow. I am optimistic this bill will pass with the same bipartisan, unanimous support.

So I am very excited to work with Dr. ROE, the ranking member of our committee, on this bill and on future bipartisan legislation.

Before I give him a chance to share his thoughts on this bill, I would like to share one of the anecdotes we received from a social worker who helps homeless veterans under the Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program, otherwise known as the HUD-VASH program: "Just this week a female veteran with a 3-year-old son discussed childcare with me. She was so relieved it was still open, because she scheduled a gynecological appointment that she was going to cancel because she had no one to care for her son.

"This is a veteran who came to us homeless with a newborn and unmanaged diabetes. She is now diligently following her medical regimen and consistently makes appointments. She is stably housed in the community, enjoying being a mother, attending college, and working part-time.

"I do not think we would have been able to stabilize her life without the support of childcare to allow her to get to her appointments and receive the treatment, medication, recommendations, and care that have helped her succeed."

□ 1515

Now, as chairman of this committee, I look forward to sharing more stories of veterans throughout this country whose lives have been improved because of access to VA healthcare.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to

Child Care Act, and I acknowledge the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), the chairwoman and sponsor of this legislation, for her hard work and leadership on this issue.

As a father of three and a grandfather of three more, I know firsthand how important affordable, accessible, and safe childcare is and how difficult it can be for busy parents to find.

I never want a veteran, particularly one struggling with a mental health condition that requires regular ongoing treatment to manage, to be unable to get the care they need because of a lack of childcare.

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would prevent that by authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide childcare assistance to veterans who are receiving mental health or certain other intensive healthcare services.

Since 2011, VA has been providing childcare assistance to eligible veterans in select sites through a pilot program that has been extended by Congress on a consistent basis. This bill would permanently authorize that program and expand it across the VA healthcare system.

I was proud to support this bill last Congress as it passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support, and I am proud to support it today. However, my support is not without some reservations.

When we passed this bill last Congress, it had been reported out of the committee fully offset with a mandatory pay-for that, again, passed the House with unanimous bipartisan support.

An amendment offered by Congressman GUS BILIRAKIS of Florida that would use the same pay-for to offset the cost of this bill, which has increased from \$96 million 2 years ago to an estimated \$120 million today, was ruled not in order by the Rules Committee yesterday. That is a shame.

As chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee in the previous Congress, I entertained frequent objections to other good policies from my friends on the other side of the aisle due to concerns about how improvements to the VA healthcare system would be accounted for under discretionary caps. It appears those concerns have suddenly disappeared.

Yesterday afternoon, Chairman TAKANO noted that no offset was provided for this bill because the House Democrats have no requirement for discretionary costs to be offset, and it would be up to the appropriators to provide the funding VA needs to implement this program.

The Democrats' lack of a rule promoting fiscal discipline does not mean that we should not aspire to be good stewards of taxpayer money. The American taxpayer should expect and certainly deserve more from their elected officials than literally passing of the buck.

I also have reservations about this bill because it failed to move through

regular order, which it most certainly would have benefited from.

I commend my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for offering a number of thoughtful amendments to this legislation. I look forward to considering a number of those later today.

That said, we do not know what the Department thinks of them. We do not know what veterans service organizations think of them. We are blind to the second and third order implications they will undoubtedly have on this program and its cost. What is more, not all of the thoughtful amendments that were offered to this bill were ruled in order or will be up for debate.

I offered an amendment that would have provided the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission greater flexibility by removing a prohibition against the Commission meeting in any calendar year except 2022 and 2023.

The AIR Commission is an objective, data-driven, transparent process that will consider VA's real property portfolio as a whole and determine how it will be realigned and brought into the 21st century to continue providing the high-quality care that our veterans require in future years.

The bill we are considering today could result in the repurposing of existing space or creation of new space to be used to provide childcare services. Decisions about how limited VA medical facility space will be used must not be made in a vacuum, especially when Congress has already established a process for how those decisions should be made. I fail to see how my amendment doesn't apply here, and it is a shame that we didn't have an opportunity to have a robust debate on that in committee or on the floor.

Another good government amendment that was, unfortunately, ruled out of order was offered by Congressman JODEY ARRINGTON of Texas. Congressman ARRINGTON's amendment would have prohibited any employee who is hired by VA to provide childcare pursuant to this bill from spending their time on taxpayer-funded union activities rather than performing the childcare duties they were hired to perform.

I agree that government employees should be doing the job for which they are hired and receive a taxpayer-funded paycheck to do, and do nothing else.

Again, it is a shame we won't be able to discuss or debate that amendment. Despite these issues, I do find the underlying bill to be a worthy one, and I will be supporting it today.

I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY, again, and Chairman TAKANO for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I look forward to working with them in the next 2 years on these and other important issues of our Nation's veterans.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for his support of the bill. I would say,

with regard to the amendments, we would have entertained more amendments. I would have been happy to do so had they been germane, and we would have been glad to entertain them, but they were not.

Before I yield to Ms. BROWNLEY, the sponsor of this legislation, I include in the RECORD a letter of support from the Easterseals.

EASTERSEALS,  
February 6, 2019.

Hon. JULIA BROWNLEY,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE BROWNLEY: Easterseals is pleased to again support your Veterans' Access to Child Care Act legislation to increase the availability of child care for veterans who are receiving services or treatment at a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical center.

Easterseals is a national network of more than 70 nonprofit organizations who deliver local services to help children and adults with disabilities, veterans, older adults and others to live independently and to fully participate in their communities. Easterseals is a leading provider of inclusive child care and early education and development in the United States, providing thousands of young children with and without disabilities with high-quality child care.

Easterseals understands how important access to high-quality child care is to allow parents, including veterans, to go to work and to meet their own health care needs. That is why we supported the establishment of a pilot program at the VA to provide child care at select VA medical centers around the country that qualified veterans could use while at a medical appointment or while receiving medical services. The program has been particularly helpful for female veterans, nearly 30 percent of whom have children living at home. A recent VA report found that 42 percent of female veterans who use the VA reported that finding child care to attend a medical appointment was hard or very hard. When asked about solutions, more than three of out five female veterans surveyed said on-site childcare would be "very helpful."

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act would expand and make permanent the VA Child Care Pilot Program. The legislation would make available a stipend, to cover the full cost of child care provided by a licensed, on-site or private child care center while the veteran receives services, including travel time back and forth to the facility. The legislation is a common-sense next step toward improving access to VA health care to veterans.

Easterseals is pleased to support the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act. In addition, Easterseals stands ready to partner with the VA to provide child care assistance while they attend to their well-being and medical care. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,

MAYNARD FRIESZ,  
Assistant Vice President,  
Government Relations, Easterseals.

Mr. TAKANO. This bill is supported by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Vietnam Veterans of America, and other veterans service organizations. So I am pleased to say that we have heard the VSOs weigh in on Ms. BROWNLEY's legislation.

Madam Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY), the author of the bill.

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Madam Chair, I thank the chairman for yielding time and for bringing my bill, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, to the floor for consideration; and I thank Ranking Member ROE for his support of the bill.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I believe that it is critical that veterans have the support they need to ensure they are able to access needed healthcare services at the VA.

For many veterans, the lack of access to childcare is a barrier to receiving healthcare, especially mental healthcare and intensive care services. Research has shown that women veterans more commonly face this barrier, as they are more often responsible for caring for young children. That said, we know that the problem is not unique to women veterans, as male veterans have also reported lack of available childcare as a barrier to making their healthcare appointments as well.

In 2010, Congress passed legislation directing the VA to start a pilot program to provide free childcare at a small number of VA medical centers and clinics throughout the country. Since then, this pilot program has been successfully implemented and hugely popular at several locations across the country.

In 2015, the VA reported that the pilot program had provided childcare assistance to more than 10,000 children, and since then, many more veterans have benefited.

The pilot program has been popular among the veteran community, and there has been strong support for its continuation from veterans service organizations. That is because we all believe that veterans should not be forced to choose between getting necessary healthcare and caring for a child.

My bill, which we are debating today, would make the VA childcare pilot program permanent and expand the program to VA facilities all across the Nation.

Like the original pilot program, my bill is narrowly tailored for veterans who are full-time caretakers of children and who need intensive medical care or mental health treatments and for those veterans who might otherwise miss their appointments because of lack of available short-term childcare during their appointments.

For instance, a veteran who is undergoing cancer treatment cannot afford to miss these critical and intense medical appointments, and they need a safe place to leave their young child while they receive chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

Likewise, veterans who have regular mental health appointments would need a place to leave their young children, because it would be inappropriate for young children to be present for tough conversations with a therapist about military sexual trauma or other battlefield trauma.

Like the pilot program, my bill also gives VA flexible authority to determine how to provide childcare assistance during veterans' medical appointments. Options include:

Providing the benefit through stipend payments directly to veterans to pay for their childcare expenses;

Direct provision of childcare at VA facilities;

Direct payment to childcare providers;

Collaboration with other Federal departments and agencies; or

Other appropriate forms of assistance that the Secretary determines are appropriate.

Passage of this legislation will benefit veterans of all areas who are primary caretakers. In fact, many of the caretakers who have used the pilot program have been women and older veterans, including grandparents who take care of a child during the day and would otherwise be unable to make their appointments.

This bill will guarantee these veterans receive the healthcare they need, while ensuring a safe, reliable, and cost-free option for childcare during those appointments.

For our colleagues who are new to this body, I would note that similar legislation passed the House in the 115th Congress by voice vote. I urge my colleagues to again support this legislation.

I especially want to thank my colleague Mr. HIGGINS from New York, who has been a tireless advocate for expanding and making permanent the childcare pilot program. His partnership has been invaluable in moving our bill forward.

I also want to thank Senator PATTY MURRAY from Washington, who has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I have no further speakers. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support on passage of H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, to provide childcare assistance to our military families.

Nearly a decade ago, the Veterans Administration survey found that over 1 in 10 veterans have had to cancel their VA medical appointments due to the lack of childcare. In response, Congress created the VA childcare pilot program. The first in the Nation opened in my hometown of Buffalo, New York.

The program has been a tremendous success. Since its inception, it has served countless military families. Last year, more than 1,000 children visited the Kids Korner, located at the Buffalo VA Center, while their parents received much-needed care.

America's veterans placed their lives on the front lines for our freedoms. Many veterans returned to their fami-

lies from combat with injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder that requires regular treatment at their VA.

Madam Chair, we need to remove barriers to care and give our veterans certainty. By passing this legislation, Congress will make childcare available to veterans who need it, while being cost effective in improving health outcomes.

In closing, I thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for her tireless work on behalf of our Nation's veterans, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote on passage of this important legislation.

□ 1530

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have the data to show how access to healthcare services improves and saves lives, but I think it is important that we also hear from the veterans and the providers whose lives have been improved by this program.

I would like to share another story from a childcare staffer in Buffalo, New York.

"Buffalo also has a World War II veteran, now 97 years old, who cares for his great-granddaughter. He heard of the service, stopped in to see the facility and ask questions to verify he felt 'safe' in leaving her in their care. As primary caretaker for this child, he is so pleased to be able to attend his appointments at his 'elderly age' and keep his family close."

Let me also add, I want to address the reservation, although the ranking member has stated his general support for the bill, but this reservation about the legislation, H.R. 840, lacking a pay-for that was included in last session's legislation, and the pay-for that they said was necessary this time around.

I want to state that H.R. 840 simply makes permanent a program that we, as a Congress, have reauthorized six times since 2013. For none of those six times was the issue of a pay-for really germane. In fact, the CBO has never required that we do it.

The pay-for that the gentleman keeps speaking of will not pay for this program. It will simply take money from veterans and send it to the Treasury, and the VA, still under discretionary funds, will still have to find the money to pay for it.

Each of the six times we authorized this program, not once did my colleagues insist on a pay-for. Only when we are introducing legislation to make it a permanent program does this suddenly pop up as a concern.

In reality, even if we included the pay-for, the Treasury wouldn't see the funds for nearly a decade.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, just to, I guess, retort to my friend, the chairman, if a program costs money, the money has to come

from somewhere. We have programs right now, and the appropriators are going to have to decide, if this program costs a lot of money, to take it away from some other VA program, whereas, we had the extra revenue to pay for this program. That is all we are talking about.

Every single one of us in this Chamber last Congress agreed to pay for it. So now something has changed. I have no further speakers on the bill, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, just in response, the pay-for to which the gentleman from Tennessee is referring is under mandatory spending, which would not actually pay for the program. It would be returned to the Treasury, and the discretionary funds simply—there is no pay-for out of the discretionary funds. It is coming out of the mandatory side. It is a very illusory device.

So I want to reiterate that each time this pilot program was reauthorized under the majority, never was there a demand on their part that there be a pay-for.

Madam Chair, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, I thank Ms. BROWNLEY for her leadership on this. I, too, have been, at one point in my life, a single parent. I am a veteran, and I certainly understand the difficulty in child-bearing and child-rearing from my previous life as an OB/GYN doctor. I delivered a lot of babies and took care of a lot of parents who were single parents, who struggled to not only make ends meet, but to get the healthcare they need.

I think this is a great bill. I think it should be supported unanimously in this Congress.

Our American heroes who have served this country can come get the care they need. We know that, in this country, 20 veterans commit suicide each day, and 14 of them have never gotten into VA care. We don't know what the reason for some of those are, but, hopefully, it is not a barrier of childcare.

Madam Chair, I encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support unanimously H.R. 840, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I wholly support Ms. BROWNLEY's bill, H.R. 840. I urge my colleagues to join me in its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of the

Rules Committee Print 116-3. The amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 840

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled,*

# SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Veterans' Access to Child Care Act".*

## SEC. 2. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS RECEIVING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER INTENSIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

### "§1730D. Child care assistance for veterans receiving mental health care and other intensive health care services

*"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide child care assistance to an eligible veteran for any period that the veteran—*

*"(1) receives covered health care services at a facility of the Department; and*

*"(2) is required travel to and return from such facility for the receipt of such health care services.*

*"(b) CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1) Child care assistance provided under this section may include any of the following:*

*"(A) A stipend for the payment of child care offered by a licensed child care center (either directly or through a voucher program) which shall be, to the extent practicable, modeled after the Department of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 590 of title 40.*

*"(B) Direct provision of child care at an on-site facility of the Department.*

*"(C) A payment made directly to a private child care agency.*

*"(D) A collaboration with a facility or program of another Federal department or agency.*

*"(E) Such other form of assistance as the Secretary considers appropriate.*

*"(2) In the case that child care assistance under this section is provided as a stipend under paragraph (1)(A), such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.*

*"(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

*"(1) The term 'eligible veteran' means a veteran who—*

*"(A) is the primary caretaker of a child or children; and*

*"(B) is—*

*"(i) receiving covered health care services from the Department; or*

*"(ii) in need of covered health care services, and but for lack of child care services, would receive such covered health care services from the Department.*

*"(2) The term 'covered health care services' means—*

*"(A) regular mental health care services;*

*"(B) intensive mental health care services; or*

*"(C) such other intensive health care services that the Secretary determines that provision of assistance to the veteran to obtain child care would improve access to such health care services by the veteran."*

*(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1730C the following new item:*

*"1730D. Child care assistance for veterans receiving mental health care and other intensive health care services."*

The CHAIR. No amendment to the amendment in the nature of a sub-

stitute shall be in order except those printed in House Report 116-6. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BRINDISI

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, line 2, insert ", such as a community-based outpatient clinic" after "Department".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from California, chairwoman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee's Health Subcommittee, for introducing this important bill, as well as the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, the gentleman from California.

Veterans should never have to miss a doctor's appointment or medical treatment because they don't have access to affordable childcare. This bill is a commonsense solution that removes this roadblock and ensures our Nation's veterans have access to the care they have earned. I am glad to see the House take up this issue.

My amendment would clarify that community-based outpatient clinics are included under the bill's definition of facilities of the Department and ensure that veterans who receive their care from CBOCs are able to access VA childcare assistance.

Many veterans who live in rural areas in my district and across the country do not have a full-service hospital nearby, and they rely on CBOCs to receive primary and mental healthcare. It is important to make clear that this childcare benefit would include them, no matter how small or large their VA facility is.

As a new Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I will continue working to improve access to VA healthcare and benefits for veterans, including veterans living in rural communities.

I urge adoption of my amendment and again thank the gentlewoman from California for introducing this bill, and I urge our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the underlying legislation.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to it.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of Congressman BRINDISI and former member of the committee Congresswoman KUSTER's amendment that would clarify that veterans receiving intensive mental health or other qualifying treatment from community-based outpatient clinics, CBOCs, are also eligible for childcare assistance from the VA.

CBOCs are an important access point for many veterans, and healthcare continues to transition away from inpatient hospitals and will form the basis of future care. Madam Chair, we have over 800 of these CBOCs in the country, so it makes care much more available to our veterans in their home communities.

Childcare burdens are no less a factor for veterans who receive care in a CBOC than it is for veterans who seek care in a VA medical center. This amendment rightly recognizes that fact and ensures that we don't inadvertently create a disparity for veterans with the same conditions seeking the same treatments who happen to use different VA medical facilities.

Madam Chair, I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment, and I thank Congressman BRINDISI and Congresswoman KUSTER for submitting that, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chair of the committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I support this amendment because, by clarifying that community-based outpatient clinics are covered under the bill, we are ensuring that veterans seeking healthcare services at any VA facility are able to receive no-cost childcare.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BRINDISI. Madam Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I strongly support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BRINDISI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS.  
RADEWAGEN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 4, strike "The Secretary" and insert "Subject to subsection (c), the Secretary".

Page 3, after line 24, insert the following:  
"(C) CONDITION ON RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary may not provide any child care assistance under this section to an eligible veteran who is receiving covered health care services from the Department unless that eligible veteran actively participates in such services.

"(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'actively participates' means, with respect to covered health care services—

"(A) engaging in transit to and from appointments for such services;

"(B) attending appointments for such services; and

"(C) such other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate."

Page 3, line 25, strike "(c)" and insert "(d)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Chair, I thank Representative BROWNLEY for introducing this legislation to help our veterans and their families.

Madam Chair, I am offering this amendment to clarify that the childcare benefit be made available for veterans while they are actively participating in VA healthcare services, i.e., when they are traveling to or attending VA appointments, and not at any other time.

This small clarification will ensure that the childcare assistance is reserved for veterans who need it most and that it does not accidentally replace more long-term childcare programs.

If there is a need for an expanded childcare program, I believe it should be created separately, and I would be happy to work with my colleagues on that.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to ensure that our taxpayer dollars are spent according to Congress' intent.

I agree that childcare should only be provided to veterans when they are

using the childcare to attend their healthcare appointments.

I thank the gentlewoman for working with me to make this amendment bipartisan and ensure it is clear to the VA that they cannot revoke this benefit from veterans for missing an appointment.

The intent of this amendment is not to be an incentive to access care. It is simply to make it easier for veterans to make it to their appointments. It will be up to us as lawmakers to keep close oversight over this program and many others at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This committee will keep close watch over the resources we provide and the programs we authorize at the VA. We will hold VA leaders accountable when these programs are not carried out according to congressional intent, or made in a haphazard and uninformed manner, or without the purpose of doing what is best for veterans.

I look forward to working with the gentlewoman and my colleagues on this committee to oversee the successful execution of this childcare program so any eligible veterans who need childcare can get it.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I thank Mrs. RADEWAGEN, who is a tireless advocate for veterans issues, for bringing this up. She travels, I guess, about as far as anybody, 24 hours in the air to get here, so she is a tireless advocate for our Nation's heroes, and I thank her for that.

□ 1545

Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment that would clarify that childcare assistance is intended for veterans while they are attending a VA appointment or traveling to and from a VA appointment, but not at any other time.

This amendment is in line with the intent of the underlying bill, which is to provide access to childcare services so that veterans who would otherwise be burdened with childcare responsibilities can have easier access to the care that they need.

By clarifying when VA-provided childcare assistance will be provided, this amendment will help ensure that this program is sustainable, is not unintentionally abused, and will help the greatest number of veterans in need.

Congresswoman RADEWAGEN is a valuable member, as I have stated, of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I thank her for bringing this commonsense, good-government amendment forward today.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from the

Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I rise to enter into a short colloquy with the distinguished gentlewoman from American Samoa.

As it is in your district, it is in my district. Sometimes we have to leave our home and travel by airplane to a place where we can receive the medical attention we need for VA services for our veterans.

I would like to discover, which I think I may already know the answer, but just for the record, a veteran who lives, say, in Saipan going to Tripler or Spark M. Matsunaga VA Medical Center in Hawaii, that childcare is provided for that time, including the travel time and the time when the veteran is receiving medical attention in Hawaii and until that veteran returns home.

Is that an appropriate or correct interpretation of this legislation?

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SABLAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from American Samoa.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. That is a good question, and that is something we are going to have to work on.

Mr. SABLAN. It happens many times that a veteran, again, has to leave. For example, in my district, they would have to leave the island of Tinian or the island of Rota, fly to Saipan even to have a teleconference, a telemedicine video, with their licensed social worker, their psychologist, or their psychiatrist, and it takes time. Flights are just once a day, for example, or a flight to Guam requires an overnight stay.

So for the time that the veteran leaves home, goes to Guam, for example, gets the care and comes back, I was hoping that that restriction is appropriate.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Chair, I would like to engage the gentleman from Tennessee in a colloquy.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SABLAN. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, Mr. SABLAN and I have worked together on these unique issues about where he is in American Samoa. That is one of the reasons I wish we had had regular order. We could have brought this up, because the gentleman does have unique circumstances because of long travel distances, and I think that is something else we need to look at in the committee.

I will pledge myself to work with you on this issue as ranking member.

Mr. SABLAN. I thank the ranking member of the committee and my distinguished colleague from American Samoa.



Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me say for the record that I believe, if a veteran is receiving care at a facility, in this case in Hawaii on travel from Saipan, that the intent of the legislation would provide that childcare for the time necessary for that veteran, and it would be at a VA facility. It would be childcare at a VA facility in Hawaii, in this particular case.

Madam Chair, in closing, I do urge that my colleagues support the amendment by Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. ROSE OF NEW YORK.

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 16, strike "or";  
Page 3, after line 16, insert the following:  
"(C) health care services related to substance or drug abuse counseling; or".  
Page 3, line 17, strike "(C)" and insert "(D)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise to offer an amendment that would make clear that healthcare related to substance and drug abuse counseling is included in the covered health services in this bill.

In addition, Madam Chair, the opioid epidemic has not only affected my home district of Staten Island and south Brooklyn—and to be clear, it very much has—but this has touched constituents in district after district, State after State, and has disproportionately affected our Nation's greatest heroes.

As the fathers, wives, husbands, and children of the veterans fighting this disease can attest, combating this addiction is daunting and heartbreakingly difficult. Imagine how excruciating it can be when a mother has to make the choice between receiving the treatment that she so desperately needs and making sure that her own children are cared for.

That is the choice veteran parents need to make time and again. It is a disgrace, and on both sides of the aisle, we have not done enough.

Make no mistake here, if Congress does not act, these barriers to treat-

ment will absolutely persist. Whether you are a Republican or a Democrat, it is our constituents who are suffering, and we need to act now. If we do not address this, this epidemic will continue to wreak havoc on our districts, our communities, and our families.

A national survey from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration showed that 1 in 15 veterans suffer from a substance abuse disorder, but for vets who left Active Duty post-9/11, it was nearly one in eight. These veterans are twice as likely to die from an accidental overdose as a nonveteran.

As one of the few post-9/11 combat veterans who is serving right now in this body, I have seen the courage of my fellow former soldiers who seek the help that they so desperately need. I have seen that substance abuse counseling at our VA facilities can really save lives and save families. And I have seen what happens when my brothers and sisters who serve do not get the treatment they need. I am here to tell my colleagues that I refuse to watch that happen again.

That is why I offer this amendment here today, so that the veteran mother who I mentioned, and the fathers who are full-time caregivers of their children, are no longer trapped in an impossible choice. They can receive treatment for PTSD, for cancer, and for counseling to combat life-threatening addiction with the peace of mind that their children are safe and cared for.

That is the very reason Congress directed this pilot program to start in the first place. When we put party politics aside and put our constituents first, this country really succeeds.

We can all agree that this country is battling an opioid epidemic. Let's show our constituents that we are more than just talk and more than just thanking vets for their service and are actually doing something about it. We have to stop treating addiction as anything but the disease and the public health crisis that it actually is. We need to encourage, not punish, those who are taking this fight head on and seeking the care that they so desperately need and deserve.

Madam Chair, I thank Ms. BROWNLEY for sponsoring this legislation and commend my colleague, Mr. NORCROSS from New Jersey, for cosponsoring this amendment. I applaud my colleagues, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. GOLDEN, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. DELGADO, for offering amendments to strengthen this bill.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes. There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, I rise in support of Congressman ROSE's amendment to include substance abuse or drug abuse counseling under the definition of a covered health service, and I thank him for his service to our great country.

Unfortunately, our veterans are not immune to the scourge of addiction that has tragically impacted far too many of our communities for far too long, particularly in the last few years of the opioid crisis. Veterans seeking substance abuse treatment from VA should certainly have access to childcare assistance if they require it, and I am grateful to Congressman ROSE for sponsoring this amendment to make sure that they are specifically included in this bill. I hope that I am joined by all my colleagues in supporting this needed amendment today.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I support this amendment because veterans are not immune from the opioid epidemic. They are not immune to alcoholism or substance abuse. When a veteran is also suffering from post-traumatic stress or other serious health conditions that may have caused dependency on a substance, we should do everything we can to make sure that veteran can receive care.

I thank the gentleman for offering this very important amendment, and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Chair, I urge support of Congressman ROSE's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Chair, in closing, I urge support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following section:  
**SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE TO CONSTRUCT NEW CHILD CARE FACILITIES.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not use funds made available for child care assistance provided under section 1730D of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2, to construct any new child care facility.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act.

My amendment is simple. It prohibits VA from constructing new childcare facilities using funds made available by this bill. It does not prohibit the VA from using existing facilities.

While I support the underlying bill and believe something as simple as childcare services can greatly improve veterans' access to care, I also understand how bloated VA's infrastructure portfolio has become.

Just last year, Congress passed the VA MISSION Act, which included language to establish the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission. This commission is designed to assess areas in which the VA can modernize and realign its existing infrastructure portfolio to save valuable money and refocus on its core mission of caring for our veterans.

Madam Chair, offering childcare services has the potential to make VA benefits more accessible and convenient for all families. H.R. 840 allows VA to provide childcare services via private centers and through collaboration with other Federal agencies, thus utilizing already existing facilities.

Until the asset and infrastructure review is complete, it would be irresponsible to allow VA to invest more limited resources in new construction when positive, viable alternatives are available.

I appreciate the work our committee has done to help improve access to care, and I look forward to our continued efforts to realign VA's priorities and its unused or underutilized assets.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment, which would prevent additional VA hospitals and clinics from providing onsite childcare to veterans receiving care at VA hospitals and clinics.

VA only has four childcare sites throughout the VA system, and this amendment would prevent further expansion of the program by preventing a VA hospital or clinic from even doing basic things to provide convenient childcare, things like covering electrical sockets to make a facility safe for young children or putting up fencing around the playground so children can play safely.

As our colleague, Ms. SHALALA, reminded us during the Rules Committee meeting yesterday, and as many parents of young children quickly learn, most private childcare facilities do not allow children to be temporarily dropped off for just a few hours.

