The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC, February 11, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable G. K. BUTTERFIELD 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

HONORING SWEDISH COMMUNITY OF LINDSBORG, KANSAS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of a town in my district, Lindsborg, Kansas, also known as Little Sweden.

The town was originally settled in 1869 by hardworking Swedish farmers who, like my great-grandfather, had left Sweden because of the potato famine.

These farmers were new to America and new to the landscape and climate of Kansas. Their goal was to establish a home and community rich in Swedish culture, religion, and business.

Today, Lindsborg is a bright, vibrant community where retailers feature unique traditional Swedish treats and artwork; where visitors can walk up and down the streets and Main Street and find more than 15 wild Dala horses painted to represent a unique piece of Lindborg’s culture. My own family often has one of these Dala horses in their entryway as folks enter their house.

It is a community that is proud of its heritage and comes together to carry on a variety of Swedish festivals and traditions honoring its original settlers.

I, myself, am one-quarter Swedish and very proud of this fact. Growing up, we kept many Swedish traditions in our family. We celebrated them whenever we had the occasion. Still today, our Christmas Eve dinners always feature various Swedish dishes, including pickled herring, anchovies, hardtack crackers, Swedish candies, and desserts. My mom, brother, and wife to this day enjoy their annual pilgrimage to Lindsborg to pick out their very special Swedish Christmas gifts.

In 2010, I was able to take my mother back to Sweden, along with my oldest son and daughter, and view the home that my grandfather had built; the farm where they farmed; the fences they had built out of stone; the barns they had built out of stone, still functional and standing today; and the water well my great-grandfather had dug. All of those parts of the farm were still functioning.

I was able to see the church where my great-grandfather and great-grandmother were married and see the cemetery where many of our relatives are buried to this day. It is a trip I will never forget.

I am very proud of my Swedish roots, and I am honored to represent Bethany College and the town of Lindsborg. This town will always have a very special place in my heart, and it is my honor to sponsor the resolution that celebrates this milestone for Lindsborg.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to represent this Swedish community, something that will always represent so much to my family.

CONGRATULATING DIANA SMITH

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Beatrice Municipal Airport manager, Diana Smith, on her induction into the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame.

Diana has worked at the airport, located in southeastern Nebraska, for 47 years, with the past 18 years as its manager. During her tenure, Diana has presided over a number of improvements to the Beatrice Municipal Airport, including a new administration building and the repaving of both its runways.

She went on to chair the Nebraska Aeronautics Commission in 2015, where she worked to support Nebraska’s airports statewide.

Please join me in thanking and congratulating Diana for her service to her local community and to the entire State of Nebraska.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.
The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) at 2 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) at 4 p.m.

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.

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DONATION REFORM ACT OF 2019

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1063) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, and for other purposes, as amended.

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 "Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2112 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(1) The Archivist may accept, taken title to, or entered into an agreement to use any land or facility for the Presidential archival depository or any facilities relating to a Presidential archival depository before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

"(2) any facilities relating to a Presidential archival depository; or

"(b) APPLICABILITY.—Section 2112(b) of title 44, United States Code (as added by section 2(a))—

"(1) A Presidential archival depository; or

"(2) any facilities relating to a Presidential archival depository; or

"(3) INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED.—The Archivist shall publish on the website of the National Archives and Records Administration the information required to be submitted under paragraph (1), without a fee or other access charge in a downloadable database.

"(4) SUBMISSION OF FALSE MATERIAL INFORMATION PROHIBITED.—

"(A) INDIVIDUAL.—

"(B) ORGANIZATION.—

"(i) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any person who makes a contribution described in paragraph (1) to knowingly and willfully submit false material information or omit material information with respect to the contribution to an organization described in such paragraph.

"(ii) Penalty.—The penalties described in section 1001 of title 18, United States Code, shall apply with respect to a violation of clause (i) in the same manner as a violation described in such section.

"(B) Organization.—

"(i) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any Presidential library fundraising organization to knowingly and willfully submit false material information or omit material information under paragraph (1).

"(ii) Penalty.—The penalties described in section 1001 of title 18, United States Code, shall apply with respect to a violation of clause (i) in the same manner as a violation described in such section.

"(C) Prohibition on contribution.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly and willfully—

"(B) PENALTY.—The penalties set forth in section 3904(d) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 437g(d)) shall apply to a violation of subparagraph (A) in the same manner as if such violation were a violation of section 316(b)(3) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 441b(b)(3)).

"(6) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Archivist shall promulgate regulations for the purpose of carrying out this subsection.