Childcare facilities need to know whether children are up to date on their vaccinations, have food allergies or other medical conditions to provide safe care.

This means VA must have the flexibility to determine how best to execute this program at each of its facilities throughout the country. If this means that it makes sense to build an onsite childcare center, VA should not be barred from doing so.

I think this amendment was written without considering its effects, which would limit further the expansion of the program and prevent veterans from being able to access childcare and their healthcare when they need it.

Any of us who have been on this committee long enough know that VA has had trouble managing major construction projects. Admittedly, this is what we know on the committee. And I am just as outraged as my colleagues across the aisle when VA construction projects are mismanaged and money is wasted. However, we are talking about minor construction that, in many cases, will be necessary to expand this program to all eligible veterans who need it.

There are other ways in which we can ensure the money for this program is not mismanaged, and it doesn't need to be something as drastic as preventing construction which will, in effect, prevent the program's expansion.

Now, I hope to work with General Bergman and my other colleagues on this committee to prevent mismanagement of construction projects, procurement of the \$16 billion electronic health record, and other contracts and programs at the VA; and I pledge to work with the general to ensure funds for construction of childcare facilities are not wasted.

Mr. Chair, I must say that I have to urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE).

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of this amendment to prohibit VA from constructing new structures to be used as childcare centers.

Mr. Chair, the VA has over 6,000 pieces of property, and 1,100 of them are either not utilized or underutilized. We on the committee, including the chairman, have just witnessed a \$600 million hospital in Denver, Colorado, explode into a \$2 billion—I didn't say that wrong, two thousand million dollars—project.

Both General Bergman's amendment and mine, which would have provided greater flexibility to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, recognized that VA's vast and, in most cases, outdated, misaligned, and prohibitively-expensive-to-maintain infrastructure must be dealt with holistically.

I regret that my amendment was not made in order today, but I am glad

that General Bergman's was. Where VA has existing space that is not needed for veteran patients, VA could and should consider repurposing that space to provide childcare assistance, and where existing space is not available, VA should use the authorities provided in this bill to provide childcare assistance.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 2 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Where existing space is not available, VA should use the authorities provided in this bill to provide childcare assistance off VA property—either through leases, sharing agreements, and other means—rather than investing in costly new buildings.

Mr. Chair, what happens? If we build a childcare facility and the demographics change and it is no longer needed, we have got an empty building. If we lease that building, which this gives us the authority to do, we can let the lease expire, and the VA can go on and use their moneys for something else.

General BERGMAN is the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, and I thank him today, as always, for his leadership and vision on behalf of his fellow veterans.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to support this amendment today, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I would just wish to point out to the ranking member of the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, General BERGMAN, that his amendment would not even allow for the repurposing of existing facility space that may exist at a VA.

It is so rigid that it would be difficult to even put protective electrical sockets in to prevent young children from electrocuting themselves. Even minor construction would be prohibited by this amendment.

I am pleased to know that the general is serving on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, and I do plan to work with the chairman, Mr. PAPPAS of New Hampshire, and him to make sure that VA money is well spent.

As I said, this amendment would simply prevent reasonable expansion of this program, and that is something that members of this committee and Members of this House would not want to see happen.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, after line 21, insert the following:

“(3) The term ‘facility of the Department’ includes any Vet Center.

“(4) The term ‘Vet Center’ has the meaning given that term in section 1712A of this title.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, my amendment clarifies that every veteran is able to access childcare services guaranteed by the underlying bill, regardless of whether they are using the services at a VA center, medical center, or a vet center that is not on the campus of a VA facility.

I am pleased to be joined in offering this bipartisan amendment by my Republican colleague Congresswoman LESKO from Arizona. I would also like to thank Congresswoman BROWNLEY for leading this bill, as well as Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for their assistance and leadership on this vital issue.

No veteran should be forced to choose between caring for their children or caring for themselves. In several States, including my home State of Nevada, veterans use both the VA medical centers and the community-based vet centers to access the care they need.

Vet centers provide a wide array of social and psychological services to help veterans readjust to civilian life, and I am very proud of the work they do to serve those who served all of us.

For many of those who do not have access to a local VA medical center, vet centers are the only VA facilities they can use. To ensure that all veterans and, in particular, women veterans are able to receive the care they need, our amendment would clarify that any veteran receiving care, whether at a VA facility or an off-VA-campus vet center, would be eligible for the childcare authorized under this legislation.

We never want any veteran to choose between receiving the care and support they need or caring for their child. Our amendment would guarantee that all veterans would be able to access care regardless of where and how they seek treatment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment sponsored by Congresswoman LEE and Congresswoman LESKO to provide for childcare assistance to veterans receiving readjustment counseling in a vet center.

The work done in vet centers is critical to veterans who are struggling to readjust to civilian life following their military service. I am glad that this amendment will make it easier for veterans who lack childcare to seek the support they need in vet centers, and I will be supporting this amendment.

That being said, expanding childcare assistance to include the hundreds of vet centers across the country is a costly prospect. Unfortunately, because the bill did not go through regular order, we do not know just how costly this project will be.

I wish that we could have received reviews and cost estimates on this proposal prior to voting on it and hope that, moving forward, bills will have the benefit of work in committee before being moved onto the floor.

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

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I support this amendment because, by clarifying that vet centers are covered under the bill, we are ensuring that veterans seeking healthcare at any VA facility are allowed access-at-no-cost childcare.

Vet centers are particularly attractive to veterans who are uncomfortable in a more clinical setting, and they should be able to seek childcare while they receive their mental health care at a VA vet center.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

□ 1615

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, I am proud to come to the floor today to discuss an amendment to H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, that I have cosponsored with my colleague, Representative SUSIE LEE from Nevada.

The Veterans' Access to Child Care Act will provide veterans who need to attend regular or intensive mental healthcare appointments with no-cost childcare during their appointments. Our amendment will make sure these childcare services are covered at our local VA clinics, such as the one in my district in Peoria, Arizona, along with the main VA facilities.

No veteran seeking these types of mental health services should be left

behind. It is our responsibility to ensure that, under this legislation, all our eligible veterans who need mental health services are able to go to a facility operated by the VA Department, even if it is located separately from the VA's general healthcare facility.

My home State of Arizona is blessed to be home to so many of our Nation's veterans. In fact, I have 70,000 veterans in my district alone. However, it deeply troubles me that veteran suicide rates are 9 percentage points higher in Arizona than the national average.

Expensive childcare should not hinder Arizona's returning veterans the ability to access needed mental healthcare or other prolonged service-connected disability care needs.

We need to do everything we can do to help our Nation's greatest heroes. They risked it all for us. It is inexcusable for us, after our veterans have given so much to defend our freedoms, to permit policies that don't give them the best resources to recover and heal. We relied on them to protect us; now we must step up and help them.

I thank Representatives BROWNLEY and ROE for their work on this legislation, and Representative LEE for her effort on this much-needed amendment.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment to give eligible veterans choice and access.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I have no other speakers, and I am prepared to close at this time, if my colleague is as well.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close and urge support of this bipartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. BARR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 3. STUDY ON EFFECTS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.**

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study of the effects of the child care assistance provided under section 2 on access to covered health care services, as that term is defined in that section, and on compliance with treatment protocols.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit a report to Congress regarding the study required under subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman

from Kentucky (Mr. BARR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act.

Let me just first say to my good friend, the ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I appreciate the opportunity and the privilege and the responsibility to serve in this Congress on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee so we can continue to advocate for the veterans of the Sixth Congressional District of Kentucky and throughout the Nation.

This amendment would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effects of childcare assistance provided in the underlying bill on access to healthcare services and compliance with treatment protocols. While I certainly support the underlying bill, this amendment is a commonsense measure that would improve the legislation.

We should always be willing to evaluate and assess whether or not the policies we enact are actually producing their intended result; and this amendment, by requiring the Secretary to conduct a study after 1 year of the effects of the childcare assistance on the actual access to the covered healthcare services and the requirement to report the findings of that study after 18 months to Congress, will ensure that the policies we implement are actually successful in increasing veterans' access to care.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE), the ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky, my next-door neighbor, for doing this. We are really pleased to have him on the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Mr. Chair.

I rise in support of this amendment to require VA to study how the provision of childcare assistance impacts access to and compliance with care.

It is important that we closely monitor any taxpayer-funded program to ensure that it is meeting its intended objectives, and I am grateful for Congressman BARR's foresight in ensuring that we do this for this program as well.

Congressman BARR has long been a strong supporter of our Nation's veterans, and I am pleased to welcome him, as stated, to the Veterans' Affairs Committee this Congress. I thank him for his leadership on this amendment and hope that all of my colleagues will join me in supporting this amendment.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky, a new member on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I believe the co-chair of the Bourbon Caucus.

I agree that it is important to require that VA collect data on the effectiveness of its childcare program so we can determine whether veterans are better able to access their healthcare because of this benefit.

As the veterans population becomes increasingly diverse, the VA of the year 2030 that I envision must be prepared to provide healthcare to women veterans, fathers of young children, stepparents and grandparents, and to make sure veterans are able to access their healthcare while also caring for their children.

Congress and VA need reliable data to inform these decisions and determine whether other barriers to healthcare access exist for veterans who care for young children. If the data from this study demonstrates that veterans are less likely to miss appointments and have better healthcare outcomes, it could be used to inform further VA policy decisions to expand the program.

Mr. Chairman, I wholeheartedly support this bipartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the chairman's kind words, and I appreciate the chairman's support of this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. CISNEROS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment, No. 7, at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

(c) FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CHILD CARE FOR VETERANS RECEIVING CARE IN NON-DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a feasibility study to determine how the Department of Veterans Affairs could provide child care assistance for veterans who receive covered health care services (as such term is defined in section 1730D(c)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)) from the Department at non-Department facilities.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report containing the results of the study required to be conducted under paragraph (1).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I sincerely thank my colleague, Ms. BROWNLEY, for her steadfast leadership on this critical issue, and Mr. TAKANO for working with me to ensure consideration. Finally, I would like to thank the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) for cosponsoring this amendment.

I rise to offer an amendment, which would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study how the VA could provide childcare assistance for veterans who receive covered healthcare services furnished by the VA at non-Department facilities.

I am a strong supporter and cosponsor of H.R. 840 because I am committed to advancing policies that make it easier for all veterans to take advantage of their VA benefits they deserve.

As a veteran with two young twin boys, I know firsthand that rambunctious young kids can often derail the best of plans. Providing safe, affordable, and convenient childcare for veterans who are parents and grandparents eliminates just one of those many barriers to quality care our veterans can face when trying to make health and mental health appointments. I rise to offer this amendment to ensure that my constituents are not left behind in this noble effort.

Orange County, California, is home to the largest veteran population in the country, approximately 130,000 veterans, without its own VA hospital. This leaves many of my constituents without easy access to high-quality care our VA system provides.

My amendment would direct the VA to conduct a feasibility study to determine how the Department of Veterans Affairs could provide childcare assistance for veterans who receive healthcare services far from a VA medical center campus. This includes my constituents seeking care at the Anaheim community-based orthopedic clinic.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this amendment to ensure we do not overlook veterans who could benefit from childcare services.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to rise in opposition, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congressman CISNEROS' and Congressman WELCH's amendment to require VA to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of VA-provided childcare assistance for veterans receiving community care. This is a critically important amendment.

For decades, VA has had the authority to refer patients to community providers when veterans are unable to get the care they need in VA medical facilities for various reasons. Last year, almost 40 percent of appointments in the VA healthcare system occurred in the community.

Clearly, VA cannot meet every need of every veteran patient in every community across this country without the assistance of community partners. That is not the fault of the VA healthcare system. It is a strength.

Veterans in need of childcare assistance should not be denied such assistance when they are referred to a VA community partner rather than a VA provider.

I am disappointed that another amendment offered by Congressman CASE, that would have simply lifted this barrier to care for those veterans who must seek care through community partners, was not accepted. However, I am encouraged that the issue will be reexamined through this study.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this amendment today.

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I support this amendment because it will allow Congress to receive the critical data and information it needs to determine how to expand this program and the feasibility of expanding this program to community-based outpatient clinics and VA centers, VA facilities that are away from the main VA medical center campuses but critical for veterans in rural areas to access their care.

While this bill specifically provides the no-cost childcare benefit to veterans receiving care from the VA doctors, nurses, and VA providers, I would like to work with my colleagues on the committee at a future date on whether it may be feasible to provide no-cost childcare to veterans receiving treatment from community providers, or even look at ways we can provide incentives to community providers to offer no-cost childcare on-site when they contract with the VA to provide care to veterans.

I thank the gentleman for offering this important amendment. I support it wholeheartedly, and I urge all my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I strongly support Congressman CISNEROS' amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate that this is a simple amendment to require a study by the VA within 1 year.

I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1630

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. CISNEROS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment, No. 8, at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 16, strike "or";

Page 3, after line 16, insert the following: S6201

"(C) intensive health care services related to physical therapy for a service-connected disability; or";

Page 3, line 17, strike "(C)" and insert "(D)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I want to quickly thank my colleague and chair of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Mr. TAKANO, for urging, in his testimony before the House Committee on Rules, that this amendment be made in order.

I rise to offer an amendment which would include "intensive healthcare services related to physical therapy for a service-connected disability" in the definition of "covered healthcare service."

Physical therapy is an important aspect of any human process and is often necessary for veterans suffering from sustained pain or discomfort from a service-connected disability. This experience can often involve lengthy commitments and long commutes to achieve results.

For my constituents, accessing physical therapy services at VA health clinics, receiving regular physical therapy means making a regular commitment to be stuck in traffic on the 405 to drive to the Long Beach VA hospital.

My amendment will ensure that veterans in need of physical therapy for a service-connected disability are specifically afforded access to childcare services.

VA benefits are not truly benefits if the costs associated with childcare during regular appointments place too large a burden on veteran caretakers.

Veterans and their families face many obstacles when transitioning back to civilian life, but access to healthcare should not be one of them. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to rise in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I share the gentleman's concern. I have been on the 405, and I certainly understand that trip.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Congressman CISNEROS' amendment to include physical therapy for service-connected disabilities under the definition of "covered health service."

Caring for service-connected conditions is the reason the VA healthcare system exists. Service-connected conditions should always take priority. I thank Congressman CISNEROS for recognizing this with his amendment. I am proud to join him in supporting it.

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I support this amendment because it provides an important clarification that veterans receiving physical therapy for a service-connected disability will be able to access no-cost childcare.

When 50 percent of the veterans treated in VA facilities suffer from chronic pain, physical therapy is a vital part of their treatment that will reduce their need for prescribing opioids. We are in the midst of an opioid epidemic in this country, and many of our veterans, sadly, suffer from opioid addiction because they were prescribed these powerful drugs to treat pain.

We should encourage other treatments like physical therapy, which can address the root cause of pain, and make it easier for them to access this care, which often requires multiple treatments over time.

I thank the gentleman for this important amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, caring for service-connected conditions is the reason the VA healthcare system exists. I strongly support Congressman CISNEROS' amendment and encourage my colleagues to support it also.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Chairman, I just want to reiterate that this is a simple, commonsense amendment. I urge my colleagues to adopt this amendment.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS). The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 3, strike “the” and insert “a”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I obviously rise in support of our amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE), the ranking member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, before I offer my comments.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Congressman RODNEY DAVIS, first of all, for his commitment to our Nation's heroes.

I was able and privileged to be in his district last year. I saw his commitment to that and the respect that they have for him, and I want to thank him for bringing this up. He does a terrific job for our Nation's heroes in his district, and it was a privilege to be there.

I rise in support of Congressman DAVIS' and Congressman PANETTA's commonsense amendment. The bill we are considering today defines a veteran who is eligible for childcare assistance as a veteran who is “the” primary caretaker of a child or children. However, this amendment rightly recognizes that most children have two parents and either of them could be considered “a” primary caretaker of that child.

I thank Congressman DAVIS and Congressman PANETTA for that clarification, and I am happy to support this amendment today.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois, which would ensure either parent to a young child would be considered the primary caretaker for a child and, therefore, eligible to receive the childcare benefit.

This amendment is necessary, especially in instances when a veteran is receiving mental health services with a spouse. In instances like this, a veteran could not rely on the spouse to watch a child if it was important that a spouse participate in the treatment.

This will also relieve a significant administrative burden on VA and the veteran: As long as a veteran is a parent to a child and in need of childcare, that veteran would be eligible.

As lawmakers, we should strive to make sure that programs we authorize are not confusing to VA and conduct oversight to ensure our constituents are not confused when the VA rolls out

a program. This amendment will make it more clear to VA and veterans that, in families where one or both parents are veterans, they are eligible for this childcare benefit when receiving services from the VA.

I support this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, in my short time here in this institution, I have found that, when you offer an amendment to a bill that has jurisdiction of a committee that you don't sit on, it is always good to have the chairman and ranking member be in support of your amendment. So I want to thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for their help—and their team's help—in helping us craft this commonsense solution.

And I really want to thank my good friend and colleague JIMMY PANETTA, who is a main cosponsor of this amendment. JIMMY and I have worked together on a wide variety of issues, but not many more important than making sure that our families, our heroes, get access to the childcare and the services that they need.

This Veterans' Access to Child Care Act, also, Mr. Chairman, builds upon a successful pilot program and is finally going to provide some certainty and better access to mental and intensive healthcare services for our heroes, our veterans, through increased access to childcare while our veterans attend the appointments that they need to attend to.

The intention of this amendment, as you heard from the chairman and the ranking member, is to make sure that the VA does not determine that this bill is meant that there is only one primary caretaker in the family and then, arbitrarily, have a bureaucrat at the VA decide who that caretaker is.

Without this change, some veterans this bill is intended to help would not be able to access childcare over a technicality. Our amendment, as you heard, clarifies this language to help eliminate barriers to mental health services for our veterans with families.

When our veterans face a mental health crisis, I want to ensure that they are not alone, and that we are doing everything we can to properly support them and their families.

While we have been successful in passing legislation that prevents many veterans from having to drive long distances to access care, it is possible that, in some cases, a veteran in my district could have to drive 4 hours to the nearest VA hospital, and ensured access to childcare will encourage them to get the services that they need.

I don't want a technicality to get in the way of our heroes. I want to make sure they get access to the services they need. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment.

I urge all Members to support our amendment to H.R. 840, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. SABLAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 14, insert “, including telemental health services furnished by the Department” after “services”.

Page 3, line 15, insert “, including telemental health services furnished by the Department” after “services”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer an amendment clarifying that telemental health services furnished by the VA are included in the list of covered healthcare services under H.R. 840.

Making it easier for veterans to get mental healthcare services by providing childcare while they are receiving treatment just makes sense. Most parents are not going to use the mental health services the VA provides if it means leaving their kids at home alone. Worrying about their children will only worsen the mental stress for veterans in need of care.

So I support H.R. 840, but I want to make sure the childcare the bill offers will be available to veterans in my district who can only receive mental health service by videoconference.

We do not have a VA psychologist in the Marianas. For that matter, we do not have a community-based outpatient clinic or a vet center or a VBA specialist, services that veterans in the rest of America can take for granted. So my vets must sit in front of a video monitor to get mental health counseling—not exactly the best arrangement, in my opinion.

So let us at least try and make sure that veterans in the Marianas—or anywhere else in the Nation—or anywhere else the VA only offers telemedicine instead of real person-to-person care, that those veterans do not have to worry about the safety and well-being of their children. Let us be sure there is no ambiguity in H.R. 840.

I ask my colleagues for their support of my amendment, backed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, so we can be sure that even vets receiving mental health services by video can have the cost of childcare covered.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to rise



in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Congressman SABLAN's amendment to include mental healthcare provided via telemedicine under the definition of a "covered health service."

The VA healthcare system is an industry leader in telemedicine and should be commended in using it to increase access to care for veterans who would otherwise have to travel great distances on a regular basis to receive the care they need.

I want to thank my good friend, Congressman SABLAN, who is a tireless advocate in the Marianas. He has been an amazing supporter of the veterans there who really have very limited services. I thank him for introducing this amendment to make sure that veterans accessing tele-healthcare are also eligible for childcare assistance, if needed.

I am pleased to join him in supporting this.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1645

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chair, I very much thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from California, and the ranking member, the gentleman from Tennessee, for their leadership on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. Chair, I would like to thank my colleague, Ms. BROWNLEY, for introducing this bill.

Mr. Chair, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make note that we just have gotten a release that the VA has exceeded 1 million telehealth visits in fiscal year 2018. That one-year achievement represents a 19 percent increase over the previous year. I congratulate the VA for that amazing achievement.

I want to make known my support for my good colleague from the Northern Mariana Islands, Mr. SABLAN's, amendment, because as VA expands its footprint—and we have just seen how it has expanded its footprint significantly—and that it remains at the forefront of providing treatment via telemental health services, we need to ensure that the VA has the ability to make those telehealth services as successful as their in-person services.

In districts like Mr. SABLAN's where veterans are separated from VA healthcare services by the Pacific

Ocean, telemental health is often the only manner in which veterans are able to receive mental healthcare from the VA.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering this very important amendment and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers. I ask for support for H.R. 840, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. CLOUD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in House Report 116-6.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 2, after line 24, insert the following:

“(C) ANNUAL REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to Congress an annual report on the provision of child care assistance under this section. Each such report shall include, for the year covered by the report, each of the following for each of the categories of child care assistance specified in paragraph (2):

“(A) The average amount of time required by the Department to provide a payment for child care assistance.

“(B) The average cost of child care assistance.

“(C) The extent to which the Department has a backlog of unprocessed claims for child care assistance.

“(D) The number of Department employees who worked on the processing of claims for child care assistance.

“(E) The average amount of time required by such an employee to process such a claim.

“(F) The number of improper or duplicative payments of child care assistance made.

“(G) The recommendations of the Secretary for improving the processing of claims for child care assistance.

“(2) CATEGORIES OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—The categories of child care assistance specified in this paragraph are each of the following:

“(A) Direct stipends.

“(B) Payments made directly to a child care agencies.

“(C) Stipends provided through a voucher program.”.

Page 2, line 25, strike “(c)” and insert “(d)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 105, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to H.R. 840, the Veterans' Access to Child Care Act.

In 2017, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that under similar legislation to what we are considering today, the VA each year would need to process about 665,000 claims for reimbursement of childcare each year.

The VA has a history filled with delays and difficulty in processing claims for veterans.

As my staff and I have worked with veterans in our Texas 27th District, we too often hear from veterans about the trouble they have encountered with the VA. From delays in processing benefit claims, to wait times in scheduling appointments; veterans have often waited months, sometimes years from hearing back from the VA on their request or receiving reimbursement for payments due them.

Should this bill pass, the VA will have to process a considerable amount of childcare claims each year; therefore, we must ensure that there is oversight in the VA's progress in paying veterans and private care providers for childcare.

My amendment would inject accountability into this program by requiring the VA to submit an annual report to Congress on how the processing of claims is going.

Specifically, the report would include data on the number of childcare claims filed each year, the number of staffers required to process a claim, the average cost of each claim, and how long it takes the VA to process a claim.

If there is a backlog of unprocessed claims, the VA must report on the backlog and how it is working to resolve the needs of the affected veterans.

Finally, the VA must report on any improper or duplicative payments made for this program.

Ultimately, my amendment would close the gap in this legislation by giving the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and the VSOs important data they otherwise wouldn't have.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas.

I think all of us can recount concerns raised by our constituents about VA payment processing and late payments to healthcare providers.

Although I am not aware of any issues with respect to VA stipend payments to childcare providers under VA's pilot program, I do think it is important that VA report to Congress on whether it has experienced problems with making timely payments and ask for the resources to address payment processing.

The more data we collect from VA, the better we are able to determine what solutions and resources are needed to improve VA programs and services.

Mr. Chair, I do thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for his support.



Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE), the ranking member.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to require an annual report on the processing of claims for childcare assistance.

VA has made improvements in recent years in the speed at which community providers are being reimbursed for the services they provide to veteran patients, however, claims processing remains an area where VA struggles; to be kind to them, struggles.

We must take steps to ensure that veterans and childcare providers who are awaiting reimbursement pursuant to this bill are not left waiting like many veterans and community providers have been previously.

Mr. Chair, I am grateful to Congressman CLOUD for his leadership and sponsoring this amendment and I look forward to joining him in its support.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chair, I urge the passage of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Chairman, I have no further speakers. I urge support for the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

The amendment was agreed to.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York) having assumed the chair, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 840) to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, had come to no resolution thereon.

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

There was no objection.

#### HONORING COAST GUARD CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER MICHAEL KOZLOSKI

(Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a young man from my district in New York's Hudson Valley who passed away last week while serving his country.

Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Michael Kozloski, originally from Mahopac, New York, was only 35 years old.

Michael died as a result of injuries sustained during a crane accident while serving in Alaska.

Mike leaves behind his wife of 13 years, Brie, and four young children.

He dedicated his entire adult life, 17 years, to protecting our country as a member of the Coast Guard.

We all owe Mike and his family an enormous debt of gratitude for his service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country.

I spoke to Mike's wife earlier today, and she told me that the community of Homer, Alaska, has rallied to her side, even as a dozen family members have flown in.

At a time when we ask so much of our Coast Guard families, how fitting to be reminded that as Americans, we still rally to our heroes and their families at these difficult times.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of us to join in prayer for Michael and his family.

We will be closely monitoring the ongoing investigation in this incident and offering our assistance as needed.

Our hearts go out to Michael's family, his friends at Mahopac, and the entire Coast Guard community. We thank them for their service. We remember Michael for his sacrifice, and we pledge that he will not be forgotten.

Similar bills are being debated right now in States like Virginia, where the Governor spoke of making newborns comfortable while doctors and patients decide if they should be left to die.

We have to stand up against this radical legislation to protect the rights of all infants.

This is not a partisan issue. It is simply what is right to do.

Congress must pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and I urge this Speaker of this House to schedule a vote as soon as possible.

□ 1700

#### HONORING GUN VICTIMS IN AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to recognize and acknowledge gun victims in America.

This week in the Judiciary Committee, we held an important hearing on beginning the first steps toward real commonsense gun safety legislation.

In listening to witnesses from law enforcement, victims and near-victims, representatives from the health profession, and, yes, those who advocated for the Second Amendment, I would argue that, in this tribute to gun victims, recognizing the pain of their families and those lives lost, that no one is challenging the Second Amendment.

But with 100 persons a day dying by gun violence in the United States, it is without question that we must move quickly on universal background checks; we must move quickly on making bump stocks illegal; we must move quickly on the question of assault weapons; we must move quickly on closing loopholes and straw purchases; and we must work with the mental health community to ensure that we address that very sensitive question to help people who are disturbed and challenged.

Mr. Speaker, I honor those who have lost their lives, and I honor them by our action.

#### AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 494, TIFFANY JOSLYN JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be directed to make the change in the engrossment of H.R. 494 that I placed at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike section 1 and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Tiffany Joslyn Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2019".

#### NEW YORK PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BILL

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge a vote on H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

This bill would require doctors to provide medical attention to children who survive an abortion attempt.

Unfortunately, H.R. 962 is needed more than ever with the passage of a radical law in New York State that essentially legalizes infanticide. That law allows abortions up to and even after birth and ends safeguards to protect babies born alive after failed abortions.

#### ATLANTIC CITY RAIL LINE

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment at New Jersey Transit.

New Jersey Transit promised the public that the Atlantic City project will be finished by early 2019, but recently, it announced that the Atlantic City Rail Line would be closed up to more than 5 months. That is not an inconvenience; that is a disaster.

My constituents want service to be restored immediately, and they want, most importantly, the truth. That is why a majority of my New Jersey colleagues and I are sending a letter of admonishment to New Jersey Transit.

Mr. Speaker, this is the time for New Jersey Transit to do the right thing for the sake of our commuters, to do the right thing for the sake of our workers, and to do the right thing for the State of New Jersey. People's livelihoods and the quality of their lives depend on the Atlantic City Rail Line.

#### ADDRESS THE ONGOING CRISIS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to plead with my colleagues to address the ongoing crisis at our borders.

Just last week, Federal agents made the largest fentanyl bust in U.S. history at a checkpoint along our border with Mexico. These drugs were headed into our communities.

Some of our colleagues will say the fact that the bust occurred at a legal point of entry is proof that we are doing enough to keep our Nation secure and our neighborhoods safe.

I ask you, if these drug dealers are bold enough to try to sneak this much contraband through a known checkpoint, how much are they smuggling across our porous borders in the dark of night or through the open desert?

The answer is, more than we know. And it is far too much, Mr. Speaker.

Whether it is the promise of work and entitlements or the promise of an illegal drug market, we must demagnetize the attraction to our country for those who disregard our sovereignty and rule of law. We must secure our country and deal with the human trafficking and narcotics trafficking crisis that exists at our southern border.

#### STATE OF THE UNION REACTION

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the President gave a State of the Union Address that was short on details but long on hypocrisy. His remarks were long, self-absorbed, and divorced from reality.

Much like 1 year ago, his speech was noteworthy for the things he didn't say. He didn't mention that we live in a time of the greatest income inequality since the 1920s. He didn't mention the environment and our responsibilities to respond to climate change, to strengthen Social Security, or education for young people.

These are the real challenges facing working people today. They are also the things that the President has ignored during his time in office.

The people of this great country deserve better.

Democrats are committed to delivering for the people. That means:

Cracking down on corruption in Washington and reducing the influence of money in our political system;

Raising wages by rebuilding our infrastructure;

Lowering healthcare and prescription drug costs;

Ending the epidemic of gun violence; and

Taking on the challenge of climate change.

Let's get the job done and restore government of, by, and for the people of this great country.

#### THE REAL CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Mr. Speaker, a couple days ago, the President gave a State of the Union Address that did nothing to promote unity but, rather, used fear to further a divisive agenda against immigrants by repeating lies about his manufactured emergency at our southern border.

However, there was no mention of the real crisis. The real crisis stems from the President's inhumane separation policies.

Mr. Speaker, 8 months since his cruel zero-tolerance policy first came to light, the number of children who were ripped away from families at the border continues to rise. At first, the administration said nearly 3,000 children were separated from their parents. Now, we are learning that it has been thousands more.

The administration also claims that they can't easily find the parents of the children they ripped away, and they don't even think it is worth the time to locate them. This inhumane policy and how they treat these children goes against everything this country stands for.

The President and this administration need to do everything that they can to ensure the reunification of these families. The prolonged separation of these children has caused irreparable damage to their mental health and well-being.

That, Mr. President, is the real crisis that you have created at the southern border.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss, briefly, some of the accomplishments of the Trump administration that were pointed out in the State of the Union Address the other day.

I think it is imperative that we recognize that over 5 million jobs have been created in the last 2 years, over 300,000 in the last month alone. The economists had predicted and projected 170,000 jobs, and yet almost twice as many jobs were created. There are now a record of 157 million Americans employed in this country.

The unemployment rate has remained at or below the 4 percent for 11

straight months. That hasn't happened in almost 50 years.

There has been half a million manufacturing jobs since President Trump became President, and there were more manufacturing jobs created in 2018 than any single year in the last 20 years.

We have seen the judiciary be restored to, in my opinion, normalcy, with the confirmation of Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, and more than 40 Federal judges confirmed just this week.

#### BORDER SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WALKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and introduce extraneous material into the RECORD on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of talk in the last few months on border security, what it takes to secure our border and what it takes to protect the safety and the security of the American people.

Today, we are taking a few minutes with different Members to share very powerful but very impactful stories from their districts. This is not hyperbole or set up for histrionics, but sometimes the message of actually what is going on in our country doesn't always cut through with our media outlets.

So today, the different Members, many of them have special relationships with these folks they will be referencing and talking about today in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), our first speaker, who represents Indiana's Sixth District and serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure and Foreign Affairs Committees. But even more impressive to me is that Mr. GREG PENCE is a veteran of our Marine Corps, and he is a successful businessman.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to act on the national crisis that currently exists along our southern border.

This crisis plays itself out not only in the border towns of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, but in communities across the Nation, including my very own, Indiana's Sixth District. The statistics speak for themselves:

In my home of Bartholomew County, the sheriff's office booked 34 individuals with an immigration detainer 2

years ago. Last year, that number jumped to 132.

Hoosiers also feel the effects of the border crisis in the form of an opioid crisis that now kills more Americans than car accidents, gun violence, or breast cancer. This crisis is tearing families apart. The Department of Corrections says one in three Hoosiers residing in State prisons are battling addiction to opioids.

In the last year, Customs and Border officials have reported dramatic increases in meth, heroin, and fentanyl along our southern border. These are some of the very drugs that claimed the lives of more than 1,800 Hoosiers in 2017.

President Trump is right. We must create an immigration system that is safe, lawful, modern, and secure. It is not just the border States feeling the effects of illegal immigration; it is communities like ours in the Sixth District of Indiana that are being ravaged by the massive scourge of drugs coming across the southern border.

We must end this crisis. Mr. Speaker, it is time to secure the southern border and build the wall.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. PENCE's words today and the powerful expression of how it is impacting the State of Indiana.

One of our new Members, a very accomplished gentleman himself, an aerospace engineer representing the First District of Oklahoma, has also worked within the McDonald's system and owns multiple restaurants throughout the different portions of Oklahoma and is actually on the national leadership team.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. KEVIN HERN), to share a little bit about his State of Oklahoma.

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, my constituents have been calling the office in overwhelming numbers. They tell me to stand with our President to get the funding our Customs and Border agents have asked for.

I got a call from a police recruit in Tulsa just this week who has seen firsthand the impact that illegal immigration has on the safety of our citizens. It places a huge burden on our law enforcement agents who are already putting themselves in harm's way for our safety every day.

With unregulated borders, we open our country up to the tragedy of human trafficking. Undocumented women and children are especially vulnerable to traffickers. Ninety percent of the heroin in our country comes illegally from Mexico.

With dangerous drugs like cocaine, methamphetamines, and heroine come gun activity, violent crime, and the serious problem of addiction.

In December, Tulsa law enforcement officers found 2 pounds of heroin and 16 pounds of methamphetamines in connection in the Sinaloa drug cartel smuggled into the States from Mexico.

These dangerous and illegal drugs are finding their way into communities across the country.

There is a fix for all of this: Build the wall.

A physical barrier—which I might add, most of my friends from the other side of the aisle have historically supported—will stop illegal entry in its tracks. There is no replacement for a physical barrier.

Last month, the President told the American people that we need a wall, not because we hate the people on the outside, but because we love the people on the inside.

□ 1715

Mr. Speaker, I agree. How can we keep our people safe when we don't know who is coming into this country? Let's start prioritizing the American people and their safety.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to rise above partisanship for the sake of our citizens. We can stop the human trafficking crisis. We can catch the drug smugglers. We can keep our people safe. At the end of the day, the only thing that will truly help us is to pass bipartisan legislation to secure our borders and build a wall.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. HERN for coming, and I appreciate his time.

Our next speaker today is Representative BRAD WENSTRUP. In some circles, he is called Colonel WENSTRUP. He is a great man and my classmate. He has been awarded the Bronze Star, as well as the Combat Action Badge, for his service.

In fact, it was on a baseball field a year and a half ago that that Combat Action Badge showed itself off again when he was the only one equipped to be able to put a tourniquet on STEVE SCALISE and save his life.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my fellow classmate from Ohio's Second District.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WALKER for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the security and the safety of all our fellow Americans. The fact of the matter is that border security isn't or shouldn't be a partisan issue. That is why many of my colleagues from across the aisle have actually supported border security and fencing in the past.

The fact is, this is an American issue that affects every part of our Nation, sometimes in very visible ways, sometimes in ways less visible.

I represent southern and southwestern Ohio, not a border State, but it is deeply and tragically impacted by the lack of border security.

In the last couple years, there was a woman from my district area who was being deported. The archbishop called the Senator on her behalf, and he has every right to do that. This is someone who was being deported under the Obama administration. They set a date. When the date came, she didn't adhere, and she was deported.

The archbishop had every right to engage in that act, if he felt like he should reach out to the Representative. But I met with the archbishop and I asked him: Where were you in the case—such as I am about to tell you about—where were you when someone was in need because of the actions of someone who was here illegally?

Last year, I met a mother of a 15-year-old girl. The mother told me about their neighbor, the neighbor that they trusted, that they had picnics with. They told him: You have nothing to worry about. You are here legally.

It turns out, he was a 41-year-old illegal immigrant who had previously been deported from this country but reentered the U.S. illegally and gained employment by using the Social Security number of a 69-year-old woman from Arkansas.

One day, he knocked on their door, and since their daughter knew him, she opened the door, and he went in and beat and raped her.

Her innocence was taken forever. Her life changed forever. He got 8 years. She got a life sentence, and it didn't need to happen.

Tragically, one of my local prosecutors tells me there have been multiple cases like this in our area over the last few years. These are the families I think about when someone calls a border wall immoral.

As President Trump said in his address, we don't build walls because we hate the people on the outside. It is because we love the people on the inside. But, really, we also love the people on the outside who want to come here legally to be part of our American family.

This isn't about keeping people out of our country. This is about controlling access, so we know who and what is coming into our country.

Sitting idly by and making no effort to resolve these problems is wrong. It is a disservice to those who have suffered violence at the hands of criminals who have entered our Nation illegally. These victims are real, and so is their pain. We owe it to them to enforce our laws.

To my colleagues, I say: Come to the table. Let's negotiate a solution, smartly enhance our security, and drive on for the betterment of all Americans, so that, rather than being a borderless and lawless country, America will be the beacon of hope for those who desire to come to this great country of ours legally.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. It is my belief that that kind of common sense will prevail with the majority of the American people, knowing our job and continuing to work to keep the safety and security of the American people as a high priority.

Our next speaker tonight is a Member in his sophomore term but who already has many accomplishments in the political arena.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas, Mr. JODEY ARRINGTON, who

served under President George W. Bush and as chief of staff to the FDIC Chairman, representing Texas' 19th Congressional District.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina, Representative WALKER, for his service and his leadership, not just to this body, but myself personally.

He is a spiritual leader and mentor for so many. We have a lot of ways to measure success in life and in this job, but I can tell you, one of them is to maintain a healthy relationship with our Lord and savior, and I want to thank him publicly.

This is a serious issue, and it is one that we in Texas have a lot of knowledge about and experience with, unfortunately, and that is border security. It is also a humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Speaker, we are on the front lines, and we see the drugs, gangs, and criminal activity pouring into the great State of Texas, not just along the impact zone immediately across from the southern border, but in communities in west Texas, in the 19th Congressional District, and not just my population center, but in rural communities as well.

Here is a statistic that is pretty startling. Since 2011, 180,000 illegal immigrants were charged in the great State of Texas with 290,000 crimes.

I talked to local law enforcement officers, sheriffs, police chiefs, and others in my communities over the last few weeks. They are telling me that the volume of drugs coming into our communities is off the charts and that the crime has increased exponentially—not just property crime, but violent crime.

They are telling me that gangs, not just the shoestring gangs, as they call them, but the very violent gangs and cartels, the Sinaloa cartel and the Los Zetas cartel, are in my district in west Texas. They are showing up in our backyards and our neighborhoods, and it is scary.

Here is the sad fact: This country has the resources and tools to do something about it. Our President has asked for those resources and tools. He has a comprehensive border security plan, and we have to have political will. We have to be able to put our country first, especially when it comes to the safety and security of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard people say that drugs are coming through only ports of entry. You can tell from this map, they are coming across the border at various places.

Just a month ago, there was 700 pounds of cocaine caught at the border, and we had our largest drug bust up in my district in a little town called Denver City, about 22 kilos of cocaine. So we have to do something about it.

Mr. Speaker, I beg of my colleagues to do the right thing and put their country before politics. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ARRINGTON for coming, and I appreciate his kind remarks, and

sobering ones, at the same time. We do have a problem at the border with drugs. We do have a problem with violence of illegal aliens. That is why we continue to message through this.

Just 2 nights ago, sitting right about there was my sister-in-law whose brother was a United States Army veteran and a good friend of mine who one day messed up his knee. He had surgery, and the next thing you know, he was addicted to pain killers, opioids. Opioids led to heroin, and then, unable to come off heroin, it led to him committing suicide 3 years ago.

This is a real problem. If we were able to cut down only a small percentage of the drugs, and if we were able to reduce only a small percentage of the murders, the sexual assaults, and the human trafficking, my question is: Would a border structure still not be worth it?

To me, that is a very commonsense question. How much does it need to be reduced before it is relevant to all of us?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), our next speaker this afternoon who is a solid new Member, a former district attorney from the State of Mississippi who is already serving on the Foreign Affairs Committee and Homeland Security Committee.

MR. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As a former district attorney, I have seen firsthand how damaging narcotics and synthetic drugs can be to individuals, families, and our communities.

In 2017, drug overdoses killed 72,000 Americans, more than car crashes and gun violence combined. The most dangerous of these drugs, fentanyl, is 50 times more potent than heroin and accounted for almost twice the number of fatal overdoses in 2017.

Last year, law enforcement officers in Mississippi seized more than 800,000 dosage units of fentanyl. The fentanyl seized was enough to kill nearly 14 percent of the population of Mississippi.

This lethal narcotic is smuggled into our country by transnational criminal organizations or drug cartels. Just last month, Federal law enforcement officials seized more than 250 pounds of fentanyl at the Nogales port of entry on the United States-Mexico border.

As we continue to aggressively police our points of entry, drug cartels will attempt to gain access through the areas of the border that are not secured, forcing us to devote manpower to police these unsecured sections of our border.

It is apparent that drug cartels want to profit from the addiction and the destruction that these drugs have on American lives. This Congress has not only the opportunity but also the duty to act, to help limit the flow of drugs into the country and to protect our citizens by securing our southwest border.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GUEST for his com-

ments. I appreciate his passion in sharing some of the firsthand experiences that he is seeing in the great State of Mississippi.

Our next two speakers are from border States that certainly have a perspective on what is going on as we see even right now.

One is an accomplished medical doctor who served and practiced there in the State of Texas for nearly three decades. He is not one of the louder Members, but he is often considered one of our more effective Members.

It is my privilege to yield to the gentleman from Texas, Representative MICHAEL BURGESS.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

Let me just say, I spent the last several hours in a hearing in the Energy and Commerce Committee, a hearing called by the Democrats on the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. The hearing was evaluating the failures of the Trump administration on the child separation policy.

Let me just share with you some of the statements of the witnesses. These were pediatricians. These were ACLU lawyers. Statements like the Trump administration policy was intentionally hurtful, that it was an incredibly difficult position that people were in, that parents have a right to keep their children safe, and that this was nothing more than government-sanctioned child endangerment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to share a story with you. Just like Mr. WALKER, I had a guest here at the State of the Union the other night when the President was here. My guest was Chris from Keller, Texas, and he sat up in the gallery right behind us here.

I met Chris probably a year and a half to 2 years ago. He came to see me one day, brought in, actually, by his mother. His mother was concerned because he had suffered an injustice in his life, and he was upset, and he couldn't get over it. He just needed to talk to someone, and a Member of Congress is the last person I can think of to talk to, but maybe it can help.

So Chris told me his story. I practiced medicine for 25 years, and I heard some sad stories. I have been in Congress for 15 years, and I have heard some sad stories. But I will tell you, this was the saddest story that I can recall ever having heard.

Chris was serving his country in Iraq. In fact, he was in Iraq in 2005 when they had the big election where everyone was going down the road with an ink-stained thumb, and he helped make that happen. He helped pull that off.

Chris continued his service in various forms and was in Iraq when he got word that his wife was ill. His wife was, as it turns out, very, very ill, and he had to come home. He cared for her for the last few months of her life before she succumbed to breast cancer.

□ 1730

He said he made her a promise right at the end of that illness that he would

always, always, always take care of their daughter. Now Chris is a single dad. He has got an only child. The child was 12, 13 years old, the light of his life. Everything in Chris's life was wrapped up in his daughter.

His daughter came home one day and said she wanted to go spend the night at a friend's house, and Chris said no.

She said: Please, Daddy, you never let me do anything. Please let me go.

After multiple entreaties, Chris agreed. She could go over to this friend's house and spend the night.

At some point during the evening, the girls went out to a convenience store that was across the street. She drops her cellphone, goes back to retrieve it, and she was hit by a car. There were a number of cars coming down the street at that point. One was going faster than the others. All of the other cars stopped, but the car that hit Christia inflicted substantial injury upon her.

The driver of that vehicle did stop, and the police were called. The driver of that vehicle was in the country without the benefit of citizenship. So the driver of that car was taken down to the police station. Drug and alcohol tests were administered. A search of the records revealed a previous infraction with Customs and Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement. He had come into the country illegally before, so there was that. He had speeding tickets, and he had been arrested for driving without a license. In fact, this time the only citation that he received was driving without a license, and he was released after 35 minutes.

Chris came in to see me several months later, literally at the end of his rope. I will never forget as he told me this story and he looked at me with tears in his eyes.

He said: Congressman, I put on the uniform of my country. I served my country. I did my job. Mr. Congressman, if you had been doing your job, my daughter would be here today.

I have to tell you, as I was walking Chris back to where he could get a cab to his hotel after the State of the Union Address—we have actually corresponded on a fairly regular basis, and he is a very likeable individual—as we walked off the Hill to get to where he could catch a cab beyond the Capitol Police barrier, he said: I really have enjoyed meeting you, Congressman. You have been great to me.

I said: Chris, I would give anything if we had never met.

This is not a manufactured crisis. This is a real crisis affecting our citizens and our constituents. The people on the panel today were very concerned about the Trump administration's policy from last June. But this is not a new deal. There has been a problem on our Texas border, particularly in the lower Rio Grande sector for years. The previous administration had problems. The Clinton administration had problems. The Carter administration had

problems. It is a difficult problem, and it does need to be solved.

President Trump has outlined a reasonable approach that, yes, includes sensors; yes, includes increased personnel; yes, includes all-weather roads in areas; and, yes, it does include a barrier. Without that, there cannot be success in securing our southern border, and as a consequence, our citizens cannot be safe and secure in their homes.

I thank the gentleman for providing the time tonight and leading this hour.

I hope Chris does get some measure of peace eventually, but, clearly, this is a problem that has affected a great many lives of people in our districts. I think we each can find someone in our district who has suffered from a similar loss.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I will not soon forget those lines: I did my job putting on my uniform every day. Congressman, if you had been doing your job, my daughter would be here today.

I hope that message resonates in all 434 Members who are currently in the House.

Mr. Speaker, if Congressmen and Congresswomen would do their job, these children, these daughters, these sons, these mothers, and these wives and husbands would still be here today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). ANDY BIGGS is one of the truth tellers in this House. He is from Arizona's Fifth District. He is a retired attorney who also served in the Arizona legislature for 14 years, and he is a bold voice in the United States House.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WALKER for holding this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, I want you to know I continue to be astonished that our Democratic Members—our colleagues—turned a blind eye to what is happening in this country because of what is going on on the border.

Unlike many in Congress, I have been down to the border multiple times. I grew up just a number of miles—60, 70 miles—from the border myself. I have been down there many times. A couple of weeks ago I took eight Congressmen with me. We toured the border. We met with multiple ranchers, and their story is very similar. We got to talk to one guy—four home invasions, more than 15 burglaries, endless vandalism, and trespassing daily. He was not unique.

Another family has set up their own cameras and sensors so they can see. We watched them. We watched the people coming across. This is hour after hour of footage. Do you know what? These were young men coming across with carpet slippers so you couldn't see their footprints. I didn't see the moms and children coming across. I saw the young men carrying bundles of drugs across.

On Monday the "Washington Examiner" published an article detailing the fear of border residents living in New Mexico. They, like those in Arizona, Texas, and California have been bur-

glarized. They find groups of illegal aliens squatting in their barns with bundles of drugs on their land. But they won't call the authorities because they fear retaliation from drug cartels.

Many of the people we met with said: we will meet with you on condition that you don't reveal us meeting to the press because every time the press reveals something, we are retaliated against by drug cartels.

Yesterday at the end of a Judiciary Committee hearing about gun violence, after going on a screed—a demagogic tirade—about the importance of protecting every life, this Member said that every life is valuable. I agree with that. But she is valuing some over others.

Why wouldn't she focus on policies that would help the lives of all Americans through border security?

In 2015, a young man from my Congressional District, Grant Ronnebeck, was shot and killed by an illegal alien. Not only should that murderer not have been in possession of a firearm, he shouldn't have even been in the country. He had been deported before, yet he comes back because the border is porous.

For some reason, no Democrat is willing to ensure that criminally violent aliens like Grant's killer aren't released back into our community. I introduced a bill called Grant's Law to ensure no criminal alien can be released from custody. I can't get a single cosponsor from the other side of the aisle.

Two weeks ago 250 pounds of fentanyl and 400 pounds of additional drugs were interdicted in Nogales. That is the number one sector for drug seizures in this country. Forty percent of all drugs that are interdicted are in the Tucson sector. Just today, in the Ajo region, 300 people crossed—today—2 hours ago.

I am told by experts that we only interdict 15 percent of dangerous drugs and fewer than 50 percent of the people who are crossing.

Mr. Speaker, I call out for my colleagues across the aisle: Help us. Help this country. I am telling you: Walls work. We have to stand with the President.

I stand with the President. I stand with the people of America. I stand with people in my district. I stand with the people who believe and understand that we have to get border security and the most foundational and fundamental thing we can do is build a wall.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge there are problems with ports of entry. We have no problem in increasing training or border agents. We are not opposed to that at all. What we don't understand is why there is not an all-of-the-above approach, a commonsense approach that would allow us to continue to reduce and sometimes eliminate some of the issues that we are seeing.

My next speaker is a classmate of mine serving faithfully on the Agriculture and the Education and Labor

Committees. He is a business owner who is responsible for creating thousands of jobs from the land that he comes from, Augusta, Georgia, representing Georgia's 12th District.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WALKER for his work here today and telling the story.

We have heard so many stories about people who have been affected by this problem at our southern border.

My friends and colleagues continue to fight to resolve the crisis at our southern border, end illegal immigration, and save innocent American lives.

I would like to share the story of Eliud Montoya, a naturalized American citizen, a hard worker, and a Georgia resident. He was violently shot and killed in 2017 at the hands of three illegal immigrants living just south of Georgia's 12th District.

Mr. Montoya, who worked for a tree service company, reported some suspicious activity to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission alleging that illegal workers were being employed as a part of a scheme to defraud that company. By doing his duty and reporting this illegal activity to the proper authorities, Mr. Montoya was senselessly murdered by illegal immigrants who reportedly collected more than \$3.5 million of illegal profits.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very real crisis we are facing at our southern border, and we simply cannot allow lawlessness to consume this nation.

In his State of the Union on Tuesday, President Trump said it best: "The lawless state of our southern border is a threat to the safety, security, and financial well-being of all Americans. We have a moral duty to create an immigration system that protects the lives and jobs of our citizens."

Think about this, if you put in the most advanced security system in your home, would you take down the front door?

I am 100 percent with the President. Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's sincere words.

Mr. Speaker, one of my friends is another Member from Georgia who serves on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, actually owns Carter's Pharmacy, a pharmacist by nature, and actually became a mayor and was a general assembly member. He is one of the hardest working guys in this House. It is my privilege to acknowledge Representative BUDDY CARTER from Georgia's First.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important topic to our Nation's homeland security, the crisis at our southern border. And it is, indeed, a crisis.

In its most simple form, it is paramount that we know who is coming in and out of our country in order to keep

our families and our fellow citizens safe. However, it is impossible to do so when individuals are traversing across our border avoiding checkpoints and bypassing our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to our border. I served on the Homeland Security Committee my first session here. We took a trip to the border. We went to California. It was the first time I had ever been to California. We went to San Diego. In San Diego you need a barrier, you need a wall, and you need a fence. You have got 3 million people in San Diego County, 3 million people in Tijuana separated by a highway. It makes perfect sense to have a barrier there, a fence.

Then we went to Arizona, rugged terrain, mountainous terrain. There you need technology, you need boots on the ground, you need blimps, and you need drones, all of those things. When we were in Arizona, we visited a farmer, a rancher there, who showed us an area where they had a fence. In that area where they had that fence, they had cut it off. It was a 10-foot fence, and they cut it off at 5 foot, put ramps on it, and they had driven a truck over it.

You have to have a fence, and you have to have technology.

We went to McAllen, Texas. It was the first time I had ever been to that part of Texas. We went to the Rio Grande River. Now, I grew up in south Georgia; to me the Rio Grande River was this giant river that you saw in a John Wayne movie. It is anything but. It is a narrow, winding river that in some areas is knee deep. People walk across it. You are going to have to have barriers in some of those areas. You are going to have to have boots on the ground. You are going to have to have technology, blimps and drones, all of those things.

What we are talking about is securing our borders. Everybody wants to say: oh, he wants to build a wall.

Yes, you need a wall in certain areas, and you need a barrier. But you need technology. But most importantly you need security.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to deny the President the ability to deliver on a campaign promise. That is not what this is about. This is about securing our borders. We need to focus. We need to focus about what we are talking about here. This is real. This is serious.

Let me tell you how serious it is. I have seen examples of it. I have seen examples that it creates in my own district, my own congressional district in coastal Georgia.

□ 1745

Just over a month ago, three illegal immigrants were charged with conspiracy to murder a legal, naturalized citizen who threatened to turn them in.

Now, folks, if you want to know how people feel about illegal immigration, ask someone who has become a citizen, who has gone through the process.

Don't ask me; ask them. Ask them what they think.

I guarantee you, they are going to be opposed to it. They did it the right way. And we invite them here. We need them here. We want them here. But they did it the right way. They are as much opposed to it, they are as much offended by it as anyone.

It is stories like these that inspired me to introduce H.R. 6333, the Tax Identity Protection Act, in the 115th Congress. The Treasury Department's inspector general noted that up to 1.4 million illegal immigrants could be fraudulently using legal citizens' Social Security numbers, but the IRS refuses to do anything about this, stating that they can't accurately determine which numbers are mistakes and which are fraud.

So I introduced the Tax Identity Protection Act. It would require the IRS to find ways to better determine illegal immigrants using stolen Social Security numbers. I will be reintroducing that bill shortly in the 116th Congress, and I hope that my colleagues will support this legislation that strengthens our national security and protects our personal identities.

Immigration is important. It is important to the history, the culture, and the progress of our country, but it is past time for us to fix our broken immigration system and ensure that people seeking a better life in America are coming through the lawful channels.

I want to thank my colleagues for holding this important and timely Special Order today.

Folks, this is serious. This is important. We need to focus, keep our eye on the ball here.

Mr. WALKER. I appreciate Representative CARTER's passion on this issue and laying out, really, a heartfelt case why border security is so important.

So many times we hear the argument that there are as many and, in some places, even a higher percentage of assaults or crimes, murders, et cetera, in communities with American citizens as there are with some of the illegal immigrants.

My question is: Does that make it okay? See, that is the thing that we have to take a look at from a common-sense perspective is that, when we do begin to reduce this, it allows us to have the resources to be able to concentrate on some of the areas as well.

A class member from Arkansas has quite a distinguished history. Prior to his congressional service, Mr. HILL was a commercial banker and an investment manager for two decades. But, not only that, President George H.W. Bush appointed Mr. HILL to be Executive Secretary to the President's Economic Policy Council, where he coordinated all White House economic policy. He does a great job and works hard on our Financial Services Committee as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), my friend from Arkansas' Second District.



Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from North Carolina and appreciate his distinguished service on behalf of the citizens of North Carolina, his leadership of our Republican Study Committee in the last Congress, and his leadership as our Conference leader for this Congress. And I greatly appreciate his personal engagement to help continue this conversation with the American people about the need for enhanced security along our southwest border.

Like my colleagues you have heard from, I have been to the southwest border four times as a Member of Congress. I worked in Texas for nearly a decade, so I am very familiar with the southwest border in Texas. But, as a Congressman, I have gone four times to get at the root of what is the balance that we want between border fencing, barrier, the use of technology, screening technology, enhancements at our ports of entry, and the manpower issue.

Mr. Speaker, we need all of that, and that is, in fact, what we have produced time and time again on the floor. Just in the last year, Mr. Speaker, we have proposed these kinds of commonsense border security issues, and we have not gotten sufficient votes to pass them.

So this is why we find ourselves hearing from the Border Patrol and our officials at Homeland Security that we need additional barrier construction, additional boots on the ground, new judges, additional screening technology—all of the things I hear about from county judges, county sheriffs, Federal law enforcement—to make our border, in fact, safe.

But tonight I want to reflect on the impact in my home State of Arkansas. I see it every day. I have two young adults now, Mr. Speaker, a 19-year-old and a 22-year-old.

When I was in high school, I didn't know anybody who had died of a drug overdose. I didn't know anyone who had committed suicide among my peers in my high school. And I am brokenhearted tonight, Mr. Speaker, to report that my kids and their age group have seen deaths from deadly addiction to these drugs that are coming over our border, our southwest border. It breaks my heart to see them at funerals when they should be at soccer games.

The opioid crisis has killed more than 100 Americans a day and caused 45,000 deaths last year, alone, almost as many as we lost in all of the Vietnam conflict. A third of these deaths were attributable to fentanyl, much of which is manufactured in China.

This Congress, bipartisan, last year, decided to get screening equipment to our postal service to interdict and try to stop fentanyl. Senator COTTON and I want to increase criminal penalties for fentanyl possession and dealing because, Mr. Speaker, in this small Sweet N Low packet that we are all familiar with, 1 gram has enough—if it were fentanyl—to kill 500 Americans. That is what confronts our kids as it is laced into heroin, pressed into pills,

soaked into marijuana on the streets of our country, coming across the southwest border.

So my kids have suffered from it. I have watched their faces. I have hugged a lot of moms. And whenever I think of this issue, I think about Nate Gordon, who lost his life, whose mom I visit with and who has helped me in my roundtables on helping me cope with how to talk to our parents about this deadly addiction that has overtaken our country.

Nate was a kid who got addicted, and he tried to beat it. And he beat it. And then, one night, it took his life.

His mom doesn't have her son anymore, but she has dedicated her life to helping parents to educate kids, to get people in treatment. And that is what we need. We need an entire community to bond with this Congress to fight drug addiction.

I spoke to our attorney general, my friend from North Carolina, and she told me that over 1,000 illegals had been arrested in Arkansas recently, tens of thousands of pills, and over 1,000 pounds of drugs.

So this is something that challenges our whole country, and we have to work together. I commend our President for keeping it at the forefront of the American people, and I commend Mr. WALKER for inviting us here to visit about it tonight.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's work and his friendship in this House as well.

A new Member from Texas, someone who represents the southwest Texas area, I believe, represents portions of Austin, Texas, as well, someone who is new but no less experienced, a former first assistant attorney general and a former Federal prosecutor, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding time, and I thank him for his leadership on this important issue.

We are here because we are discussing the importance of border security for the United States of America, a question of our sovereignty, the basic duty of a sovereign nation to secure its borders.

I had the great privilege of spending some time with the men and women of the Border Patrol in the Rio Grande Valley sector in Texas this past week—2 days—with my fellow Texas freshman Congressman DAN CRENSHAW. What I saw was alarming.

What we learned from Border Patrol is that there will be upwards of 400,000 people crossing the border through the Rio Grande Valley sector this year alone. And of that 400,000 people, 200,000 of them, give or take, won't even be apprehended because the men and women of the Border Patrol don't have the tools they need, don't have the fencing and the barriers they need, don't have the ability to drive a vehicle parallel—lateral—to the Rio Grande River, don't have the radio signal to be able to communicate on the border.

We found that, of the 200,000 people who will be apprehended, 90 percent of them will be captured and released because we have judicially mandated capture and release today. We have judges who have told us that we have got to capture people and then release them back out into our communities without going through the proper processes to truly vet asylum and truly vet what we are dealing with. The result of that brings tragic consequences.

The Gulf Cartel in Mexico will make \$130 million this year—\$130 million—trafficking human beings across the Rio Grande Valley sector. They are integrated with FARC. They are integrated with terrorist networks. They have operational control of our border along Texas, and we are just acting like there is nothing to see.

The Speaker of the House had us in session for less than 48 hours last week with a handful of show votes. What do we have this week? More votes just that are kind of plodding along, suspension votes.

We are not having a robust debate. This Chamber is virtually empty. We are not having a robust debate about our border and our national security and about the lives of American citizens and the lives of the migrants who seek to come here.

There are migrants today who are endangered and enslaved to the cartels. There were 54 people found in a stash house last Friday when I was with Border Patrol, in a house in Houston, who are now being held hostage by cartels to pay their money back because the cartels brought them into the United States.

How is that compassion? How is that somehow beneficial to migrants?

That is the truth. Those are the facts when we talk to our men and women in the Border Patrol.

Let's talk about the women, the young girls, who are abused on the path. I was on the Rio Grande River, and I spoke to a 10-year-old and an 11-year-old girl. My son Charlie is going to turn 10 this year. These girls were traveling with no parents. They want to have a better life.

I want to welcome folks to the United States of America, but you have got to have legal channels to make it work, both for our safety and the safety of the migrants who come here.

It is extraordinary that we are even having this debate. I cannot believe that this body, the people's House, is ignoring this great tragedy that is going on on our southwest border, with real human lives.

And it is not just the migrants. It is American citizens like Jared Vargas in San Antonio, Texas, which I represent and I am proud to represent. Jared lost his life last July at the hands of somebody here illegally. His beautiful mom, Lori, is still brokenhearted, having lost her wonderful son. His twin brother, who goes to college in Kerrville, in my district, lost his twin brother; and his sister lost her brother because an illegal immigrant who was here, who was

caught, released, caught, released, stopped by law enforcement, let go, 2 days later murdered Jared Vargas.

How can we allow this to happen in the greatest country and the most powerful nation the world has ever known? How can we allow American citizens to die at the hands of illegal immigrants who are here who shouldn't be here, who have broken our laws previously? How can we allow American citizens to die at the hands of the terrorists who are moving drugs into and out of our country through cartels, die because of dangerous fentanyl and dangerous heroin that are coming across our borders at the ports of entry and, yes, between the ports of entry, which the data fully backs up?

It is not just coming through the ports of entry. It is, in fact, coming across on loads across the Rio Grande River, which is not policed.

We have a duty to defend our border. One last point: Fencing, walls work. In the Rio Grande Valley sector, in the eastern section next to the Gulf of Mexico, there is 35 miles of fencing. In the western section, in McAllen, there is far less fencing and far fewer roads. Ninety-four percent of the traffic comes through the McAllen portion of the Rio Grande Valley sector.

We have a duty to defend our borders. American citizens like Jared Vargas, who lost his life, and the Vargas family, who is now without their family member, and the United States of America deserve better. The migrants who seek to come here deserve better.

□ 1800

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, this evening, we have heard from Members across the country about the devastating toll illegal immigration has had on American families and American workers. The Democrats' divisive and disconnected immigration agenda has real consequences and leads to real victims.

What makes this such a calamity is not only the cost to Americans that we have talked about tonight, but the fact that these tragedies are completely avoidable if Congress, as we heard earlier, would do its job and secure the border.

I want to tell you about Miss Sharon Gross from my district in North Carolina. Just over a year ago, Sharon had finished a 5-mile bike ride with her 18-year-old daughter in Creekside Park, where I have been, in Archdale, North Carolina. They began their trip home in "Roxie," the vehicle her daughter received for her 16th birthday.

As her daughter was driving home, she saw a white SUV heading the opposite direction and beginning to swerve from the outer lane. The vehicle hit them head-on. Sharon described the next moment: "The next thing I remember was the sound of the metal crashing and twisting in front of us. I vaguely remember everyone running to us and telling us to get out because the car was about to explode. I couldn't get out and could barely breathe."

Sharon thanks God that her daughter was largely unharmed, but Sharon suffered five broken bones in her back and a severely broken sternum, leaving a large hole in her chest. She now has chronic pain that impacts her daily life.

The driver of the white SUV was a man by the name of Mr. Rodriguez. He had a blood alcohol concentration of .20, 2½ times the legal limit in North Carolina.

Mr. Rodriguez is in our country illegally. He did not own the vehicle he was driving, nor did he even have a driver's license, and this was his third drunk driving charge. He then served only 11 months in prison and has now been released.

Mr. Rodriguez's time in prison may have come to an end, but the physical, mental, and emotional scars that Sharon has, well, they will never fade. Making matters worse, Mr. Rodriguez was uninsured, leaving thousands of dollars in medical bills, adding to the emotional and physical and now financial pain for Sharon and her family.

Sharon stated: "It is very difficult for me to have all this constant pain and then deal with all the emotions I am feeling about someone who comes into our country illegally and gets a little pat on the hand when he breaks all our laws." She said: "To say my life was shattered is an understatement."

You see, we can do better. We must do better for Sharon and for all Americans who have been impacted by illegal immigration. That means an all-of-the-above approach to border security, including construction of additional physical structures and barriers. Border security not only helps keep our families safe, but it also continues the American tradition of being a welcoming Nation.

Many of us are proud of our legal immigrant heritage. Though it goes underreported, America has the most generous legal system in the world. Think about it. We proudly welcome 1 million legal immigrants into our country every single year.

In fact, just last year, the first full year of the Trump administration in 2017, the number was 1,127,167 new citizens whom we welcomed. These are people from all over the world who have raised their right hand, promising to obey the laws of our land and contribute to our blessed Nation.

As President Trump said on this very floor just 2 days ago: "Legal immigrants enrich our Nation and strengthen our society in countless ways. I want people to come into our country . . . but they have to come in legally."

You see, in America, we can do both. We can continue to be the beacon of hope throughout the world, and we can do much better in protecting the American people. After all, it is the first oath we take.

But the clock is ticking. We face another impasse this week. Will our Democratic colleagues support commonsense policies to end this crisis, or

will they continue to disengage on solutions, suggesting ideas like abolishing ICE and stopping additional funding for the Department of Homeland Security?

It is time to put productivity over personality and people over politics. Anything less would be immoral.

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

#### GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE), my friend and a member of the Judiciary Committee, a leader in responding to the American people who broadly support gun violence prevention.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I particularly thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on this issue and for organizing today's Special Order hour.

One of the great blessings of being in the majority is wonderful new colleagues who are bringing their incredible intellect and passion and commitment to the issues facing the American people, and the gentlewoman from California is obviously a magnificent example of that, so I thank her for the courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, the numbers speak for themselves. On average, 100 Americans are murdered with firearms every day. Three hundred more are shot and wounded.

In 2017, the number of gun deaths in this country hit 40,000, the highest level in 20 years, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Globally, we have the highest rate of gun violence of any developed Nation on Earth.

We have a gun violence epidemic in this country.

The U.S. is now the world leader in child gun deaths, with death by gunshot being the second highest cause of death among children.

This is a public health crisis.

People are being killed at schools, at houses of worship, in restaurants, at homes, and everywhere in between. There is no place safe from the threat of gun violence in this country.

We have seen it at the Sandy Hook Elementary School and Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School; at houses of worship in Charleston, Oak

Creek, Sutherland Springs, and Pittsburgh; at a nightclub in Orlando, a movie theater in Aurora, and a country music concert in Las Vegas.

But under GOP control for the last 8 years, Congress did nothing. We had moments of silence for 30 minutes. We stood. We said nothing and did nothing.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, this is about to change. Yesterday, the House Judiciary Committee held its first hearing on gun violence prevention in nearly a decade. The room was filled with parents who lost their children and young people who lost their friends to gun violence.

They are determined to make sure that no one else has to live through such senseless tragedies. Particularly the young people, whose passion and commitment and dedication to making sure that we do something to reduce gun violence in this country, have changed the conversation in America. It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to thank these young people, because their voices are making a difference.

I used my 5 minutes at the hearing in part to apologize to these young people, because we have failed them. The adults in this country and the adults in this Congress have failed them.

They are asking us to do our jobs at the very basic minimum: Keep them safe. Allow them to lead their lives and reach their full potential.

I am very proud that I am introducing a number of bills that will reduce gun violence in this country—a bill to ban assault weapons, a bill to ban dangerous bump stocks and 3D-printed guns.

I will also be introducing a bill to improve the background check system by requiring States to establish better reporting systems for mental health professionals to identify individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others if they have a gun.

I plan to introduce a bill that will require notification to law enforcement if a prohibited purchaser buys or attempts to buy a gun.

Mr. Speaker, there are dozens of commonsense proposals that will be introduced in this Congress. Sadly, almost all of them will be introduced by Democrats. I hope we can have some bipartisan support on this, because the American people want us to do something before another horrible tragedy occurs and before another deadly weapon ends up in the wrong hands.

There are many good ideas on how to do it. Our Republican colleagues, as I know the gentlewoman from California will agree, always say there isn't one bill that will stop every instance of gun violence, and so, they argue, we shouldn't do anything, because we can't stop it all. Of course, that is a ridiculous argument against taking action, because there is no question that we can take action on a number of bills that, taken together, will substantially reduce gun violence in this country.

We have the responsibility to do it. The American people are demanding

that we do it. We will take up a bill to close the background check loophole that allows nearly 22 percent of guns sold in this country to happen without a background check.

We are going to take up legislation to fix the background check system and make certain that all sales of guns undergo a background check, so we can make sure criminals don't have access to firearms.

That is just the beginning. That is the first thing we will do. We are going to move forward on a whole series of commonsense proposals that will help stop the carnage being caused by gun violence in this country.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will yield back to the gentlewoman and again thank her for her leadership and accommodation this evening. I thank her for organizing this very important Special Order hour to continue to raise this issue and demonstrate to the American people that we are committed to getting something done to reduce gun violence in this country to protect our constituents who sent us here to do just that.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CICILLINE for his words and his passion and his leadership on this issue.

As he said, one of the most basic functions of our government doing our jobs is to keep American families safe and secure. For too long, Congress has put fealty to the special interest of the gun lobby ahead of our safety.

Mr. Speaker, the prevalence of gun violence in our country is horrifying. For 15- to 24-year-olds, the gun murder rate here in America is 49 times higher than our peer nations. Our children and my children go to school with the fear that their school, that their classroom, could be the next mass shooting site.

Guns are the second leading cause of death for our American children and teens. Nearly 1,700 children are killed by guns each year. Our country's gun violence epidemic is not normal. While we have about 5 percent of the world's population, we have about 15 percent of noncombat-related gun violence.

The fact is that no other country on this planet even remotely comes close to ours on the problem of gun violence.

It has been almost a year since the Parkland school shooting and more than 6 years since the Sandy Hook shooting. And until this Congress, there has not been any change coming out of Washington.

Yesterday, we took an important first step. As my colleague, Mr. CICILLINE, recognized, the House held its first hearing in 8 years on taking action to prevent gun violence in America. It is a shame, Mr. Speaker, that it took 8 years to hold that hearing.

Next week will be the markup of historic legislation, H.R. 8, the bipartisan background check bill. Now more than ever, we need to insist that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle stand up to the gun lobby and stand up to join in the fight to end gun violence.

Six of the deadliest mass shootings in our Nation's entire history happened in the last decade, a decade in which Congress did nothing to reduce preventable gun deaths.

We cannot continue, we should not continue, to ignore the demands of mothers, of grandmothers, of grandparents, of teachers, of nurses, of emergency room physicians who are concerned, like all of us, about violent gun deaths and about children being killed in their schools and in their communities.

We need to be leaders, not shills for the gun lobby, not cowards afraid of losing an A rating. Our children deserve courage. They deserve the courage of this Congress. Our children deserve leaders who will fight to ensure that families are safe at school, at movie theaters, at concerts.

I will not be bought, and I will not be silenced by the gun lobby or by the President.

□ 1815

The midterm elections made clear that voters want lawmakers to put the safety of our children and our families first. We must end the insidious buying off of politicians by the gun lobby.

Americans overwhelmingly support commonsense gun safety reforms like H.R. 8, which implements mandatory background checks on all gun sales and transfers. Ninety-seven percent of Americans want laws like this implemented.

Since the Brady Bill was passed 25 years ago, over 3 million attempts to purchase firearms have been blocked because of background checks. Yet, one out of five guns is still sold without a background check.

We also need commitment and action by Congress to reinstate CDC, Centers for Disease Control, funding to study how best to prevent gun violence. More than three-quarters of Americans support the CDC conducting research on gun violence as a public health issue.

Yet, for decades, Republicans in Congress have prevented us from studying the factors that contribute to accidental deaths, suicides, and homicide by firearms. And without that information, without that research, we cannot have a full understanding of how to exercise our duty to keep American families safe and to prevent unnecessary loss of life.

These are not radical ideas. They are commonsense American solutions that are being held hostage by the gun lobby.

My home, Orange County, has made its feelings heard time and again, that it wants to strengthen gun violence prevention laws. Keeping our families safe is at the heart of our values.

I am particularly inspired by the advocacy of those in our community who have experienced loss and suffering from gun violence and, yet, found the strength to dedicate their lives to making sure that others don't experience similar tragedies.

I would like to highlight the story of one such couple, Mary Leigh and Charlie Blek, from Orange County, California. These loving parents led the fight in my district and in California, for commonsense gun legislation.

Mary Leigh and Charlie's son, Matthew, was only 21 years old when he was shot and killed. He was a victim of an armed robbery by teens using a small handgun, also known as a "Saturday Night Special" or a "junk gun."

In memory of their son, the Bleks founded the Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence in 1995. For five long, hard-fought years, they advocated for safety regulations that would rid California of the type of gun that killed their son, and they succeeded.

California used to produce 80 percent of the junk guns for the Nation. California no longer produces these junk guns, and has enacted safety standards for handguns that are working to reduce gun violence deaths.

Still today, the Bleks are vigilant in preventing the gun lobby from finding new ways to sell dangerous handguns in California. They now lead the Orange County Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, and I am personally very grateful for their efforts, their leadership, and their courage.

No family should ever have to go through what the Bleks suffered, but too many in our own communities have. Since the beginning of 2014, in California, over 14,000 people, 14,000 people, including 120 law enforcement officers, have been injured or killed from gun violence. Forty-seven of those people hurt or killed were in my district, the 45th district. We have lost 34 members of our communities in just 4 years, all too gun violence.

This is a public safety problem, and, Mr. Speaker, doing nothing is unacceptable. This issue affects all of us, young and old alike.

Just last week, I received 60 letters, 60 letters from constituents living at Heritage Point, a senior community, each letter asking me to take action to prevent so many senseless deaths. These letters said: "Most of us have families, children, grandchildren, and even great grandchildren. We have much anguish due to the recent and terrible shootings taking place almost in our own backyard."

Gun violence destroys families and communities. We must work together to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of dangerous people.

We cannot allow the frequent news of gun violence to desensitize us into believing it is the norm. It is not the norm, and it is not unavoidable. There is something we can do to prevent gun violence.

If Congress puts people first, people ahead of the gun lobby, we can save hundreds of lives each year. Our role, as elected Representatives, is to prioritize and fight for the well-being of our constituents and our commu-

nities, not the score we are assigned by the gun lobby.

Standing up to powerful special interests is a radical transformation of how Congress operates, but that change is long overdue.

We need commitment and action by Congress to pass commonsense gun laws like H.R. 8, to expand background checks. We need to fund CDC research on firearms and the impacts of gun violence.

Without Congress' action, if we simply offer thoughts and prayers, but do nothing, our children, our families, our communities, will increasingly suffer from preventable injuries, preventable suicides, and preventable homicides, preventable shooting massacres, and the fear and trauma associated with gun violence.

Gun violence is an epidemic, and we can no longer afford to point fingers or to place blame. We must act. On both sides of the aisle, we must have the courage to fight gun violence for the common good of the American people.

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

#### BORDER SECURITY AND COMPROMISE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the current committee meeting on our immigration problems and problems connected to the wall. I would like to spend a few moments updating the American people on the key issues and the status of the key issues that we ought to remember as that committee does its work.

I have spent some time talking with constituents in the Sixth Congressional District and, one more time, want to address their concerns, or maybe address some misconceptions that are out there regarding this issue.

The first thing I will address is the need to compromise. And it is true that, in this body, again and again, we must compromise. But I want to point out that prior to this committee, President Trump, has elected to—more than any other issue—deal with the immigration crisis, has compromised considerably.

First of all, on the issue of whether we need a wall—and we will talk about that wall. At various different times, various different people have suggested different amounts on the wall. Initially, people talked about 20 to \$25 billion. The most recent or accurate estimate it would take—not to build an entire wall, but just to build parts of a wall in areas in which one could cross the border; in other words, areas in which the terrain does not form a natural border, would cost about \$8 billion.

And I hope the negotiators who are Republicans will remember that \$8 bil-

lion figure. I got it from the gentleman who was the head of the Border Patrol under the Obama administration.

President Trump, in an effort to reach some sort of compromise, has already gone down from \$8 billion to \$5.7 billion. I find that unfortunate, in that I toured the border about 3 weeks ago and, at the time—I know some of the wall that we so desperately need near Sasabe, Arizona, areas in which MS-13 has gone across the land, trampled across the land—and I have talked to the ranchers there, they will have to be told, sorry, we are building part of the wall, but not enough of a wall for you.

So already, that \$5.7 billion figure is a big compromise.

I also want to point out with regard to time. People wonder why we are shutting down the government right now. Actually, we could shut down the government whenever people disagree on what should be in, what we call, an appropriations bill, but I think what people back home would call a budget. And every budget up here is a compromise. It contains hundreds of provisions. Every provision gone over, and maybe the Democrats want more of this; the Republicans want more of that.

In his first 2 years here, President Trump got budgets that contained very, very little for anything like a wall. This is unfortunate. President Trump, in particular, in a budget passed about a year ago, what we call an omnibus bill, complained what a bad bill it was. It was a horrible bill, but he signed it because he didn't want to shut down the government, which happens when both sides disagree.

So President Trump agreed to cave in to people that wanted to spend a lot more money on other things, in the interest of keeping the government open. But President Trump only gets a 4-year term.

For the first 2 years he signed appropriations bills without adequate money for the wall. Finally, in the third time around he said, look, I would be happy to sign a third year of appropriations, but this time, I would like money for a wall. He has compromised for over 2 years.

We had a government shutdown just 3 weeks ago because some headstrong Democrats, despite being happy to spend billions of dollars on other things, refused to give a little bit of money for the wall.

President Trump also extended the DACA program for another 2 years. And I will point out, that as well is something the Border Patrol was not thrilled about, because whenever you talk about extending the DACA program, it is kind of a magnet for people south of the border, because they believe we are not going to enforce our immigration laws anymore.

But, in an effort to compromise, President Trump agreed to extend the DACA extension for two more years. So there have been plenty of compromises already.

And my suggestion to the committee is that they bring in experts on how much it would take to really secure the border, and not be afraid if what President Obama's head of the Border Patrol said was right, and if we need \$8 billion, then we spend \$8 billion.

The next issue I am going to deal with is the cost of the wall; \$5.7 billion or \$8 billion—we will talk about the \$5.7 billion President Trump has come down to—is a lot of money. But Congress spends a lot of money.

We should remember that the \$5.7 billion President Trump wants is one-seventh the cost of foreign aid that this country spends every year. It is well under one-half of 1 percent of the overall Federal budget. It is actually about one-tenth of 1 percent.

President Trump has increased defense spending as President because our defense budget was too low to adequately protect our population. But the amount where he is asking for the wall is about one-twelfth of the increase that we will spend year after year after year on defense.

So you can see, when it comes to spending on anything but the wall, Congress has no time appropriating much more money; seven times the amount that we spend on foreign aid, and almost nobody objects.

All of a sudden, with the wall, oh, maybe it is too expensive.

The next thing I would like to address is, do we need a wall? What would happen if we don't have a wall?

Remember, I am talking about \$5.7 billion for a wall. It really should be \$8 billion.

□ 1830

First of all, about 90 percent of the heroin in this country comes across our southern border. Now, some people like to point out that the vast amount of heroin caught is at the points of entry, which is true. We have Customs at the point of entry, and they catch people.

In places where there is no wall, and I point to this area behind me near Sasabe, Arizona, people are not checked. We do not check vehicles. We do not check how much they have.

Occasionally, we are fortunate enough to catch people otherwise, but if you were going to sneak drugs across our southern border, would you try to go across a normal point of entry with plenty of Customs agents or out here in the middle of nowhere? Of course, in the middle of nowhere.

We are not serious about dealing with the heroin problem in this country or the fentanyl problem in this country unless we look to our southern border. We are not serious about securing our southern border until we get a wall.

Right now, at least 12 million people are in this country illegally, but the Border Patrol tells us they really have no idea how many people are in this country illegally because they don't count the number of people who are

coming across in these open areas. They have told me it is entirely possible there are 20 million people in this country illegally.

Obviously, having so many people who are breaking the law just by being here is an unstable situation. When I talk to the Customs agents, they find evidence of EBT cards and evidence of Medicaid cards when people are walking across the border. Some of the people who are coming here illegally and, quite frankly, legally are illegally taking advantage of our welfare system.

If they are sick, they are certainly going to our hospitals, going to our emergency rooms, and running up the cost of healthcare for people who are here legally and paying their own way.

We believe, from the percentage of people who are here illegally in our Federal prisons, well more proportionately than the native-born population, that they are disproportionately committing crimes in this country.

Quite frankly, when you add up the cost of all these things—they show up; their kids get free education—The Heritage Foundation estimates that it costs more than \$50 billion a year for illegal immigrants in this country. \$8 billion for a wall, one-time money, as opposed to \$50 billion year after year after year?

I am sometimes asked: Can America afford to build a wall? If we are losing \$50 billion a year, we can't afford not to build a wall. Think how much stronger our economy will be when we are making sure that every immigrant who comes into this country is a good, productive immigrant.

Another reason we need a wall is that, for people who come across this sort of territory near Sasabe—and this isn't really the best picture—frequently, it is in desert, and rocky desert, not sandy desert, rocky desert. Thousands of people have been found around the Arizona-Mexico border after having died trying to get across this territory.

We are told that the cartels, which help people get across the border—in fact, are required to be dealt with to get across the border—mislead people when they get to the border. They point them and say this way to Phoenix, this way to Tucson, and it is maybe hundreds of miles further to get to Phoenix than they estimate. So the people are left to die of starvation or die, more likely, of dehydration.

It is a humanitarian crisis to continue to allow people to think that sneaking across the open parts of the current wall that has been built is the way to get in the United States.

In any event, we need a wall. We will continue to bleed money; we will continue to get people in this country illegally; and we will continue to get people who can only sneak into the country illegally rather than go across the normal points of entries unless we build that wall.

The next question that some people will ask is: Does this mean that we are

anti-immigrant, because America is a country of immigrants? Yes, America is a country of immigration, but it is a country of legal immigration.

I will remind people that, every year in this country, 700,000 people are sworn in legally. Nobody is talking about cutting that number. A little under 4 million people come into this country on work visas every year, and a little under 2 million come in on student visas. Nobody is talking about cutting these numbers. Dozens of millions additional people come in on tourist visas.

With regard to the work visas or people who literally come in here legally and wind up being naturalized, what we are asking is, for the people who are trying to sneak off the border without checking in with the Border Patrol or Customs agents at the designated areas, we are just asking them to get in line and go through what everybody who is trying to come here legally is doing.

It is the height of irresponsibility to say that we are anti-immigrant when we are letting almost 4 million people come into this country every year on work visas and having 700,000 new people sworn in in this country, naturalized in this country. That is not the sign of an anti-immigrant President. That is the sign of a President who understands very clearly how important immigration is to our country.

By historic levels, it is very favorable to immigrants. We are going to have more foreign-born people in this country than at any time over the last 90 years. Again, that is not the sign of a President who is anti-immigrant.

The next thing I will point out, some people think: But can't people come into the country another way? Well, it is true. I suppose no system is 100 percent effective. But the one thing I am going to say is that we do have a lot of walls, and walls do work in other places we put the walls.

We have some pictures here of walls. Here are some walls in Sasabe, Arizona. There are spaces in the walls that aren't good, but when they build this sort of wall, whether they build the wall between Juarez and El Paso or a wall between San Diego and Tijuana, the walls have been very effective.

Here you see the wall between San Diego and Tijuana, a very effective wall. People are not getting around that wall. It decreased illegal crossings at that place over 90 percent.

Here is a wall in Israel between Israel and Egypt, because Israel was having a problem of people sneaking into their country illegally. So Israel built a wall. Well over 95 percent successful, nobody is getting across the wall anymore between Israel and Egypt, showing that the wall is successful.

Other countries with successful walls, a wall that was largely built with U.S. taxpayer money—which I will point out people who are not going to vote for this wall had no problem voting for—is the wall along the Jordan-Syria border and part of the border

with Iraq, because it is important for Jordan not to let terrorists into their country. That wall has been highly successful in keeping Jordan safe.

Another country that built a wall is Hungary, which shares a border with Serbia. They were afraid of other people coming from south of Hungary, in essence invading their country like people right now are trying to invade the United States. So they built a wall. Hungary has found that that sort of wall has been very successful in keeping out immigrants who they don't want to have in their country.

There is a reason why President Clinton wanted a wall between Tijuana and San Diego, and there is a reason why Israel and Hungary and nine other European nations have walls. It is because walls work, and that is the clearest way to prevent people from crossing into the country illegally.

There is another benefit to walls, too, that people don't take into account. It sends the message that the United States is serious about our immigration laws.

We will talk for just a second about border security and the degree to which we have to build a wall to send the message that the United States is serious, because you hear from time to time in this body that certain people say everybody wants border security. Well, that is funny, because there are all sorts of politicians in this country of both parties—I will include President Bush in this—who do all sorts of things that would indicate that we do not intend to enforce our borders.

Both the Governor of California and the mayor of New York have said that we should be providing free medical care to illegal immigrants. Does that sound like they want border security? It sounds more like they want to be a magnet for illegal immigration.

Dozens of sanctuary cities and sanctuary counties, and in the case of California, a whole State, set themselves up as areas in which local officials will not ask whether people are here legally or illegally. That is like a magnet to people south of the border as they hear American elected officials, in essence, say: Don't worry about the immigration laws being enforced in our city or our county or our State.

Those people do not want border security.

Keith Ellison, a former Congressman, now attorney general of Minnesota, says that natural borders create an injustice. In other words, there is a larger crowd out there who doesn't even know we have a country. They say everybody can come in. Who cares.

These are powerful people, and the people south of the border who want to come here illegally are listening to them.

The Oakland mayor, another powerful person, when ICE tried to wrap up over 100 people, criminals, in the Oakland area to send them out of this country, she alerted the public to the fact that ICE was in the area trying to

enforce our immigration laws on criminals. Why would a mayor undermine ICE, which is trying to evict criminals from this country? The reason is simple: They don't care about border security.

Americans have to realize, for are a lot of elected officials out there, it is come one, come all. It is not let's pick our million or 2 million or 3 million people who are coming into the country every year. It is let's let everyone come into the country.

Those people are increasingly powerful, and their message is to ignore immigration laws, which is another reason why we need a wall.

Putting up a wall everywhere where we need a wall, there are a few natural barriers in which it is not necessary, but I would say we need at least another 300 miles of wall. To put up that additional 300 miles of wall and improve the wall we already have sends the message that people like the mayor of Oakland or the Congressmen who want to get rid of ICE do not speak for the American Government. We are serious about enforcing our immigration laws.

Now, the question is—and I don't want to tar all Democrats; I have a lot of Democrat friends. But why is the vast majority of Democrats not willing to compromise on this wall? Why are these Democrats who in the past had no problem voting for a wall when President Clinton was President, and they had no problem voting for additional wall when President Bush was President—and a lot of that appropriation when President Bush was President wasn't spent until President Obama was President and he was improving our walls. But why is a wall now immoral when the wall wasn't immoral under President Clinton or President Bush or President Obama?

The answer is twofold. One, sadly, is political. A couple of weeks ago, eight Democrats voted in a way that I think they would be okay with a wall, but that is not enough. Part is, sadly, political. Some people don't like President Trump, and they don't want to see him succeed.

Worse, we have an increasing radicalization within too many elements of the Democratic Party. I have been around long enough to remember when I think Democrats in this Chamber—I wasn't here for it—but like I said, where they would have quickly voted for appropriations for a wall under President Clinton. But this Keith Ellison new breed of Congressman type is quickly getting a vise grip on some members of the Democratic Party.

For that reason, votes that they would have taken in a heartbeat in the 1990s, or in the first decade of this century, or even 7 or 8 years ago, they will not take anymore. They genuinely believe in some sort of world in which anybody who wants can come here, and it won't affect the long-term safety of our Nation.

□ 1845

That is preposterous, but we have to remember, that is more and more common.

And I would look for the Democrats or anybody who comes down here to speak as to why it wasn't mean-spirited, it didn't send a bad message to build a wall under these other Presidents, but it does now.

So to, one more time, go over the points that have been made for people to remember:

President Trump has compromised and not built a wall for over 2 years—really breaking the heart of a lot of his supporters.

He has dropped the amount he wanted from, originally, \$20 billion all the way, now, down under \$6 billion, such a small amount that there will be big gaps in that wall because of his effort to compromise.

President Trump has even tried to bring other issues into the debate by extending DACA, hoping that this sweetener would cause other people to move a little bit on their negotiating point. It didn't.

I will digress for just one second while I talk about that DACA.

The third thing to remember is that that wall is one-seventh the cost of foreign aid in this country.

Is that too big of an amount? Is that something we can't handle? That is not true.

The next thing to remember is, when other Presidents were building the wall, there were no objections around here. All of a sudden, in 2019, when President Trump is President, in part due to the radicalization of some Members of this body and in part due to personal dislike of President Trump, too many people are willing to continue to allow people to stream across the border with drugs, violent people with disregard for their fellow citizens, not to give President Trump a win, and, in part, because their ideology has switched and they really don't need a wall at all.

The next thing to remember is walls work. If anybody questions, walls work.

Look at the wall between San Diego and Tijuana; look at the wall between Israel and Egypt; look at the wall between Serbia and Hungary. In all cases, these walls were working.

And if you talk to the Border Patrol today, as I have, the Border Patrol and Customs agents will tell you we need a wall. The people who are down there, who are experts on the topic, know that that wall will work—not 100 percent, but it will work a lot better than what they have now.

I should point out, they want a smart wall; they want a wall with some sensors on there; and they want a wall with a road.

One of the problems we have right now enforcing our southern border is that, without a road, given the rough terrain, even if we find out somebody is sneaking across the border, the Border



Patrol could not get there on a very timely basis because their vehicles can't move there.

Here, we have an example of a wall with a road that the Border Patrol can get up and down on.

Here, we have an example of a wall without a road, which makes it very difficult to stop people on a timely basis.

And then the other thing for people to remember, when people talk about their problems with the wall, there are a growing number of politicians out there, local or Federal, who really don't want border security. They would be pretty happy with coming across the border now.

Now, as far as looking down the future on this issue, one of the things that scares me is, with all these people fighting against the wall, it is going to take more resolve, because that is only one of the issues that has to be tackled for us to secure our borders.

Right now, our asylum laws are very flawed. People are trying to come into this country, sometimes with other people's children, knowing that if they say the magic words and that they are at risk, we will have to let them in this country until there is some sort of court proceeding that they almost certainly won't show up for.

So after we are done with the wall, or maybe as part of the wall negotiations, we have got to do something with our asylum laws to prevent anybody who either has a child or is borrowing somebody else's child from trying to come in this country.

Another problem we have: We have got a problem with people coming in this country for welfare. As I mentioned, the Customs agents see that.

We have people coming into this country because of relatives, what in most cases would even be referred to as shirttail relatives, but they are taking advantage of that to come into this country.

In any event, we have people who are becoming citizens on birthright citizenship. And people are coming in this country 8 months pregnant, having a child so that their family can come into the United States. There is another loophole that very few countries have that we have to close.

So this wall which President Trump has been fighting for for over 2 years is only the first step of many steps that we absolutely have to do to save our country.

I plead with the American public, ask people from both sides of the aisle: Remember that Bill Clinton built part of a wall. Remember that people had no problem voting for a wall under George Bush, and remember that even Barack Obama improved part of the wall.

And I ask the people on the other side—I hate to say “on the other side,” but people on the other side of the aisle, other than those who have already changed and said it is okay for a wall:

Pretend it is the 1990s or the first decade of this century and somebody

else was President, when a little more old-fashioned values ruled the show and we wanted to be a country of laws, and vote like almost everybody on that side of the aisle would have voted in the 1990s or the first decade of the century. Vote for \$5.7 billion—or better, a full \$8 billion towards the wall so that we can secure our country, at least insofar as a border can secure our country. After that, we can tackle the problems with the asylum laws and other flaws in our immigration laws, tackle birthright citizenship so that we are determining who can come into our country in the future, because immigrants have been so valuable, historically, but we should aim for every immigrant being a good immigrant.

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

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I am pleased to submit for printing in the Congressional Record, pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House, a copy of the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture, which were adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee on February 7, 2019.

Appendix A of the Committee Rules will include excerpts from the Rules of the House relevant to the operation of the Committee. Appendix B will include relevant excerpts from the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. In the interest of minimizing printing costs, Appendices A and B are omitted from this submission.

Sincerely,

COLLIN C. PETERSON,  
Chairman.

Enclosure.

### RULE I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) *Applicability of House Rule.*—(1) The Rules of the House shall govern the procedure of the Committee and its subcommittees, and the Rules of the Committee on Agriculture so far as applicable shall be interpreted in accordance with the Rules of the House, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its subcommittees. (See Appendix A for the applicable Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.)

(2) As provided in clause 1(a)(1) of House Rule XI, each Subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its Rules so far as applicable. (See also Committee Rules III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and XI, *infra*.)

(b) *Authority to Conduct Investigation.*—The Committee and its subcommittees, after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, may conduct such investigations and studies as they may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of their responsibilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House and in accordance with clause 2(m) of House Rule XI.

(c) *Authority to Print.* The Committee is authorized by the Rules of the House to have

printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee and its subcommittees. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be paid from applicable accounts of the House described in clause 1(k)(1) of House Rule X in accordance with clause 1(c) of House Rule XI. (See also paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of Committee Rule IX.)

(d) *Vice Chairman.*—The Member of the majority party on the Committee or Subcommittee designated by the Chairman of the full Committee shall be the vice chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee in accordance with clause 2(d) of House Rule XI.

(e) *Presiding Member.*—If the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee is not present at any Committee or Subcommittee meeting or hearing, the vice chairman shall preside. If the Chairman and vice chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee are not present at a Committee or Subcommittee meeting or hearing the ranking Member of the majority party who is present shall preside in accordance with clause 2(d) of House Rule XI.

(f) *Publication of Rules.*—The Committee's Rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 60 days after the Chair is elected in each odd-numbered year as provided in clause 2(a) of House Rule XI.

(g) *Joint Committee Reports of Investigation or Study.*—A report of an investigation or study conducted jointly by more than one committee may be filed jointly, provided that each of the committees complies independently with all requirements for approval and filing of the report.

### RULE II.—COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETINGS—REGULAR, ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL

(a) *Regular Meetings.*—Regular meetings of the Committee, in accordance with clause 2(b) of House Rule XI, shall be held on the first Wednesday of every month to transact its business if notice is given pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of House Rule XI. The Chairman shall provide each Member of the Committee, as far in advance of the day of the regular meeting as practicable, a written agenda of such meeting. Items may be placed on the agenda by the Chairman or a majority of the Committee. (See paragraph (f) of Committee Rule XI for provisions that apply to meetings of subcommittees.)

(b) *Additional Meetings.*—(1) The Chairman may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which Members have notice thereof after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or after concurrence with the Ranking Minority Member, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such additional meetings pursuant to the notice from the Chairman.

(2) A hearing or meeting may begin sooner than specified in clause (1) (in which case, the chair shall make the announcement specified at the earliest possible time) if the Committee so determines by majority vote in the presence of the number of Members required under the Rules of the Committee for the transaction of business.

(3) At least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of a measure or matter the Chair shall cause the text of such measure or matter to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(c) *Special Meetings*.—If at least three Members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chairman, those Members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chairman for such special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matters to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the Majority Staff Director (serving as the clerk of the Committee for such purpose) shall notify the Chairman of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chairman does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the Members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measures or matter to be considered at that special meeting in accordance with clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the Majority Staff Director (serving as the clerk) of the Committee shall notify all Members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered, and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting.

RULE III.—OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS;  
BROADCASTING

(a) *Open Meetings and Hearings*.—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing by the Committee or a Subcommittee shall be open to the public unless closed in accordance with clause 2(g) of House Rule XI.

(b) *Broadcasting and Photography*.—Whenever a Committee or Subcommittee meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, the Committee shall:

(1) to the maximum extent practicable provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public; and

(2) make each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI. When such audio and visual coverage is conducted in the Committee or Subcommittee, written notice to that effect shall be provided to each Member. The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee shall not limit the number of television or still cameras permitted in a hearing or meeting room to fewer than two representatives from each medium (except for legitimate space or safety considerations, in which case pool coverage shall be authorized).

(c) *Closed Meetings—Attendees*.—No person other than Members of the Committee or Subcommittee and such congressional staff and departmental representatives as the Committee or Subcommittee may authorize shall be present at any business or markup session that has been closed to the public as provided in clause 2(g)(1) of House Rule XI.

(d) *Addressing the Committee*.—A Committee Member may address the Committee or a Subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration (See Committee Rule VIII (e) relating to questioning a witness at a hearing). The time a Member may address the Committee or Subcommittee for any such purpose shall be limited to 5 minutes, except that this time limit may be

waived by unanimous consent. A Member shall also be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend his or her remarks beyond such subject.

(e) *Meetings to Begin Promptly*.—Subject to the presence of a quorum, each meeting or hearing of the Committee and its subcommittees shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(f) *Prohibition on Proxy Voting*.—No vote by any Member of the Committee or Subcommittee with respect to any measure or matter may be cast by proxy.

(g) *Location of Persons at Meetings*.—No person other than the Committee or Subcommittee Members and Committee or Subcommittee staff may be seated in the rostrum area during a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee unless by unanimous consent of Committee or Subcommittee.

(h) *Consideration of Amendments and Motions*.—A Member, upon request, shall be recognized by the Chairman to address the Committee or Subcommittee at a meeting for a period limited to 5 minutes on behalf of an amendment or motion offered by the Member or another Member, or upon any other matter under consideration, unless the Member receives unanimous consent to extend the time limit. Every amendment or motion made in Committee or Subcommittee shall, upon the demand of any Member present, be reduced to writing, and a copy thereof shall be made available to all Members present. Such amendment or motion shall not be pending before the Committee or Subcommittee or voted on until the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

(i) *Demanding Record Vote*.—

(1) A record vote of the Committee or Subcommittee on a question or action shall be ordered on a demand by one-fifth of the Members present.

(2) The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. If the Chairman postpones further proceedings:

(A) the Chairman may resume such postponed proceedings, after giving Members adequate notice, at a time chosen in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member; and

(B) notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, the underlying proposition on which proceedings were postponed shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(j) *Submission of Motions or Amendments In Advance of Business Meetings*.—The Committee and Subcommittee Chairman may request and Committee and Subcommittee Members should, insofar as practicable, cooperate in providing copies of proposed amendments or motions to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or the Subcommittee twenty-four hours before a Committee or Subcommittee business meeting.

(k) *Points of Order*.—No point of order against the hearing or meeting procedures of the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entertained unless it is made in a timely fashion.

(l) *Limitation on Committee Sitzings*.—The Committee or subcommittees may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

(m) *Prohibition of Wireless Telephones*.—Use of wireless phones for vocal conversation during a Committee or Subcommittee hearing or meeting is prohibited.

RULE IV.—QUORUMS

(a) *Working Quorum*.—One-third of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action, other than as noted in paragraphs (b) and (c).

(b) *Majority Quorum*.—A majority of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for:

(1) the reporting of a bill, resolution, or other measure (See clause 2(h)(1) of House Rule XI, and Committee Rule IX);

(2) the closing of a meeting or hearing to the public pursuant to clauses 2(g), 2(k)(5), and 2(k)(7) of House Rule XI;

(3) the authorizing of a subpoena as provided in clause 2(m)(3) of House Rule XI (See also Committee Rule VII); and

(4) as where required by a Rule of the House.

(c) *Quorum for Taking Testimony*.—Two Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

RULE V.—RECORDS

(a) *Maintenance of Records*.—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee and Subcommittee action which shall include:

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved, and

(2) written minutes, which shall include a record of all Committee and Subcommittee action, a record of all votes on any question, and a tally on all record votes.

The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee and by telephone request and also made publicly available in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote. Not later than 24 hours after adoption of an amendment to a measure or matter, the chair of the Committee shall cause the text of such amendment adopted thereto to be made publicly available in electronic form. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition; the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or other proposition; and the names of those Members present but not voting.

(b) *Access to and Correction of Records*.—Any public witness, or person authorized by such witness, during Committee office hours in the Committee offices and within 10 calendar days of the close of hearings, may obtain a transcript copy of that public witness's testimony and make such technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections as authorized by the person making the remarks involved as will not alter the nature of testimony given. There shall be prompt return of such corrected copy of the transcript to the Committee. Members of the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive copies of transcripts for their prompt review and correction and prompt return to the Committee. The Committee or Subcommittee may order the printing of a hearing record without the corrections of any Member or witness if it determines that such Member or witness has been afforded a reasonable time in which to make such corrections and further delay would seriously impede the consideration of the legislative action that is subject of the hearing. The record of a hearing shall be closed 10 calendar days after the last oral testimony, unless the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise. Any person requesting 10 to file a statement for the

record of a hearing must so request before the hearing concludes and must file the statement before the record is closed, unless the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise. The Committee or Subcommittee may reject any statement in light of its length or its tendency to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person.

(c) *Property of the House.*—All Committee and Subcommittee records (including hearings data, charts, and files) shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the Members serving as Chairman. Such records shall be the property of the House, and all Members of the House shall have access thereto. The Majority Staff Director shall promptly notify the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of any request for access to such records.

(d) *Availability of Archived Records.*—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House Rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee of the need for a Committee order pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such House Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available.

(e) *Special Rules for Certain Records and Proceedings.*—A stenographic record of a business meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee may be kept, and thereafter may be published, if the Chairman of the Committee, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is need for such a record. The proceedings of the Committee or Subcommittee in a closed meeting, evidence or testimony in such meeting, shall not be divulged unless otherwise determined by a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee.

(f) *Electronic Availability of Committee Publications.*—To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

#### RULE VI.—POWER TO SIT AND ACT

For the purpose of carrying out any of its function and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee and each of its subcommittees is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and to hold such hearings.

#### RULE VII.—SUBPOENAS, DEPOSITIONS, AND OATHS

(a) *Issuance of Subpoenas.*—In accordance with clause 2(m) of House Rule XI, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by a majority of the Committee or by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member. Such consultation shall occur at least 48 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman of the Committee or by any Member designated by the Committee.

(b) *Oaths.*—The Chairman of the Committee, or any member of the Committee designated by the Chairman, may administer oaths to any witnesses.

(c) *Deposition Authority.*—

(1) The Chairman, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may order the taking of depositions, including pursuant to subpoena, by a Member or counsel of the Committee.

(2) Depositions taken under the authority prescribed in this subsection shall be subject to regulations issued by the chair of the Committee on Rules and printed in the Congressional Record.

#### RULE VIII.—HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) *Power to Hear.*—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties

under House Rules X and XI, the Committee and its subcommittees are authorized to sit and hold hearings at any time or place within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned. (See Committee Rule VI and paragraph (f) of Committee Rule XI for provisions relating to Subcommittee hearings and meetings.)

(b) *Announcement.*—The Chairman of the Committee shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee hearing at least 1 week before the commencement of the hearing. The Chairman of a Subcommittee shall schedule a hearing only after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee. After such consultation, the Chairman of the Subcommittee shall consult the Chairmen of the other subcommittees and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of such hearing at least 1 week before the hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee or the Subcommittee, with concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or Subcommittee, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or Subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, as appropriate, shall request the Majority Staff Director to make such public announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record and shall promptly enter the appropriate information into the Committee scheduling service of the House information system as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(c) *Scheduling of Witnesses.*—Except as otherwise provided in this rule, the scheduling of witnesses and determination of the time allowed for the presentation of testimony at hearings shall be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise.

(d) *Written Statement; Oral Testimony.*—(1) Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a Subcommittee, shall insofar as practicable file with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee, at least 2 working days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. Witnesses shall provide sufficient copies of their statement for distribution to Committee or Subcommittee Members, staff, and the news media. Insofar as practicable, the Committee or Subcommittee staff shall distribute such written statements to all Members of the Committee or Subcommittee as soon as they are received, as well as any official reports from departments and agencies on such subject matter. All witnesses may be limited in their oral presentations to brief summaries of their statements within the time allotted to them at the discretion of the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee, in light of the nature of the testimony and the length of time available.

(2) As noted in paragraph (b) of Committee Rule VII, the Chairman of the Committee, or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer an oath to any witness.

(3) To the greatest extent practicable, each witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity shall include with the written statement of proposed testimony:

(i) a curriculum vitae;

(ii) disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of any Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or sub-

contract thereof) received during the current calendar year or either of the 2 preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness; and

(iii) disclosure of the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government received during the current calendar year or either of the 2 preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy of witnesses, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than 1 day after the witness appears.

(e) *Questioning of Witnesses.*—Committee or Subcommittee Members may question witnesses only when they have been recognized by the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee for that purpose. Each Member so recognized shall be limited to questioning a witness for 5 minutes until such time as each Member of the Committee or Subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness for 5 minutes; and thereafter the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may limit the time of a further round of questioning after giving due consideration to the importance of the subject matter and the length of time available. All questions put to witnesses shall be germane to the measure or matter under consideration. Unless a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee determines otherwise, no Committee or Subcommittee staff shall interrogate witnesses.

(f) *Extended Questioning for Designated Members.*—Notwithstanding paragraph (e), the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member may designate an equal number of Members from each party to question a witness for a period not longer than 60 minutes.

(g) *Witnesses for the Minority.*—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party Members on the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those minority Members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least 1 day of hearing thereon as provided in clause 2(j)(1) of House Rule XI.

(h) *Summary of Subject Matter.*—Upon announcement of a hearing, to the extent practicable, the Committee shall make available immediately to all Members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject matter (including legislative reports and other material) under consideration. In addition, upon announcement of a hearing and subsequently as they are received, the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee shall, to the extent practicable, make available to the Members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter. (See paragraph (f) of Committee Rule XI.)

(i) *Open Hearings.*—Each hearing conducted by the Committee or Subcommittee shall be open to the public, including radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided in clause 4 of House Rule XI (See also paragraph (b) of Committee Rule III.). In any event, no Member of the House may be excluded from nonparticipatory attendance at any hearing unless the House by majority vote shall authorize the Committee or Subcommittee, for purposes of a particular series of hearings on a particular bill or resolution or on a particular subject of investigation, to close its hearings to Members by means of the above procedure.

(j) *Hearings and Reports.*—(1)(i) The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation. A copy

of the Committee Rules (and the applicable provisions of clause 2 of House Rule XI, regarding hearing procedures, an excerpt of which appears in *Appendix A* thereto) shall be made available to each witness upon request. Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights. The Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; but only the full Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(ii) Whenever it is asserted by a Member of the Committee that the evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, or it is asserted by a witness that the evidence or testimony that the witness would give at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate the witness, such testimony or evidence shall be presented in executive session, notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (i) of this rule, if by a majority of those present, there being in attendance the requisite number required under the Rules of the Committee to be present for the purpose of taking testimony, the Committee or Subcommittee determines that such evidence or testimony may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person. The Committee or Subcommittee shall afford a person an opportunity to voluntarily appear as a witness; and the Committee or Subcommittee shall receive and shall dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(iii) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee or Subcommittee. In the discretion of the Committee or Subcommittee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee or Subcommittee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearings. A witness may obtain a transcribed copy of his or her testimony given at a public session. If given at an executive session, a transcribed copy of testimony may be obtained when authorized by the Committee or Subcommittee. (See paragraph (c) of Committee Rule V.)

(2) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such day) in advance of their consideration.

#### RULE IX. THE REPORTING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) *Filing of Reports.*—The Chairman shall report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee and shall take or cause to be taken all necessary steps to bring such bill, resolution, or other measure to a vote. No bill, resolution, or measure shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. A Committee report on any bill, resolution, or other measure approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (not counting days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the Committee, for the reporting of that bill or resolution. The Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall notify the Chairman immediately when such a request is filed.

(b) *Content of Reports.*—Each Committee report on any bill or resolution approved by

the Committee shall include as separately identified sections:

(1) a statement of the intent or purpose of the bill or resolution;

(2) a statement describing the need for such bill or resolution;

(3) a statement of Committee and Subcommittee consideration of the measure, including a summary of amendments and motions offered and the actions taken thereon;

(4) the results of each record vote on any amendment in the Committee and Subcommittee and on the motion to report the measure or matter, including the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of Members voting for and against such amendment or motion (See clause 3 (b) of House Rule XIII);

(5) the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to the subject matter of the bill or resolution, as required pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of House Rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of House Rule X;

(6) the detailed statement described in House Rule XIII clause 3(c)(2) and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if the bill or resolution provides new budget authority (other than continuing appropriations), new spending authority described in section 401(c)(2) of such Act, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures, except that the estimates with respect to new budget authority shall include, when practicable, a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) to the appropriate levels under current law;

(7) the estimate of costs and comparison of such estimates, if any, prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office in connection with such bill or resolution pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 if submitted in timely fashion to the Committee;

(8) a statement of general performance goals and objectives, including outcome-related goals and objectives, for which the measure authorizes funding;

(9) an estimate by the Committee of the costs that would be incurred in carrying out the bill or joint resolution in the fiscal year in which it is reported and in each of the five fiscal years following that fiscal year (or for the authorized duration of any program authorized by the bill or joint resolution if less than five years) (see clause 3(d)(1) of House Rule XIII), together with—(i) a comparison of these estimates with those made and submitted to the Committee by any Government agency when practicable and (ii) a comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant program (or programs) with appropriate levels under current law (The provisions of this clause do not apply if a cost estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 has been timely submitted prior to the filing of the report and included in the report);

(10) a list of congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, and limited tariff benefits in the bill or in the report (and the name of any Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner who submitted a request to the Committee for each respective item included in such list) or a statement that the proposition contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits;

(11) the changes in existing law (if any) shown in accordance with clause 3 of House Rule XIII;

(12) the determination required pursuant to section 5(b) of P.L. 92-463, if the legislation reported establishes or authorizes the establishment of an advisory committee;

(13) the information on Federal and intergovernmental mandates required by section

423(c) and (d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-4);

(14) a statement regarding the applicability of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (P.L. 104-1);

(15) a statement indicating whether any provision of the measure establishes or reauthorizes a program of the Federal Government known to be duplicative of another Federal program. The Statement shall at a minimum explain whether—

(A) any such program was included in any report from the Government Accountability Office to Congress pursuant to section 21 of P.L. 111-139; or

(B) the most recent catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, published pursuant to the Federal Program Information Act (P.L. 95-220, as amended by P. L. 98-169), identified other programs related to the program established or reauthorized by the measure; and

(16) a statement estimating the number of directed rule makings required by the measure.

(c) *Supplemental, Minority, Additional, or Dissenting Views.*—If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any Member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, all Members shall be entitled to not less than 2 subsequent calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such date) in which to file such written and signed views with the Majority Staff Director of the Committee. When time guaranteed by this paragraph has expired (or, if sooner, when all separate views have been received), the Committee may arrange to file its report with the Clerk of the House not later than 1 hour after the expiration of such time. All such views (in accordance with clause 2(1) of House Rule XI and clause 3(a)(1) of House Rule XIII), as filed by one or more Members of the Committee, shall be included within and made a part of the report filed by the Committee with respect to that bill or resolution.

(d) *Printing of Reports.*—The report of the Committee on the measure or matter noted in paragraph (a) above shall be printed in a single volume, which shall:

(1) include all supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report; and

(2) bear on its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views (and any material submitted under clause 3(a)(1) of House Rule XII) are included as part of the report.

(e) *Immediate Printing; Supplemental Reports.*—Nothing in this rule shall preclude—

(1) the immediate filing or printing of a Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views has been made as provided by paragraph (c); or

(2) the filing by the Committee of any supplemental report on any bill or resolution that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that bill or resolution.

(f) *Availability of Printed Hearing Records.*—For hearings held related to any reported bill or resolution, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have the record of such hearings printed and available for distribution to the Members of the House prior to the consideration of such bill or resolution by the House. Each printed hearing of the Committee or any of its subcommittees shall include a record of the attendance of the Members.

(g) *Committee Prints.*—All Committee or Subcommittee prints or other Committee or

Subcommittee documents, other than reports or prints of bills, that are prepared for public distribution shall be approved by the Chairman of the Committee or the Committee prior to public distribution.

(h) *Post Adjournment Filing of Committee Reports.*—(1) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress *sine die*, an investigative or oversight report approved by the Committee may be filed with the Clerk at any time, provided that if a Member gives notice at the time of approval of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, that Member shall be entitled to not less than 7 calendar days in which to submit such views for inclusion with the report.

(2) After an adjournment of the last regular session of a Congress *sine die*, the Chairman of the Committee may file at any time with the Clerk the Committee's activity report for that Congress pursuant to clause 1(d)(1) of House Rule XI without the approval of the Committee, provided that a copy of the report has been available to each Member of the Committee for at least 7 calendar days and the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee.

(i) *Conference.*—The Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

#### RULE X.—OTHER COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

(a) Oversight Plan.—

(1) Not later than March 1 of the first session of the 116th Congress, the Chairman shall prepare, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, an oversight plan; provide a copy of that plan to each Member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days before its submission; and submit such plan (including any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a Member of the Committee) simultaneously to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X.

(2) In developing the plan, the Chairman shall, to the maximum extent feasible—

(A) consult with other committees that have jurisdiction over the same or related laws, programs, or agencies with the objective of ensuring maximum coordination and cooperation among committees when conducting reviews of such laws, programs, or agencies and include in the plan an explanation of steps that have been or will be taken to ensure such coordination and cooperation;

(B) review specific problems with Federal rules, regulations, statutes, and court decisions that are ambiguous, arbitrary, or nonsensical, or that impose severe financial burdens on individuals;

(C) give priority consideration to including in the plan the review of those laws, programs, or agencies operating under permanent budget authority or permanent statutory authority;

(D) have a view toward ensuring that all significant laws, programs, or agencies within the committee's jurisdiction are subject to review every 10 years; and

(E) have a view toward insuring against duplication of Federal programs.

The Committee and its appropriate subcommittees shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within its jurisdiction as provided in clause 2(c) of House Rule X. The Committee shall include in the report filed pursuant to clause 1(d) of House Rule XI separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee under House Rule X and

House Rule XI, a summary of the authorization and oversight plan submitted by the Committee under clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of actions taken and recommendations made with respect to the oversight and authorization plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee and any recommendations made or actions taken thereon.

(b) *Annual Appropriations.*—The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Federal government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirements, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefor would be made annually.

(c) *Budget Act Compliance: Views and Estimates* (See Appendix B).—Not later than 6 weeks after the President submits his budget under section 1105(a) of Title 31, United States Code, or at such time as the Committee on the Budget may request, the Committee shall, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year (under section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974) that are within its jurisdiction or functions; and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction that it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) *Budget Act Compliance: Recommended Changes.*—Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process, it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) *Conference Committees.*—Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chairman shall, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, determine the number of conferees the Chairman deems most suitable and then recommend to the Speaker as conferees, in keeping with the number to be appointed by the Speaker as provided in clause 11 of House Rule I, the names of those Members of the Committee of not less than a majority who generally supported the House position and who were primarily responsible for the legislation. The Chairman shall, to the fullest extent feasible, include those Members of the Committee who were the principal proponents of the major provisions of the bill as it passed the House and such other Committee Members of the majority party as the Chairman may designate in consultation with the Members of the majority party. Such recommendations shall provide a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members on the Committee. In making recommendations of Minority Party Members as conferees, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(f) *Hearing on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse.*—(1) The Committee, or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the Committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which the Committee may authorize.

(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the Committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.

(g) *Hearing on Agency Financial Statements.*—The Committee or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the Committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the Committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.

(h) *Hearing on GAO High-Risk-List.*—The Committee or a Subcommittee, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the Committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the 'high-risk-list' or the 'high-risk series'.

(i) *Member Day Hearing.*—During the first session of a Congress, the Committee will hold a hearing at which it receives testimony from Members, Delegates, and the Resident Commissioner on proposed legislation within its jurisdiction.

(j) *Activities Report.*—(1) Not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee. After adjournment *sine die* of the last regular session of a Congress, or after December 15 of an even-numbered year, whichever occurs first, the Chair may file the report, a copy of which shall be made available to each Member of the Committee for at least 7 calendar days, with the Clerk of the House at any time.

(2) Such report shall include separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee during that Congress.

(3) The oversight section of such report shall include a summary of the oversight plans submitted by the Committee pursuant to clause 2(d) of House Rule X, a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to each such plan, and a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee, and any recommendations made or actions taken with respect thereto.

#### RULE XI.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) *Number and Composition.*—There shall be such subcommittees as specified in paragraph (c) of this rule. Each of such subcommittees shall be composed of the number of Members set forth in paragraph (c) of this rule, including *ex officio* Members.<sup>1</sup> The Chairman may create additional subcommittees of an *ad hoc* nature as the Chairman determines to be appropriate, subject to any limitations provided for in the House Rules.

<sup>1</sup>The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee serve as *ex officio* Members of the Subcommittees. (See paragraph (e) of this Rule).

(b) *Ratios.*—On each Subcommittee, there shall be a ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members which shall be consistent with the ratio on the full Committee. In calculating the ratio of majority party Members to minority party Members, there shall be included the *ex officio* Members

of the subcommittees and ratios below reflect that fact.

(c) *Jurisdiction*.—Each Subcommittee shall have the following general jurisdiction and number of Members:

General Farm Commodities and Risk Management (13 members, 7 majority and 6 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodities including barley, cotton, cottonseed, corn, grain sorghum, honey, mohair, oats, other oilseeds, peanuts, pulse crops, rice, soybeans, sugar, wheat, and wool; the Commodity Credit Corporation; risk management policies and statutes, including Federal Crop Insurance; producer data and privacy issues.

Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit (20 members, 11 majority and 9 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to commodity exchanges; agricultural credit; rural development; energy; rural electrification.

Conservation and Forestry (11 members, 6 majority and 5 minority)—Policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.

Nutrition, Oversight, and Department Operations (16 members, 9 majority and 7 minority)—Policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiative; departmental and agency oversight; and special investigations.

Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research (23 members, 13 majority and 10 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to horticulture, including fruits, vegetables, nuts, and ornamentals; bees; and organic agriculture; policies and statutes relating to marketing and promotion orders; pest and disease management, including pesticides; bioterrorism; adulteration and quarantine matters; research, education, and extension; and biotechnology.

Livestock and Foreign Agriculture (22 members, 12 majority and 10 minority)—Policies, statutes, and markets relating to all livestock, poultry, dairy, and seafood, including all products thereof; the inspection, marketing, and promotion of such commodities and products; aquaculture; animal welfare; grazing; foreign agricultural assistance and trade promotion.

(d) *Referral of Legislation*.—

(1)(a) *In General*.—All bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee shall be referred to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within 2 weeks after being referred to the Committee. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman may determine that the Committee will consider certain bills, resolutions, or other matters.

(b) *Trade Matters*.—Unless action is otherwise taken under subparagraph (3), bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to the Committee relating to foreign agriculture, foreign food or commodity assistance, and foreign trade and marketing issues will be considered by the Committee.

(2) The Chairman, by a majority vote of the Committee, may discharge a Subcommittee from further consideration of any bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the Subcommittee and have such bill, resolution, or other matter considered by the Committee. The Committee having referred a bill, resolution, or other matter to a Subcommittee in accordance with this rule may discharge such Subcommittee from further consideration thereof at any time by a vote of the majority Members of the Committee for the Committee's direct consideration or for reference to another Subcommittee.

(3) Unless the Committee, a quorum being present, decides otherwise by a majority

vote, the Chairman may refer bills, resolutions, legislation, or other matters not specifically within the jurisdiction of a Subcommittee, or that is within the jurisdiction of more than one Subcommittee, jointly or exclusively as the Chairman deems appropriate, including concurrently to the subcommittees with jurisdiction, sequentially to the subcommittees with jurisdiction (subject to any time limits deemed appropriate), divided by subject matter among the subcommittees with jurisdiction, or to an *ad hoc* subcommittee appointed by the Chairman for the purpose of considering the matter and reporting to the Committee thereon, or make such other provisions deemed appropriate.

(e) *Participation and Service of Committee Members on Subcommittees*.—(1) The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member shall serve as *ex officio* Members of all subcommittees and shall have the right to vote on all matters before the subcommittees. The Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member may not be counted for the purpose of establishing a quorum.

(2) Any Member of the Committee who is not a Member of the Subcommittee may have the privilege of sitting and nonparticipatory attendance at Subcommittee hearings or meetings in accordance with clause 2(g)(2) of House Rule XI. Such Member may not:

(i) vote on any matter;

(ii) be counted for the purpose of a establishing a quorum;

(iii) participate in questioning a witness under the 5-Minute Rule, unless permitted to do so by the Subcommittee Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member or a majority of the Subcommittee, a quorum being present;

(iv) raise points of order; or

(v) offer amendments or motions.

(f) *Subcommittee Hearings and Meetings*.—(1) Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and make recommendations to the Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction after consultation by the Subcommittee Chairman with the Committee Chairman. (See Committee Rule VIII.)

(2) After consultation with the Committee Chairman, Subcommittee Chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their subcommittees and shall request the Majority Staff Director to make any announcement relating thereto. (See paragraph (b) of Committee Rule VIII.) In setting the dates, the Committee Chairman and Subcommittee Chairman shall consult with other Subcommittee Chairmen and relevant Committee and Subcommittee Ranking Minority Members in an effort to avoid simultaneously scheduling Committee and Subcommittee meetings or hearings to the extent practicable.

(3) Notice of all Subcommittee meetings shall be provided to the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee by the Majority Staff Director.

(4) Subcommittees may hold meetings or hearings outside of the House if the Chairman of the Committee and other Subcommittee Chairmen and the Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittee is consulted in advance to ensure that there is no scheduling problem. However, the majority of the Committee may authorize such meeting or hearing.

(5) The provisions regarding notice and the agenda of Committee meetings under paragraph (a) of Committee Rule II and special or additional meetings under paragraph (b) of Committee Rule II shall apply to Subcommittee meetings.

(6) If a vacancy occurs in a Subcommittee chairmanship, the Chairman may set the

dates for hearings and meetings of the Subcommittee during the period of vacancy. The Chairman may also appoint an acting Subcommittee Chairman until the vacancy is filled.

(g) *Subcommittee Action*.—(1) Any bill, resolution, recommendation, or other matter forwarded to the Committee by a Subcommittee shall be promptly forwarded by the Subcommittee Chairman or any Subcommittee Member authorized to do so by the Subcommittee.

(2) Upon receipt of such recommendation, the Majority Staff Director of the Committee shall promptly advise all Members of the Committee of the Subcommittee action.

(3) The Committee shall not consider any matters recommended by subcommittees until 2 calendar days have elapsed from the date of action, unless the Chairman or a majority of the Committee determines otherwise.

(h) *Subcommittee Investigations*.—No investigation shall be initiated by a Subcommittee without prior consultation with the Chairman of the Committee or a majority of the Committee.

#### RULE XII.—COMMITTEE BUDGET, STAFF, AND TRAVEL

(a) *Committee Budget*.—The Chairman, in consultation with the majority Members of the Committee and the minority Members of the Committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget for each session of the Congress. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee and subcommittees. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall include an amount budgeted to minority Members for staff under their direction and supervision. Thereafter, the Chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated Committee budget and shall take whatever action is necessary to have such budget duly authorized by the House.

(b) *Committee Staff*.—(1) The Chairman shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The professional and clerical staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate. (See clause 9 of House Rule X)

(2) The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The professional and clerical staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(3) From the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to any primary or additional expense resolution, the Chairman shall ensure that each Subcommittee is adequately funded and staffed to discharge its responsibilities and that the minority party is fairly treated in the appointment of such staff (See clause 6(d) of House Rule X).

(c) *Committee Travel*.—(1) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolution as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern official travel of Committee Members and Committee staff regarding domestic and foreign travel (See clause 8 of House Rule X). Official travel for any Member or any Committee staff member shall be paid only upon



the prior authorization of the Chairman. Official travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any Committee Member and any Committee staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and its subcommittees and meetings, conferences, facility inspections, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

- (i) The purpose of the official travel;
- (ii) The dates during which the official travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the official travel is being made;
- (iii) The location of the event for which the official travel is to be made; and
- (iv) The names of Members and Committee staff seeking authorization.

(2) In the case of official travel of Members and staff of a Subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, facility inspections, and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the jurisdiction of such Subcommittee to be paid for out of funds allocated to the Committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Subcommittee Chairman and the full Committee Chairman. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the applicable Subcommittee Chairman in writing setting forth those items enumerated in clause (1).

(3) Within 60 days of the conclusion of any official travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the Committee Chairman a written report covering the information gained as a result of the hearing, meeting, conference, facility inspection, or investigation attended pursuant to such official travel.

(4) Local currencies owned by the United States shall be made available to the Committee and its employees engaged in carrying out their official duties outside the United States, its territories or possessions. No appropriated funds shall be expended for the purpose of defraying expenses of Members of the Committee or its employees in any country where local currencies are available for this purpose, and the following conditions shall apply with respect to their use of such currencies:

- (i) No Member or employee of the Committee shall receive or expend local currencies for subsistence in any country at a rate in excess of the maximum per diem rate set forth in applicable Federal law; and
- (ii) Each Member or employee of the Committee shall make an itemized report to the Chairman within 60 days following the completion of travel showing the dates each country was visited, the amount of per diem furnished, the cost of transportation furnished, and any funds expended for any other official purpose, and shall summarize in these categories the total foreign currencies and appropriated funds expended. All such individual reports shall be filed by the Chairman with the Committee on House Administration and shall be open to public inspection.

#### RULE XIII.—AMENDMENT OF RULES

These Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Committee. A proposed change in these Rules shall not be considered by the Committee as provided in clause 2 of House Rule XI, unless written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each Committee Member 2 legislative days in advance of the date on which the matter is to be considered. Any such change in the Rules of the Committee shall be published in the *Congressional Record* within 30 calendar days after its approval.

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS  
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2019.

HON. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit the Rules of the Committee on Homeland Security for the 116th Congress for publication in the *Congressional Record*. On January 30, 2019, the Committee on Homeland Security met in open session and adopted these Committee Rules by unanimous consent, a quorum being present.

Sincerely,

BENNIE G. THOMPSON,  
*Chairman.*

#### RULE I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

(A) *Applicability of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives.*—The Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives (the “House”) are the rules of the Committee on Homeland Security (the “Committee”) and its subcommittees insofar as applicable.

(B) *Applicability to Subcommittees.*—Except where the terms “Full Committee” and “subcommittee” are specifically mentioned, the following rules shall apply to the Committee’s subcommittees and their respective Chairmen and Ranking Minority Members to the same extent as they apply to the Full Committee and its Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.

(C) *Appointments by the Chairman.*—Clause 2(d) of Rule XI of the House shall govern the designation of a Vice Chairman of the Full Committee.

(D) *Conferences.*—The Chairman is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

(E) *Committee Website.*—The Chairman shall maintain an official Committee web site for the purposes of furthering the Committee’s legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee’s activities to Committee Members, other Members, and the public at large. The Ranking Minority Member may maintain a similar web site for the same purposes. The official Committee web site shall display a link on its home page to the web site maintained by the Ranking Minority Member.

(F) *Activity Report.*—The Committee shall submit a report to the House on the activities of the Committee in accordance with House rule XI 1(d).

#### RULE II.—SUBCOMMITTEES

(A) *Generally.*—The Full Committee shall be organized into the following six standing subcommittees and each shall have specific responsibility for such measures or matters as the Chairman refers to it:

- (1) Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations
- (2) Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation
- (3) Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery
- (4) Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism
- (5) Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability
- (6) Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security

(B) *Selection and Ratio of Subcommittee Members.*—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall select their respective Members of each sub-

committee. The ratio of Majority to Minority Members shall be comparable to the Full Committee, consistent with the party ratios established by the Majority party, except that each subcommittee shall have at least two more Majority Members than Minority Members.

(C) *Ex Officio Members.*—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall be *ex officio* members of each subcommittee but are not authorized to vote on matters that arise before each subcommittee. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee shall only be counted to satisfy the quorum requirement for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(D) *Powers and Duties of Subcommittees.*—Except as otherwise directed by the Chairman of the Full Committee, each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, mark up legislation, and report to the Full Committee on all matters within its purview. Subcommittee Chairmen shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chairman of the Full Committee. To the greatest extent practicable, no more than one meeting and hearing should be scheduled for a given time.

#### RULE III.—SPECIAL COMMITTEE PANELS

(A) *Designation.*—The Chairman of the Full Committee may designate a special panel of the Committee consisting of Members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that warrant enhanced consideration, and to report to the Committee.

(B) *Party Ratios and Appointment.*—The chairman of a special panel shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Full Committee. The Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee may select a ranking minority member for a special panel and may appoint additional minority members, consistent with the ratio of the full committee. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member may serve as *ex officio* members.

(C) *Duration.*—No special panel shall continue in existence for more than six months.

(D) *Jurisdiction.*—No panel shall have legislative jurisdiction.

#### RULE IV.—REGULAR MEETINGS

(A) *Regular Meeting Date.*—The regular meeting date and time for the transaction of business of the Full Committee shall be at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday that the House is in Session each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

(B) *Additional Meetings.*—At the discretion of the Chairman, additional meetings of the Committee may be scheduled for the consideration of any legislation or other matters pending before the Committee, or to conduct other Committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purposes pursuant to the call of the Chairman.

(C) *Consideration.*—Except in the case of a special meeting held under clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI, the determination of the business to be considered at each meeting of the Committee shall be made by the Chairman.

#### RULE V.—NOTICE AND PUBLICATION

(A) *Notice.*—

(1) *Hearings.*—

(a) Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing before the Full Committee or subcommittee, which may not commence earlier than one week after such notice.

(b) However, a hearing may begin sooner than specified in (a) if the Chairman of the

Committee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin such hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business. If such a determination is made, the Chairman shall make the announcement required under (a) at the earliest possible date. To the extent practicable, the names of all witnesses scheduled to appear at such hearing shall be provided to Members no later than 48 hours prior to the commencement of such hearing.

(2) Meetings.—

(a) The Chair shall announce the date, time, place and subject matter of any meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which Members have notice thereof except in the case of a special meeting called under clause 2(c)(2) of House Rule XI. These notice requirements may be waived if the Chairman with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business.

(b) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of announcement of the meeting, if less than 48 hours under Rule V(A)(2), the text of such legislation to be marked up shall be provided to the Members, made publicly available in electronic form, and posted on the official Committee web site.

(c) Not later than 24 hours after concluding a meeting to consider legislation, the text of such legislation as ordered, forwarded or reported, including any amendments adopted or defeated, shall be made publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee web site.

(3) Briefings.—The Chairman shall provide notice of the date, time, place, and subject matter of a Member briefing. To the extent practicable, a Member briefing shall not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof.

(B) *Publication*.—House Rule XI 2(g)(3)(C) is hereby incorporated by reference.

RULE VI.—OPEN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS;  
BROADCASTING

(A) *Open Meetings*.—

(1) All meetings and hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public including to radio, television, and still photography coverage, except as provided by Rule XI of the Rules of the House or when the Committee, in open session and with a majority present, determines by recorded vote that all or part of the remainder of that hearing on that day shall be closed to the public because disclosure of testimony, evidence, or other matters to be considered would endanger the national security, compromise sensitive law enforcement information, tend to defame, degrade or incriminate a witness, or violate any law or rule of the House of Representatives.

(2) The Committee or Subcommittee may meet in executive session for up to five additional consecutive days of hearings if agreed to by the same procedure.

(B) *Broadcasting*.—Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, the Committee shall permit that hearing or meeting to be covered by television broadcast, internet broadcast, print media, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, in accordance with the provisions of clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. Operation and use of any Committee operated broadcast system

shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House. Priority shall be given by the Committee to members of the Press Galleries. Pursuant to clause 2(e) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee shall, to the greatest extent practicable, provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings and shall maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(C) *Transcripts*.—A transcript shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during a Committee hearing. All transcripts of meetings or hearings that are open to the public shall be made available.

RULE VII.—PROCEDURES FOR MEETINGS AND  
HEARINGS

(A) *Opening Statements*.—At any meeting of the Committee, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member shall be entitled to present oral opening statements of five minutes each. Other Members may submit written opening statements for the record. The Chairman presiding over the meeting may permit additional opening statements by other Members of the Full Committee or of that subcommittee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member.

(B) *The Five-Minute Rule*.—The time any one Member may address the Committee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration by the Committee shall not exceed five minutes, and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chairman, except that this time limit may be extended when permitted by unanimous consent.

(C) *Postponement of Vote*.—The Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment and may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice to Members by the Clerk or other designee of the Chairman. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(D) *Record*.—Members may have 10 business days to submit to the Chief Clerk of the Committee their statements for the record, and, in the case of a hearing, additional questions for the hearing record to be directed towards a witness at the hearing.

RULE VIII.—WITNESSES

(A) *Questioning of Witnesses*.—

(1) Questioning of witnesses by Members will be conducted under the five-minute rule unless the Committee adopts a motion permitted by clause 2(j)(2) of House Rule XI.

(2) In questioning witnesses under the five-minute rule, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member shall first be recognized. In a subcommittee meeting or hearing, the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee are then recognized. All other Members who are present before the commencement of the meeting or hearing will be recognized in the order of seniority on the Committee, alternating between Majority and Minority Members. Committee Members arriving after the commencement of the hearing shall be recognized in order of appearance, alternating between Majority and Minority Members, after all Members present at the beginning of the hearing have been recognized. To the extent practicable, each Member shall be recognized at least once before any Member is given a second opportunity to question a witness.

(3) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by motion, may permit a specified number of Members to question a witness for a period longer than five minutes, but the time allotted must be equally apportioned to the Majority party and the Minority and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(4) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by motion, may permit Committee staff of the Majority and Minority to question a witness for a specified period of time, but the time allotted must be equally apportioned to the Majority and Minority staff and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(B) *Minority Witnesses*.—House Rule XI 2(j)(1) is hereby incorporated by reference.

(C) *Oath or Affirmation*.—The Chairman of the Committee or any Member designated by the Chairman, may administer an oath to any witness.

(D) *Statements by Witnesses*.—

(1) Consistent with the notice given, and to the greatest extent practicable, each witness shall submit a prepared or written statement for the record of the proceedings (including, where practicable, an electronic copy) with the Clerk of the Committee no less than 48 hours in advance of the witness's appearance before the Committee.

(2) In the case of a witness appearing in a non-governmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vita and a disclosure of any Federal grants or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two preceding calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. Such disclosures shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing, and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter jurisdiction of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such statements, with the appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

RULE IX.—QUORUM

*Quorum Requirements*.—Two Members shall constitute a quorum for purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence. One-third of the Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for conducting business, except for (1) reporting a measure or recommendation; (2) closing Committee meetings to the public, pursuant to Committee Rule IV; (3) any other action for which an actual majority quorum is required by any rule of the House of Representatives or by law. The Chairman's staff shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member's staff when scheduling meetings and hearings, to ensure that a quorum for any purpose will include at least one Minority Member of the Committee.

RULE X.—DECORUM

(A) *Breaches of Decorum*.—The Chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum, by censure and exclusion from a hearing or meeting; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(B) *Access to Dais*.—Access to the dais before, during, and after a hearing, markup, or other meeting of the Committee shall be limited to Members and staff of the Committee. Subject to availability of space on the dais, Committee Members' personal staff may be present on the dais during a hearing

if their employing Member is seated on the dais and during a markup or other meeting if their employing Member is the author of a measure or amendment under consideration by the Committee, but only during the time that the measure or amendment is under active consideration by the Committee, or otherwise at the discretion of the Chairman, or of the Ranking Minority Member for personal staff employed by a Minority Member.

(C) *Wireless Communications Use Prohibited*.—During a hearing, mark-up, or other meeting of the Committee, ringing or audible sounds or conversational use of cellular telephones or other electronic devices is prohibited in the Committee room.

#### RULE XI.—REFERRALS TO SUBCOMMITTEES

*Referral of Bills and Other Matters by Chairman*.—Except for bills and other matters retained by the Chairman for Full Committee consideration, each bill or other matter referred to the Full Committee shall be referred by the Chairman to one or more subcommittees within two weeks of receipt by the Committee. In referring any measure or matter to a subcommittee, the Chair may specify a date by which the subcommittee shall report thereon to the Full Committee. Bills or other matters referred to subcommittees may be reassigned or discharged by the Chairman.

#### RULE XII.—SUBPOENAS; COUNSEL

(A) *Authorization*.—The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chairman of the Full Committee, as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member prior to issuing any subpoena under such authority. To the extent practicable, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays. The Chairman of the Full Committee shall notify Members of the Committee of the authorization and issuance of a subpoena under this rule as soon as practicable, but in no event later than one week after service of such subpoena.

(B) *Disclosure*.—Provisions may be included in a subpoena with the concurrence of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Full Committee, or by the Committee, to prevent the disclosure of the Full Committee's demands for information when deemed necessary for the security of information or the progress of an investigation, including but not limited to prohibiting the revelation by witnesses and their counsel of Full Committee's inquiries.

(C) *Subpoena duces tecum*.—A subpoena duces tecum may be issued whose return to the Committee Clerk shall occur at a time and place other than that of a regularly scheduled meeting.

(D) *Counsel*.—When representing a witness or entity before the Committee in response to a document request, request for transcribed interview, or subpoena from the Committee, or in connection with testimony before the Committee at a hearing, counsel for the witness or entity must promptly submit to the Committee a notice of appearance specifying the following: (a) counsel's name, firm or organization, and contact information; and (b) each client represented by the counsel in connection with the proceeding. Submission of a notice of appearance constitutes acknowledgement that counsel is authorized to accept service of process by the Committee on behalf of such client(s), and that counsel is bound by and agrees to comply with all applicable House and Committee rules and regulations.

(E) *Deposition Authority*.—Section 103 of H. Res 6 is hereby incorporated by reference.

#### RULE XIII.—COMMITTEE STAFF

(A) *Generally*.—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X and must be eligible to be considered for routine access to classified information.

(B) *Staff Assignments*.—For purposes of these rules, Committee staff means the employees of the Committee, detailees, fellows, interns, or any other person engaged by contract or otherwise to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee. All such persons shall be either Majority, Minority, or shared staff. The Chairman shall appoint, supervise, where applicable determine remuneration of, and may remove Majority staff. The Ranking Minority Member shall appoint, supervise, where applicable determine remuneration of, and may remove Minority staff. In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman may appoint, supervise, determine remuneration of and may remove shared staff that is assigned to service of the Committee. The Chairman shall certify Committee staff appointments, including appointments by the Ranking Minority Member, as required.

(C) *Divulgence of Information*.—Prior to the public acknowledgement by the Chairman or the Committee of a decision to initiate an investigation of a particular person, entity, or subject, no member of the Committee staff shall knowingly divulge to any person any information, including non-classified information, which comes into his or her possession by virtue of his or her status as a member of the Committee staff, if the member of the Committee staff has a reasonable expectation that such information may alert the subject of a Committee investigation to the existence, nature, or substance of such investigation, unless authorized to do so by the Chairman or the Committee.

#### RULE XIV.—CLASSIFIED AND CONTROLLED UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(A) *Security Precautions*.—Committee staff offices, including Majority and Minority offices, shall operate under strict security precautions administered by the Security Officer of the Committee. A security officer shall be on duty at all times during normal office hours. Classified documents and controlled unclassified information (CUI)—formerly known as sensitive but unclassified (SBU) information—may be destroyed, discussed, examined, handled, reviewed, stored, transported and used only in an appropriately secure manner in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities. Such documents may be removed from the Committee's offices only in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures, as determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall govern the handling of such documents removed from the Committee's offices.

(B) *Temporary Custody of Executive Branch Material*.—Executive branch documents or other materials containing classified information in any form that were not made part of the record of a Committee hearing, did not originate in the Committee or the House, and are not otherwise records of the Committee shall, while in the custody of the Committee, be segregated and maintained by the Committee in the same manner as Committee records that are classified. Such documents and other materials shall be returned to the Executive branch agency from which they were obtained at the earliest practicable time.

(C) *Access by Committee Staff*.—Access to classified information supplied to the Committee shall be limited to Committee staff members with appropriate security clear-

ances and a need-to-know, as determined by the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member, and under the direction of the Majority or Minority Staff Directors.

(D) *Maintaining Confidentiality*.—No Committee Member or Committee staff shall disclose, in whole or in part or by way of summary, to any person who is not a Committee Member or authorized Committee staff for any purpose or in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, any testimony given before the Committee in executive session except for purposes of obtaining an official classification of such testimony. Classified information and controlled unclassified information (CUI) shall be handled in accordance with all applicable laws, executive orders, and other governing authorities and consistently with the provisions of these rules and Committee procedures.

(E) *Oath*.—Before a Committee Member or Committee staff may have access to classified information, the following oath (or affirmation) shall be executed:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose any classified information received in the course of my service on the Committee on Homeland Security, except as authorized by the Committee or the House of Representatives or in accordance with the Rules of such Committee or the Rules of the House.

Copies of the executed oath (or affirmation) shall be retained by the Clerk of the Committee as part of the records of the Committee.

(F) *Disciplinary Action*.—The Chairman shall immediately consider disciplinary action in the event any Committee Member or Committee staff member fails to conform to the provisions of these rules governing the disclosure of classified or unclassified information. Such disciplinary action may include, but shall not be limited to, immediate dismissal from the Committee staff, criminal referral to the Justice Department, and notification of the Speaker of the House. With respect to Minority staff, the Chairman shall consider such disciplinary action in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

#### RULE XV.—COMMITTEE RECORDS

(A) *Committee Records*.—House Rule XI 2(e) is hereby incorporated by reference.

(B) *Legislative Calendar*.—The Clerk of the Committee shall maintain a printed calendar for the information of each Committee Member showing any procedural or legislative measures considered or scheduled to be considered by the Committee, and the status of such measures 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 such revisions shall be made available to each Member of the Committee upon request.

(C) *Members Right To Access*.—Members of the Committee and of the House shall have access to all official Committee Records. Access to Committee files shall be limited to examination within the Committee offices at reasonable times. Access to Committee Records that contain classified information shall be provided in a manner consistent with these rules.

(D) *Removal of Committee Records*.—Files and records of the Committee are not to be removed from the Committee offices. No Committee files or records that are not made publicly available shall be photocopied by any Member.

(E) *Executive Session Records*.—Evidence or testimony received by the Committee in executive session shall not be released or made available to the public unless authorized by the Committee, a majority being present. Such information may be made available to

appropriate government personnel for purposes of classification. Members may examine the Committee's executive session records, but may not make copies of, or take personal notes from, such records.

(F) *Availability of Committee Records.*—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action including recorded votes and attendance at hearings and meetings. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of each amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, including the name of the Member who offered the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, and the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against each such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, as well as the names of those Members present but not voting. Such record shall be made available to the public at reasonable times within the Committee offices and also made publicly available in electronic form and posted on the official Committee web site within 48 hours of such record vote.

(G) *Separate and Distinct.*—All Committee records and files must be kept separate and distinct from the office records of the Members serving as Chairman and Ranking Minority Member. Records and files of Members' personal offices shall not be considered records or files of the Committee.

(H) *Disposition of Committee Records.*—At the conclusion of each Congress, non-current records of the Committee shall be delivered to the Archivist of the United States in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House.

(I) *Archived Records.*—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the Rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any member of the Committee. The Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member on any communication from the Archivist of the United States or the Clerk of the House concerning the disposition of noncurrent records pursuant to clause 3(b) of the Rule.

#### RULE XVI.—COMMITTEE RULES

(A) *Availability of Committee Rules in Electronic Form.*—House Rule XI 2(a) is hereby incorporated by reference.

(B) *Changes to Committee Rules.*—These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by the Full Committee provided that a notice in writing of the proposed change has been given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at which action thereon is to be taken and such changes are not inconsistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

### PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Rule XI, I hereby submit the Rules of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The Rule were adopted in an open meeting of the Committee on February 6, 2019, by voice vote of the Committee.

#### RULE I. GENERAL

(a) Application of Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives ("House Rules") are the rules of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and its Subcommittees with the specific additions thereto contained in these rules.

(2) Except where the term "Subcommittee" is specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee and its Subcommittees as well as to the respective Chairs and Ranking Minority Members.

(b) Other Procedures. The Chair of the Committee, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out these rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the Committee.

(c) Use of Hearing Rooms. In consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chair of the Committee shall establish guidelines for the use of Committee hearing rooms.

#### RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meetings. The regular meeting day of the Committee for the conduct of its business shall be on the first Wednesday of each month, if the House is in session. If the House is not in session on that day, then the Committee shall meet on the next Wednesday of such month on which the House is in session, or at another practicable time as determined by the Chair.

(1) A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting.

(2) The Chair may call and convene, as he considers necessary and in accordance with the notice requirements contained in these rules, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business.

(b) Bills and Subjects to be Considered.

(1) The Chair shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of any Committee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which Members have notice thereof, unless the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, or the Committee by majority vote with a quorum present for the transaction of business, determines there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner, in which case the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(2) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day), the Chair shall cause the text of such legislation to be made publicly available in electronic form.

(3) To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of both the Chair and Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours prior to the consideration of the measure or matter, and the Chair may oppose any amendment not so submitted.

(c) Open Meetings. Meeting for the transaction of business an hearings of the Committee shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the House Rules.

(d) Quorums. A majority of the Committee shall form a quorum, except that two Members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of the Members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which the presence of a majority of the Committee

is otherwise required. If the Chair is not present at any meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee, the Vice Chair on the Committee who is present shall preside at the meeting, unless another Member of the Committee is designated by the Chair.

(e) Postponement of Proceedings.

(1) Pursuant to clause 2(h)(4) of House Rule XI, the Chair may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment. The Chair may resume proceedings on a postponed vote at any time after reasonable notice.

(2) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(f) Time for Statements and Debate.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall limit the total time of opening statements by Members at a Committee meeting to no more than ten minutes, the time to be divided equally between the Chair and Ranking Minority Member, except in the case of joint Subcommittee hearings, in which case the total time of opening statements by Members at such joint hearing shall be no more than twenty minutes, the time to be divided equally between the Chairs and Ranking Minority Members. When requested, ex officio Members of any Subcommittee shall also be recognized at a Subcommittee hearing for five minutes each to present an opening statement.

(2) The time any one Member may address the Committee on any bill, amendment, motion, or other matter under consideration by the Committee will be limited to five minutes, and then only when the Member has been recognized by the Chair. This time limit may be waived by the Chair pursuant to unanimous consent.

(g) Requests for Recorded Vote. A record vote of the Committee shall be provided on any question before the Committee upon the request of three or more Members or, in the apparent absence of a quorum, by any one Member.

(h) Transcripts. Transcripts of markups shall be recorded and may be published in the same manner as hearings before the Committee, and shall be included as part of the legislative report unless waived by the Chair of the Committee.

(i) Motion to Go to Conference. Without further action of the Committee, the Chair is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

#### RULE III. HEARINGS

(a) Notice of Hearings.

(1) The Chair shall publicly announce the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chair, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chair shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(2) The Chair shall publicly announce a list of witnesses to testify at a hearing as soon as a complete list of witnesses, including those to be called by the minority, is compiled. When practicable, the Chair and the Ranking Minority Member will seek to have a complete list of witnesses compiled at or as soon as practicable after the time that the hearing is publicly announced.

(b) Witnesses.

(1) Insofar as is practicable, no later than 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file, in printed copy and in electronic form, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and a curriculum vitae.

(2) Each witness shall limit his or her presentation to a five minute summary, however additional time may be granted by the Chair when appropriate.

(3) The Chair, or any Member of the Committee designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to witnesses before the Committee.

(4) Whenever any hearing is conducted by the Committee on any measure or matter, the Minority Members of the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of them before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to the measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(5) In the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of any Federal grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts, or contracts or payments originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing. The disclosure shall include the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof), cooperative agreement, or contract (or subcontract thereof) related to the subject matter of the hearing; and the amount and country of origin of any payment or contract related to the subject matter of the hearing originating with a foreign government. Such statements, with appropriate redactions to protect the privacy or security of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) The right to interrogate a witness before the Committee shall alternate between Majority and Minority Members of the Committee. Each Member shall be limited to five minutes in the interrogation of witnesses. No Member may be recognized for a second period of interrogation until each Member present, who wishes to be recognized, has been recognized at least once.

(2) Notwithstanding clause 1, upon a motion the Chair, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may:

i. Designate an specified number of Members of the Committee from each party to question a witness for a period of time equally divided between the majority party and the minority party, not to exceed one hour in the aggregate; or

ii. Designate staff from each party to question a witness for a period of time equally divided between the majority party and the minority party, not to exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(3) Members of the Committee have two weeks from the date of a hearing to submit additional questions in writing for the record to be answered by witnesses who have appeared before the Committee. The letters of transmittal and any responses thereto shall be included in the hearing record.

(d) Claims of Privilege. Claims of common-law privileges made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees or deponents in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chair, subject to appeal to the Committee.

(e) Publication of Transcripts. The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee, when it is decided they will be

printed, shall be published in substantially verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. Individuals, including Members, whose comments are to be published as part of a Committee document shall be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the transcription in advance of publication. Any requests by those Members, staff, or witnesses to correct any errors other than errors in the transcript, or disputed errors in transcription, shall be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted. Prior to approval by the Chair of hearings conducted jointly with another Congressional Committee, a memorandum of understanding shall be prepared which incorporates an agreement for the publication of the transcript.

(f) Pertinence of Testimony. At the discretion of the Committee, brief and pertinent statements may be submitted in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinence of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

#### RULE IV. REPORTS

(a) Bills and resolutions approved by the Committee shall be reported by the Chair pursuant to clauses 2-4 of House Rule XIII.

(b) A proposed investigative or oversight report shall be considered as read if it has been available to the Members of the Committee for at least 24 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such days).

(c) Every investigative or oversight report shall be approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present. If at the time of approval of such a report a Member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views that Member shall be entitled to file such views.

(d) Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the Committee may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by House Rules.

#### RULE V. BROADCASTING

(a) Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI.

(b) To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall provide audio and visual coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings, and maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with clauses 4 (b) and (f) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

#### RULE VI. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Committee Jurisdiction. The Committee shall have jurisdiction over such matters as determined by the Chair.

(b) Subcommittees and Jurisdiction. There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, with jurisdictions as follows:

(1) Subcommittee on Energy. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to energy research, development, and demonstration projects therefor; commercial application of energy technology; Department of Energy research, development, and demonstration programs; Department of Energy laboratories; Department of Energy science activities; energy

supply activities; nuclear, solar, and renewable energy, and other advanced energy technologies; uranium supply and enrichment, and Department of Energy waste management; fossil energy research and development; clean coal technology; energy conservation research and development, including building performance, alternate fuels, distributed power systems, and industrial process improvements; pipeline research, development, and demonstration projects; energy standards; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(2) Subcommittee on Environment. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to environmental research; Environmental Protection Agency research and development; environmental standards; climate change research and development; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, including all activities related to weather, weather services, climate, the atmosphere, marine fisheries, and oceanic research; risk assessment activities; scientific issues related to environmental policy, including climate change; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(3) Subcommittee on Research and Technology. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to science policy and science education; the Office of Science and Technology Policy; all scientific research, and scientific and engineering resources (including human resources); all matters relating to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education; intergovernmental mechanisms for research, development, and demonstration and cross-cutting programs; international scientific cooperation; National Science Foundation; university research policy, including infrastructure and overhead; university research partnerships, including those with industry; science scholarships; computing, communications, networking, and information technology; research and development relating to health, biomedical, and nutritional programs; research, development, and demonstration relating to nanoscience, nanoengineering, and nanotechnology; agricultural, geological, biological and life sciences research; materials research, development, demonstration, and policy; all matters relating to competitiveness, technology, standards, and innovation; standardization of weights and measures, including technical standards, standardization, and conformity assessment; measurement, including the metric system of measurement; the Technology Administration of the Department of Commerce; the National Institute of Standards and Technology; the National Technical Information Service; competitiveness, including small business competitiveness; tax, antitrust, regulatory and other legal and governmental policies related to technological development and commercialization; technology transfer, including civilian use of defense technologies; patent and intellectual property policy; international technology trade; research, development, and demonstration activities of the Department of Transportation; surface and water transportation research, development, and demonstration programs; earthquake programs and fire research programs, including those related to wildfire proliferation research and prevention; biotechnology policy; research, development, demonstration, and standards-related activities of the Department of Homeland Security; Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer; voting technologies and standards; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(4) Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. Shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: all matters relating to astronautical and aeronautical research and development; national space policy, including access to space; sub-orbital access and applications; National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its contractor and government-operated labs; space commercialization, including commercial space activities relating to the Department of Transportation and the Department of Commerce; exploration and use of outer space; international space cooperation; the National Space Council; space applications, space communications and related matters; Earth remote sensing policy; civil aviation research, development, and demonstration; research, development, and demonstration programs of the Federal Aviation Administration; space law; other appropriate matters as referred by the Chair; and relevant oversight.

(5) Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight. Shall have general and special investigative authority on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(c) Composition of Subcommittees.

(1) The Chair shall assign Members to the Subcommittees. Minority party assignments shall be made only with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member. The Chair shall determine the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members of each Subcommittee; provided that the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members on each Subcommittee (excluding any ex officio Member) shall be no less favorable to the Majority party than the ratio for the Committee.

(2) The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be ex officio Members of each Subcommittee and shall have the right to vote and be counted as part of the quorum and ratios on all matters before the Subcommittee.

(d) Referral to Subcommittees. The Chair shall expeditiously refer all legislation and other matters referred to the Committee to the Subcommittee or Subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction, unless the Chair deems consideration is to be by the Committee. Subcommittee Chairs may make requests for referral of specific matters to their Subcommittee if they believe Subcommittee jurisdictions so warrants.

(e) Subcommittee Procedures and Reports.

(1) Subcommittee Chairs shall set meeting dates with the concurrence of the Chair and after consultation with the other Subcommittee Chairs with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Subcommittee meetings or hearings wherever possible. No Subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee without authorization from the Chair.

(2) Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony or evidence, mark up legislation, and report to the Committee on all matters referred to it. For matters within its jurisdiction, each Subcommittee is authorized to conduct legislative, investigative, forecasting, and general oversight hearings; to conduct inquiries into the future; and to undertake budget impact studies.

(3) Each Subcommittee shall provide the Committee with copies of such records of votes taken in the Subcommittee and such other records with respect to the Subcommittee as the Chair of the Committee

deems necessary to ensure compliance with the House Rules.

(4) After ordering a measure or matter reported, a Subcommittee shall issue a report in such form as the Chair shall specify. To the maximum extent practicable, reports and recommendations of a Subcommittee shall not be considered by the Committee until after the intervention of 48 hours (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) from the time the report is submitted and made available to the Committee. Printed hearings thereon shall be made available, if feasible, to the Committee, except that this Rule may be waived at the discretion of the Chair after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(5) Any Member of the Committee may have the privilege of sitting with any Subcommittee during its hearings or deliberations and may participate in such hearings or deliberations, but no Member who is not a Member of the Subcommittee shall vote on any matter before such Subcommittee, except as provided in Rule VI(c)(2).

#### RULE VII. VICE CHAIRS

(a) The Chair of the Committee shall designate a Member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee, and shall designate a Majority Member of each Subcommittee to serve as Vice Chair of the Subcommittee. Vice Chairs of the Committee and each Subcommittee serve at the pleasure of the Chair, who may at any time terminate his designation of a Member as Vice Chair and designate a different Member of the majority party to serve as Vice Chair of the Committee or relevant Subcommittee.

(b) The Chair may assign duties, privileges, and responsibilities to the Vice Chairs of the Committee or the various Subcommittees.

#### RULE VIII. OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

(a) The Committee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its jurisdiction, including all laws, programs, and Government activities relating to nonmilitary research and development in accordance with House Rule X.

(b) Not later than March 1st of the first session of the 116th Congress, the Chair, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, shall submit the Committee's oversight plan to the Committee on Oversight and the Committee on House Administration in accordance with the provisions of clause 2(d) of House Rule X.

(c) Any investigation undertaken in the name of the Committee shall be approved by the Chair. Nothing in this subsection shall be interpreted to infringe on a Subcommittee's authority to conduct general oversight of matters within its jurisdiction, short of undertaking an investigation.

#### RULE IX. SUBPOENAS

The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chair as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of House Rule XI. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member prior to issuing any subpoena under such authority. To the extent practicable, the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member at least 24 hours in advance of a subpoena being issued under such authority.

#### RULE X. DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

The Chair may authorize the staff of the Committee to conduct depositions pursuant

to section 103 of House Resolution 6, 116th Congress, and subject to any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

#### RULE XI. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with House Rule VII.

(b) The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to clauses 3(b)(3) or 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

#### RULE XII. OFFICIAL COMMITTEE WEBSITE

The Chair shall maintain an official Committee website for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may maintain a similar website for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

#### RULE XIII. COMMITTEE BUDGET

From the amount provided to the Committee in the primary expense resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress, the Chair shall designate one-third of the budget, after adjustment for the salaries of the shared administrative functions for the Clerk, Printer and Financial Administrator, under the direction of the Ranking Minority Member for the purposes of minority staff, travel expenses of minority staff and Members, and all other minority office expenses.

#### RULE XIV. AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, in the same manner and method as prescribed for the adoption of committee rules in clause 2 of House Rule XI, but only if written notice of the proposed change has been provided to each such Member at least 3 days before the time of the meeting at which the vote on the change occurs. Any such change in the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record within 30 calendar days after their approval.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 439. An act to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 52 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, February 8, 2019, at 9 a.m.



## EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the fourth quarter of 2018, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

## REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, ERIC AMIDON, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 25 AND DEC. 28, 2018

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Eric Amidon .....	12/25	12/26	Kuwait .....	64.92	214.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	64.92	214.00
	12/26	12/27	Italy .....	242.65	277.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	242.65	277.00
	12/27	12/28	Spain .....	230.39	263.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	230.39	263.00
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	754.00

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ERIC AMIDON, Jan. 25, 2019.

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

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Justin Masucci .....	10/18	10/24	China .....	.....	2,350.00	.....	12,403.00	.....	670.00	.....	15,423.00
Andrew Cooper .....	10/24	10/25	Hong Kong .....	.....	535.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	535.00
	10/18	10/24	China .....	.....	2,350.00	.....	9,870.00	.....	670.00	.....	12,890.00
	10/24	10/25	Hong Kong .....	.....	535.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	535.00
Thomas O'Brien .....	10/25	10/27	Japan .....	.....	970.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	970.00
	10/18	10/24	China .....	.....	2,350.00	.....	9,870.00	.....	670.00	.....	12,890.00
	10/24	10/25	Hong Kong .....	.....	535.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	535.00
Hon. John Carter .....	10/25	10/27	Japan .....	.....	970.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	970.00
	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
Sarah Young .....	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
Hon. Henry Cuellar .....	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
Hon. John H. Rutherford .....	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
Hon. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger .....	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
	11/8	11/10	France .....	.....	1,528.68	.....	820.22	.....	303.22	.....	2,652.12
	11/11	11/13	Belgium .....	.....	684.00	.....	485.56	.....	222.33	.....	1,391.89
Hon. Henry Cuellar .....	10/1	10/2	Germany .....	.....	292.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	292.00
	10/2	10/4	Rwanda .....	.....	578.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	578.00
	10/4	10/7	Botswana .....	.....	693.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	693.00
Hayden Milberg .....	10/7	10/8	Angola .....	.....	480.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	480.00
	10/8	10/9	Tunisia .....	.....	179.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	179.00
	10/9	10/10	Portugal .....	.....	322.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	322.00
David Bortnick .....	11/5	11/8	Bahrain .....	.....	621.34	.....	11,321.63	.....	.....	.....	11,942.97
	11/8	11/9	Niger .....	.....	114.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	114.00
	10/28	11/1	Colombia .....	.....	913.00	.....	2,370.36	.....	811.00	.....	4,094.36
Erin Kolodjeski .....	11/1	11/3	Peru .....	.....	715.39	.....	.....	.....	1,029.03	.....	1,744.42
	10/23	10/25	Cambodia .....	.....	487.00	.....	7,739.63	.....	2,084.10	.....	10,310.73
	10/25	10/27	Thailand .....	.....	460.91	.....	.....	.....	107.04	.....	567.95
Winifred Chang .....	10/1	10/30	Laos .....	.....	463.00	.....	.....	.....	1,964.54	.....	2,427.54
	10/23	10/25	Cambodia .....	.....	487.00	.....	7,461.43	.....	2,084.10	.....	10,032.53
	10/25	10/27	Thailand .....	.....	460.91	.....	.....	.....	107.04	.....	567.95
Leslie Albright .....	10/1	10/30	Laos .....	.....	463.00	.....	.....	.....	1,964.54	.....	2,427.54
	10/17	10/26	Chile .....	.....	1,444.00	.....	14,740.83	.....	.....	.....	16,184.83
	11/5	11/9	Palau .....	.....	1,128.64	.....	437.00	.....	259.33	.....	1,824.97
Kristin Richmond .....	11/5	11/9	Palau .....	.....	1,128.64	.....	437.00	.....	259.33	.....	1,824.97
	11/5	11/9	Palau .....	.....	1,128.64	.....	437.00	.....	259.33	.....	1,824.97
	10/17	10/18	Austria .....	.....	360.00	.....	3,236.81	.....	.....	.....	3,596.81
Angelina Giancarlo .....	10/18	10/21	Czech Republic .....	.....	1,119.15	.....	103.65	.....	.....	.....	1,222.80
	10/21	10/24	Denmark .....	.....	1,197.00	.....	1,158.53	.....	105.00	.....	2,460.53
	10/17	10/18	Austria .....	.....	360.00	.....	3,236.81	.....	.....	.....	3,596.81
Loraine Heckenberg .....	10/18	10/21	Czech Republic .....	.....	1,119.15	.....	103.65	.....	.....	.....	1,222.80
	10/21	10/24	Denmark .....	.....	1,197.00	.....	651.97	.....	571.67	.....	2,420.64
	10/17	10/18	Austria .....	.....	360.00	.....	3,236.81	.....	.....	.....	3,596.81
Perry Yates .....	10/18	10/21	Czech Republic .....	.....	1,119.15	.....	103.65	.....	.....	.....	1,222.80
	10/21	10/24	Denmark .....	.....	1,197.00	.....	702.37	.....	571.67	.....	2,471.04
	10/21	10/25	Israel .....	.....	2,080.00	.....	11,418.43	.....	.....	.....	13,498.43
Jennifer Miller .....	10/25	10/27	Jordan .....	.....	710.81	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	710.81
	10/21	10/25	Israel .....	.....	2,080.00	.....	12,528.83	.....	.....	.....	14,608.83
	10/25	10/27	Jordan .....	.....	710.81	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	710.81
Maureen Holohan .....	10/28	10/30	Iraq .....	.....	130.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130.00
	10/22	10/25	Israel .....	.....	1,040.00	.....	6,582.03	.....	.....	.....	7,622.03
	10/25	10/28	Jordan .....	.....	1,066.22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,066.22
Rebecca Leggieri .....	10/28	10/30	Iraq .....	.....	130.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130.00
	10/22	10/25	Israel .....	.....	1,040.00	.....	6,582.03	.....	.....	.....	7,622.03
	10/25	10/28	Jordan .....	.....	1,066.22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,066.22
Hayden Milberg .....	10/28	10/30	Iraq .....	.....	130.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130.00
	10/22	10/25	Israel .....	.....	1,040.00	.....	6,582.03	.....	.....	.....	7,622.03
	10/25	10/28	Jordan .....	.....	1,066.22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,066.22
Stephen Steigleder .....	10/28	10/30	Iraq .....	.....	130.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	130.00
	10/27	10/29	Rwanda .....	.....	444.00	.....	19,549.50	.....	.....	.....	19,993.50
	10/29	11/1	Uganda .....	.....	789.00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	789.00
Brooke Boyer .....	11/1	11/3	Madagascar .....	.....	395.52	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	395.52
	11/3	11/4	Dem. Rep. of Congo .....	.....	391.00	.....	.....	.....	155.00	.....	546.00
	10/16	10/18	Italy .....	.....	427.51	.....	10,041.84	.....	0.80	.....	10,470.15
Jason Gray .....	10/18	10/21	Germany .....	.....	1,035.12	.....	17.14	.....	82.67	.....	1,134.93
	10/21	10/24	Israel .....	.....	1,560.00	.....	72.58	.....	719.25	.....	2,351.83
	10/18	10/21	Germany .....	.....	906.12	.....	5,443.84	.....	82.67	.....	6,432.63
Mathew Bower .....	10/21	10/24	Israel .....	.....	1,560.00	.....	150.90	.....	705.13	.....	2,416.03
	10/16	10/18	Italy .....	.....	427.51	.....	10,041.84	.....	1.53	.....	10,470.88
	10/18	10/21	Germany .....	.....	1,035.12	.....	47.74	.....	82.67	.....	1,165.53
Hon. Henry Cuellar .....	10/21	10/24	Israel .....	.....	1,560.00	.....	72.58	.....	719.25	.....	2,351.83
	11/30	12/2	Mexico .....	.....	118.00	.....	.....	.....	487.90	.....	605.90
Committee total .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	63,079.28	.....	178,700.31	.....	19,852.34	.....	261,631.93

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NITA M. LOWEY, Jan. 30, 2019.

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

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. John Curtis .....	10/1	10/2	Germany .....		292.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				292.00
	10/2	10/4	Rwanda .....		578.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				578.00
	10/4	10/7	Botswana .....		693.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				693.00
	10/7	10/8	Angola .....		480.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				480.00
	10/8	10/9	Tunisia .....		179.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				179.00
	10/9	10/10	Portugal .....		322.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				322.00
Matthew Zweig .....	10/21	10/23	United Kingdom .....		925.18		4,234.04				5,159.22
	10/23	10/26	Israel .....		1,460.00						1,460.00
	10/26	10/29	Bahrain .....		900.53						900.53
Mira Resnick .....	10/25	10/29	Bahrain .....		1,697.89		2,969.43				4,667.32
Janice Kaguyutan .....	10/20	10/23	Japan .....		1,362.00		7,241.11				8,603.11
	10/23	10/26	South Korea .....		992.00						992.00
Amy Porter .....	10/20	10/23	Japan .....		1,378.31		6,220.86				7,599.17
	10/23	10/26	South Korea .....		1,002.32						1,002.32
Douglas Anderson .....	10/20	10/23	Japan .....		1,362.31		6,220.86				7,583.17
	10/23	10/26	South Korea .....		985.52						985.52
Megan Gallagher .....	11/5	11/10	Niger .....		688.21		6,771.14				7,459.35
Mark Iozzi .....	11/5	11/10	Niger .....		688.21		6,771.14				7,459.35
Kimberly Stanton .....	11/21	11/24	Switzerland .....		1,325.17		1,034.88				2,360.05
Hon. Norma Torres .....	10/22	10/24	Guatemala .....				1,120.63				1,120.63
Eric Jacobstein .....	10/22	10/24	Guatemala .....				531.63				531.63
Sajit Gandhi .....	10/21	10/24	India .....		986.85		9,417.90				10,404.75
	10/24	10/25	Afghanistan .....		33.00						33.00
Oren Adaki .....	11/2	11/4	Serbia .....		537.00		3,515.73				4,052.73
	11/4	11/6	Czech Republic .....		883.42						883.42
Hon. Ted Poe* .....	11/2	11/4	Serbia .....		537.00		*6,803.13		959		8,299.13
	11/4	11/6	Czech Republic .....		883.42						883.42
Leah Campos .....	11/30	12/2	Mexico .....		723.90		( <sup>3</sup> )				723.90
Hon. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen .....	10/18	10/21	Jordan .....		1,065.05		9,602.44				10,667.49
	10/21	10/24	Israel .....		1,630.00						1,630.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco .....		870.29						870.29
	10/27	10/28	Spain .....		233.52						233.52
Nathan Gately .....	10/18	10/21	Jordan .....		1,065.05		12,099.74				13,164.79
	10/21	10/24	Israel .....		1,630.00						1,630.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco .....		870.29						870.29
	10/27	10/28	Spain .....		233.52						233.52
Gabriella Boffelli .....	10/18	10/21	Jordan .....		1,065.05		12,099.74				13,164.79
	10/21	10/24	Israel .....		1,630.00						1,630.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco .....		870.29						870.29
	10/27	10/28	Spain .....		233.52						233.52
Hon. Norma Torres .....	9/29	9/30	Honduras .....		226.43		1,558.49				1,784.92
	9/30	10/2	Guatemala .....		357.83						357.85
Hon. Tom Garrett** .....	10/12	10/20	Moldova .....	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	10/12	10/20	Ukraine .....	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	10/12	10/20	Belarus .....	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
	10/12	10/20	Latvia .....	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Russell Solomon .....	10/27	10/30	Egypt .....		819.00		2,900.73				3,719.73
	10/30	11/2	Tunisia .....		547.52						547.52
Emily Cottle .....	10/27	10/30	Egypt .....		745.00		2,970.63				3,715.63
	10/30	11/2	Tunisia .....		497.52						497.52
Cory Fritz .....	10/21	10/27	South Africa .....		1,475.95		13,180.43				14,656.38
Thomas Sheehy .....	10/21	10/27	South Africa .....		1,475.95		13,180.43				14,656.38
Hon. Edward Royce* .....	10/21	10/27	South Africa .....		1,475.95		*13,406.73		2,290.52		17,173.20
Hon. Lee Zeldin*** .....	12/25	12/26	Kuwait .....	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
	12/26	12/27	Sicily .....	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
	12/27	12/28	Spain .....	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Hon. Brian Fitzpatrick*** .....	12/25	12/26	Kuwait .....	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
	12/26	12/27	Sicily .....	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
	12/27	12/28	Spain .....	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Committee total .....					40,913.97		143,851.84		3,249.52		188,015.33

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

\*Indicates Delegation costs

\*\*Indicates a cancelled mission

\*\*\*Indicates lack of expenditure reporting due to partial government shutdown; report will be amended once receipts are provided by State

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL, Jan. 30, 2019.

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

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Jenniffer González-Colón .....	11/17	11/18	Czech Republic .....		416.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				416.00
	11/18	11/20	Uzbekistan .....		558.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				558.00
	11/20	11/21	Djibouti .....		381.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				381.00
	11/21	11/23	Kuwait .....		864.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				864.00
	11/23	11/24	Ireland .....		267.00		( <sup>3</sup> )				267.00
	10/22	10/24	Israel .....		1,180.00						1,180.00
	10/24	10/27	Morocco .....		850.00						850.00
	10/27	10/28	Spain .....		352.00						352.00
							13,334.34				13,334.34
Committee total .....					4,868.00		13,334.34				18,202.34

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. STEVE CHABOT, Jan. 24, 2019.

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

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
HOUSE COMMITTEES											
Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. <input type="checkbox"/>											

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVID P. ROE, Jan. 29, 2019.

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

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Hon. Diane Black .....	10/27	11/31	Tokyo, Japan .....		863.00		4,708.63		1,840.79		7,412.42
	10/31	11/4	Beijing, China .....		357.00				662.00		1,019.00
Angela Ellard .....	11/12	11/18	Papua New Guinea .....		5,623.16		499.99		4,705.16		10,828.31
Joshua Snead .....	11/12	11/18	Papua New Guinea .....		5,623.16		499.99		4,705.16		10,828.31
Committee total .....					12,466.32		5,708.61		11,913.11		30,088.04

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

HON. KEVIN BRADY, Jan. 25, 2019.

## BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act Of 2010 (PAYGO), I hereby submit, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 450, the Preventing Crimes Against Veterans Act of 2019, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

96. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-594, "Sports Wagering Lottery Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

97. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-593, "Sexual Abuse Statute of Limitations Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

98. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-592, "Fare Evasion Decriminalization Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

99. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-579, "Foster Parent Training Regulation Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

100. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-580, "Foreign-Government-Owned Vacant and Blighted Building Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

101. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C.

Act 22-581, "Women, Infants, and Children Program Expansion Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

102. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-582, "Medical Necessity Review Criteria Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

103. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-583, "CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

104. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-584, "Internet Sales Tax Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

105. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-585, "Northwest One Surplus and Disposition Approval Omnibus Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

106. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-586, "Rental Housing Smoke-Free Common Area Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

107. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-587, "Breast Density Screening and Notification Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

108. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-589, "Rhode Island Avenue (RIA) Tax Increment Financing Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

109. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-588, "Hidden Figures Way Designation Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

110. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-591, "Fair Condominium Withdrawal Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

111. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-590, "Paperwork Reduction and Data Collection Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

112. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 22-595, "Health Insurance Marketplace Improvement Amendment Act of 2018", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

113. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — VA Claims and Appeals Modernization (RIN: 2900-AQ26) received February 6, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

114. A letter from the Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Veterans' Group Life Insurance Increased Coverage (RIN: 2900-AQ12) received February 6 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

115. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Per Diem Paid to States for Care of Eligible Veterans in State Homes (RIN: 2900-A088) received February 6, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## 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 Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KATKO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H.R. 1032. A bill to provide for the retention and service of transgender individuals in the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. JONES, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 1033. A bill to amend the Arms Export Control Act to modify certification and report requirements relating to sales of major defense equipment with respect to which nonrecurring costs of research, development, and production are waived or reduced under the Arms Export Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 1034. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require pharmacy-negotiated price concessions to be included in negotiated prices at the point-of-sale under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WESTERMAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. KING of Iowa, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. VELA, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 1035. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for pharmacy benefits manager standards under the Medicare prescription drug program and Medicare Advantage program to further transparency of payment methodologies to pharmacies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Oversight and Reform, 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. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1036. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to clarify the exclusion for seller-financiers from the definition of mortgage originator, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1037. A bill to increase transparency with respect to financial services benefitting state sponsors of terrorism, human rights abusers, and corrupt officials, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1038. A bill to require the Treasury to take a more prominent role in coordinating AML/CFT policy and examinations across the Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1039. A bill to streamline requirements for currency transaction reports and suspicious activity reports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1040. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide taxpayers a flat tax alternative to the current income tax system; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 1041. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. KING of New York, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CRIST, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILD, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIMES, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. HASTINGS, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 1042. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to require that covered persons develop and implement emergency contingency plans; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. MURPHY, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. MOORE, Mr. COLE, Mr. BACON, Mr. BARR, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOK, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GROTHMAN, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KINZINGER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LAMB, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. WELCH, Ms.

WILSON of Florida, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 1043. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to employer payments of qualified education loans; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BACON, Mr. BARR, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BERA, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COMER, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COX of California, Mr. CROW, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. EMMER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. ESTES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KATKO, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIND, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LONG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MASSIE, Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PERRY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SIREN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. UPTON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. WILD, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mrs. MURPHY):

H.R. 1044. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 1045. A bill to provide for improvements in the treatment of detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. ADAMS,

Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIM, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WILD, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. MALINOWSKI):

H.R. 1046. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices of prescription drugs furnished under part D of the Medicare program; 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 Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 1047. A bill to give effect to more accurate maps of units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System that were produced by digital mapping of such units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE (for himself and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 1048. A bill to authorize phase III of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. HIGGINS of New

York, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TURNER, Mr. UPTON, Ms. WILD, and Mr. HASTINGS):

H.R. 1049. A bill to authorize a National Heritage Area Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SIRE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PETERS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BEYER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MENG, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. SOTO, Mr. NEAL, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. McEACHIN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. SPEIER):

H.R. 1050. A bill to provide for the administration of certain national monuments, to establish a National Monument Enhancement Fund, and to establish certain wilderness areas in the States of New Mexico and Nevada; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1051. A bill to amend section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, to require payment of interest on back pay for employees affected by a lapse in appropriations; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 1052. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for direct payment to physician assistants under the Medicare program for certain services furnished by such physician assistants; 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 Mr. CARBAJAL (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1053. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to issue regulations to require public corporations to disclose political expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. WALKER, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama):

H.R. 1054. A bill to strengthen the capacity and competitiveness of historically Black colleges and universities through robust public-sector, private-sector, and community partnerships and engagement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. LEE of

California, Mr. CONNOLLY, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. POCAN, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. McEACHIN, Mr. GALLEGGO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERA, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. DELAULO, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SIRE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MOORE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BEYER, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CRIST, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Ms. OMAR, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COHEN, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. BASS, Mr. HECK, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. DEAN, Mr. KIND, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. WATERS, Mr.

HIMES, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RYAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. TRONE, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 1055. A bill to prohibit the application of certain restrictive eligibility requirements to foreign nongovernmental organizations with respect to the provision of assistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 1056. A bill to designate the Frank and Jeanne Moore Wild Steelhead Special Management Area in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. YARMUTH):

H.R. 1057. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1058. A bill to reauthorize certain provisions of the Public Health Service Act relating to autism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FLORES, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. STEWART, Ms. FINKENAUER, and Mrs. AXNE):

H.R. 1059. A bill to ensure timely completion of the concurrent resolution on the budget and regular appropriation bills, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. LOUDERMILK (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 1060. A bill to provide regulatory relief to charitable organizations that provide housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WATKINS (for himself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 1061. A bill to modify the boundary of the Fort Scott National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 1062. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 1063. A bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. HILL of California (for herself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 1064. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1065. A bill to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 1066. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to require a school food authority to make publicly available any waiver of the Buy American requirement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. AGUILAR (for himself and Mr. COOK):

H.R. 1067. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal lands in San Bernardino County, California, to the San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District, and to accept in return certain non-Federal lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 1068. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that the temporary refundable portion of the child tax credit is not less than the payroll taxes paid by the taxpayer; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 1069. A bill to prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from operating unlicensed temporary emergency shelters for unaccompanied alien children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CICILLINE (for himself and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1070. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the dollar and income limitations on the deduction for student loan interest; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1071. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the deduction for qualified tuition and related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 1072. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to limit the authority of States and localities to regulate conduct, or impose penalties or taxes, in relation to rifles or shotguns; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms.

NORTON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. BEYER, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. SABLAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. VELA, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 1073. A bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 3.6 percent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. OMAR, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILD, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 1074. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to expand coverage under the Act, to increase protections for whistleblowers, to increase penalties for high gravity violations, to adjust penalties for inflation, to provide rights for victims or their family members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. SARBANES):

H.R. 1075. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to amend the process by which students with certain special circumstances apply for Federal financial aid; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Mr. COLLINS of Georgia):

H.R. 1076. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant has received a conditional offer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, Armed Services, and Education and Labor, 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. DAVIDSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WALKER, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. POSEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ALLEN, and Mr. YOHIO):

H.R. 1077. A bill to require the Congressional Budget Office to make publicly available the fiscal and mathematical models, data, and other details of computations used in cost analysis and scoring; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

H.R. 1078. A bill to prohibit the removal from the United States of certain veterans, to expedite their naturalization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and 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. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

H.R. 1079. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms,



and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. COX of California, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 1080. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide increased labor law protections for agricultural workers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. ROONEY of Florida):

H.R. 1081. A bill to require reports by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence relating to construction of the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 1082. A bill to plan, develop, and make recommendations to increase access to sexual assault examinations for survivors by holding hospitals accountable and supporting the providers that serve them; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, 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. KATKO (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 1083. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign \$20 Federal reserve notes so as to include a likeness of Harriet Tubman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. ESTES, Mr. REED, and Mr. MARCHANT):

H.R. 1084. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage retirement and family savings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio, and Mr. CHABOT):

H.R. 1085. A bill to require any amounts remaining in Members' Representational Allowances at the end of a fiscal year to be deposited in the Treasury and used for deficit reduction or to reduce the Federal debt; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BLUMENAUER,

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BEYER, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1086. A bill to prohibit the research and development, production, and deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. RATCLIFFE):

H.R. 1087. A bill to require each agency, in providing notice of a rule making, to include a link to a 100 word plain language summary of the proposed rule; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL:  
H.R. 1088. A bill to authorize the Society of the First Infantry Division to make modifications to the First Division Monument located on Federal land in Presidential Park in District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:  
H.R. 1089. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that gain or loss on the sale or exchange of certain coins or bullion is exempt from recognition; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1090. A bill to extend to the Mayor of the District of Columbia the same authority over the National Guard of the District of Columbia as the Governors of the several States exercise over the National Guard of those States with respect to administration of the National Guard and its use to respond to natural disasters and other civil disturbances, while ensuring that the President retains control of the National Guard of the District of Columbia to respond to homeland defense emergencies; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:  
H.R. 1091. A bill to clarify certain land descriptions under the Northern Arizona Land Exchange and Verde River Basin Partnership Act of 2005; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. MOORE, Mr. RUSH, Ms. NORTON, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SABLON):

H.R. 1092. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs for military sexual trauma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. POCAN (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 1093. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish an excise tax on certain prescription drugs which have been subject to a price spike, and for other purposes; 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 Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. COLE, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. MOORE, Mr. KIND, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 1094. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Defense to make grants to support the study of world languages in elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:  
H.R. 1095. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to automatically postpone certain deadlines in the case of taxpayers located in a disaster area; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:  
H.R. 1096. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for open internet requirements for providers of broadband internet access service; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Mr. MASSIE):

H.R. 1097. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent unjust and irrational criminal punishments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 1098. A bill to gather information about the illicit production of illicit fentanyl in foreign countries and to withhold bilateral assistance from countries that do not have emergency scheduling procedures for new illicit drugs, cannot prosecute criminals for the manufacture or distribution of controlled substance analogues, or do not require the registration of tableting machines and encapsulating machines; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SERRANO (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Miss GONZALEZ-COLON of Puerto Rico, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 1099. A bill to require construction inspection functions be conducted by public employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 1100. A bill to direct the Attorney General to make grants to States that have in place laws that expand the protections offered to victims of sex offenses who are not in a familiar or dating relationship with the perpetrators of such offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 1101. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure internet openness, to prohibit blocking lawful content and non-harmful devices, to prohibit throttling data, to prohibit paid prioritization, to require transparency of network management practices, to provide that broadband shall be considered to be an information service, and to prohibit the Commission or a State commission from relying on section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 as a grant of authority; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms.

SHALALA, and Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL):

H.R. 1102. A bill to assess and mitigate threats posed by Russian-Venezuelan cooperation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. DeFAZIO, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 1103. A bill to amend the market name of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. DeFAZIO, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 1104. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to require labeling of genetically engineered fish; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. DeFAZIO, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 1105. A bill to prevent the escapement of genetically altered salmon in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MEADOWS, and Mr. BROOKS of Alabama):

H.R. 1106. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that individuals who naturalized under title III of that Act, who are affiliated with a criminal gang, are subject to revocation of citizenship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. MENG, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. SABLON, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DeLAURO, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KEATING, Mr. DeFAZIO, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. WATERS):

H. Res. 109. A resolution recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, Education and Labor, Transportation and Infrastructure, Agriculture, Natural Resources, Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Ways and Means, and Oversight and Reform, 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. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H. Res. 110. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require a specific oath be administered to any witness appearing before a committee; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. LEE of California:

H. Res. 111. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROONEY of Florida (for himself and Mr. GAETZ):

H. Res. 112. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that sea level rise and flooding are of urgent concern impacting Florida that require proactive measures for community planning and the States tourism-based economy to adapt; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced a bill (H.R. 1107) for the relief of Judge Neringa Venckiene, who the Government of Lithuania seeks on charges related to her pursuit of justice against Lithuanian public officials accused of sexually molesting her young niece; 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 Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 1032.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. SPEIER:

H.R. 1033.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 1034.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. COLLINS of Georgia:

H.R. 1035.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States of America

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1036.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1037.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1038.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. RIGGLEMAN:

H.R. 1039.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18,

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The attached bill falls within Congress' constitutionally enumerated power to enact legislation pertaining to an income tax pursuant to Article I, Section VIII, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect Taxes."

Moreover, Congress was given the authority to tax income at the federal level pursuant to Amendment XVI, "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration."

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 1041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1043.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 1044.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 1045.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 1046.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 1047.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 1048.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 1049.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I

Provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Ms. HAALAND:

H.R. 1050.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 1051.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 1052.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1.  
[Page H3316]

By Mr. CARBAJAL:

H.R. 1053.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 1054.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. LOWEY:

H.R. 1055.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 1056.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 1057.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section VIII

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1058.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 1059.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 5

By Mr. LOUDERMILK:

H.R. 1060.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Mr. WATKINS:

H.R. 1061.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 1062.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION  
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1063.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. HILL of California:

H.R. 1064.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution—Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 1065.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 1066.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H.R. 1067.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 1068.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 1069.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CICILLINE:

H.R. 1071.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. COLLINS of New York:

H.R. 1072.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1073.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1074.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1075.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 1076.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

By Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio:

H.R. 1077.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into the Execution for the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 1078.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 13 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 15 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 16 of the U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 1079.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 1 (relating to providing for the common defense and general welfare of the United States) and Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 1080.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 1081.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 1082.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 1083.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 5 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 1084.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 1085.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7 states that “no money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.”

By Mr. TED LIEU of California:

H.R. 1086.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 1087.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MARSHALL:

H.R. 1088.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia:

H.R. 1089.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: The constitutional authority for the Monetary Metals Tax Neutrality Act of 2019 is found in Article I, Section 8, which gives Congress the power to lay and collect taxes.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1090.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 1091.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 1092.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution

By Mr. POCAN:

H.R. 1093.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 1094.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

As described in Article 1, Section 1, "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare" of Americans.

The intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States government, including those under Title 50 of the United States Code, are carried out to support the national security interests of the United States, to support and assist the armed forces of the United States, and to support the President in the execution of the foreign policy of the United States.

In the Department of Education Organization Act (P.L. 96-88), Congress declared that "the establishment of a Department of Education is in the public interest, will promote the general welfare of the United States, will help ensure that education issues receive proper treatment at the Federal level, and will enable the Federal Government to coordinate its education activities more effectively." The Department of Education's mission is to "promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access."

By Mr. RICE of South Carolina:

H.R. 1095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 1096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8, Clause 3 Congress shall have the Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 1097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 1099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the U.S. Constitution

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution.

By Mr. WALDEN:

H.R. 1101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 1102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 1103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;"

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 1104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;"

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 1105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;"

By Mr. ZELDIN:

H.R. 1106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have the power "To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;"

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 33: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 35: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CISNEROS, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 51: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 89: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 93: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 95: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. ESTES, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. BEYER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WELCH, Mr. AGUILAR, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 141: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. BARR, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 155: Mr. SCALISE, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 188: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. ZELDIN.

H.R. 204: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 216: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 219: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. BARR.

H.R. 249: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 273: Mr. SWALWELL of California and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 295: Mr. YOHO.

H.R. 299: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LATTA, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. KING of New

York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. HORSFORD, Mrs. MILLER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. WILD, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. AMASH, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. GOHMERT, and Mrs. HARTZLER.

H.R. 305: Mr. CLOUD, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 307: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 309: Mrs. LURIA and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 339: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 344: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. HARTZLER, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 369: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 394: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 397: Mr. BRINDISI, Ms. TITUS, Mrs.

CRAIG, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. GALLEGOS.

H.R. 401: Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. BIGGS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. NEAL, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 450: Mr. KINZINGER and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 479: Mr. JORDAN and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 485: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. COLE, and Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 494: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 507: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 526: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 538: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 550: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILD, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 553: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.

H.R. 555: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KIND, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 562: Mr. RYAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MOORE, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 579: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 580: Mr. MEADOWS.

H.R. 587: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 590: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 613: Mr. COLLINS of New York and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico.

H.R. 621: Mr. MAST and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 628: Mr. BUDD, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 638: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 641: Ms. DELAURIO.

H.R. 647: Mr. HECK and Mr. KIND.

H.R. 649: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 663: Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. HIMES, and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 669: Ms. OMAR and Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 678: Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 734: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 738: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 740: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 741: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 744: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 748: Mr. STEWART, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BRINDISI, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs.

RADEWAGEN, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Mrs.

LURIA, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. WATKINS, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 763: Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 764: Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 770: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 796: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BABIN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WRIGHT, and Mr.

ROUZER.

H.R. 806: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 808: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 810: Mr. HIMES and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 824: Mr. TONKO, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PAYNE, Mr.

TRONE, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 832: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. KING of Iowa, and Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 840: Mrs. LURIA, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. ROUDA.

H.R. 845: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 848: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.

H.R. 850: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. SPANO.

H.R. 863: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 864: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 872: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 873: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 874: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 878: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 883: Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SOTO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GOMEZ, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 888: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. LUTKEMEYER, and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 897: Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. LATTA, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, and Mr. OLSON.

H.R. 898: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 914: Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas and Mr. STIVERS.

H.R. 915: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 918: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 934: Ms. WILD, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 936: Mr. CISNEROS and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 948: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 949: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 962: Mr. STEIL, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COOK, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. WEB-

STER of Florida, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. MILLER, Mr. BUCK, Mr. McCaul, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. FLORES, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Mr. HOLDING.

H.R. 965: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 1002: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 1019: Mr. BACON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COLE, Mr. COOK, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HOLDING, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. RYAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. TURNER, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BAIRD, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.J. Res. 22: Mr. STEUBE.

H.J. Res. 34: Mr. JORDAN.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 23: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. SUOZZI, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 33: Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. STIVERS, and Ms. WEXTON.

H. Res. 34: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H. Res. 47: Mrs. LESKO.

H. Res. 49: Mr. SIRES, Mr. BANKS, Mr. YOHO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BACON, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. ALLEN.

H. Res. 54: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. CRIST, and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H. Res. 58: Mr. LAMB.

H. Res. 60: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VELA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KINZINGER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DELAURO, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. BEATY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MENG, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. SERRANO.

H. Res. 72: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. CURTIS.

H. Res. 88: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. COURTNEY.

H. Res. 95: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mrs. TORRES of California.

H. Res. 104: Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. BERGMAN.

H. Res. 106: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. MENG, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. SERRANO.