"(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) INFORMATION.—The term ‘information’ means the following:

"(i) The amount or value of each contribution made by a contributor referred to in paragraph (1) in the quarter covered by the submission;

"(ii) The source of each such contribution, and the address of the entity or individual that is the source of the contribution;

"(iii) If the source of such a contribution is an individual, the occupation of the individual;

"(iv) The date of each such contribution.

"(B) PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY FUNDRAISING ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Presidential library fundraising organization’ means an organization that is established for the purpose of raising funds for creating, maintaining, expanding, or conducting activities at—

"(i) a Presidential archival depository; or

"(ii) any facilities relating to a Presidential archival depository.

"(C) APPLICABILITY.—Section 2112(b) of title 44, United States Code (as added by subsection (a))—

"(1) shall apply to an organization established for the purpose of raising funds for creating, maintaining, expanding, or conducting activities at a Presidential archival depository or any facilities relating to a Presidential archival depository before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

"(2) shall apply only with respect to contributions (whether monetary or in-kind) made after the date of the enactment of this Act.
SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

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

SEC. 4. 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question was taken; and (two-thirds in the affirmative) the bill, as amended, passed the House, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1063, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, as it relates to this particular bill.

The bill would also create criminal penalties for individuals who report false information on donations and for fundraising organizations that omit donation information.

A group of 15 good government organizations, including Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and the Sunlight Foundation, sent a letter last Congress urging the House to support this bill.

Here is what they wrote: "Under the current opaque system, Presidents raise funds privately to establish their Presidential Libraries. These efforts, which often begin long before they leave office, are unregulated and undisclosed, creating opportunities for, and/or the appearance of, influence peddling. Improved transparency would help reduce the appearance of impropriety and help deter inappropriate behavior."

This bipartisan legislation would require the disclosure of donor information about every donor who gives $200 or more for a presidential library and establish penalties for false reporting and non-compliance. This bill would make these vital changes to the law to deter inappropriate behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of this body to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Under current law, Presidents can fundraise for their Presidential libraries through private, unlimited donations while they are still in office. There are no current requirements for any Presidential library fundraising organization to disclose the source or size of the donation it receives. Donations can be from individuals, companies, associations, and foreign governments, with no transparency.

Presidential libraries have become increasingly expensive as they have evolved into multipurpose centers.

The costs for building a Presidential library must come from private funding, and modern libraries cost millions—in some cases, hundreds of millions—of dollars to build.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center, for example, cost an estimated $250 million to build, and President Bush raised approximately $500 million for the building and an endowment for his library, museum, and institute.

Although President Obama has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for his Presidential library, he has voluntarily disclosed the names of those who have donated $200 or more.

We should not, however, rely on such voluntary disclosures. Under current law, Presidents are required to disclose the identities of those who donate to a Presidential library, and a President, while still in office, is able to raise an unlimited amount from private donations.

There is no limitation on who can donate to a sitting President for a Presidential library, or how much they may donate, and their identities remain secret.

This bill would require organizations that raise money to build Presidential libraries to disclose the identity of any individual who donates more than $200. The National Archives and Records Administration would then be required to post the donation information online.

The bill would also create criminal penalties for individuals who report false information on donations and for fundraising organizations that omit donation information.

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This bipartisan legislation would require the disclosure of donor information about every donor who gives $200 or more for a presidential library and establish penalties for false reporting and non-compliance. This bill would make these vital changes to the law to deter inappropriate behavior.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I introduced the Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2019 to make the process of raising money to build presidential libraries more transparent. I thank Representative MARK MEADOWS for joining me in sponsoring this legislation.

Right now, a president—while still in office—can raise an unlimited amount of money for a presidential library from private donations, and the identities of all the donors can remain secret. It is time to enact this bipartisan legislation to require the disclosure of donor information.

President Obama has also raised hundreds of millions of dollars for his presidential library. President Obama has voluntarily disclosed the names of donors who have given $200 or more. While I applaud President Obama's efforts at transparency, we cannot rely on every president to voluntarily disclose donor information.

This bipartisan legislation would require the disclosure of donor information about every donor who gives $200 or more for a presidential library and establish penalties for false reporting and non-compliance. This bill would make these vital changes to the law to deter inappropriate behavior.

Former Republican Representative John Duncan of Tennessee first sponsored a bill to improve Presidential libraries 19 years ago. A bill identical to the one before us passed the House in the last Congress with bipartisan support. I hope we now can finally get this important reform enacted.

The Presidential Library Donation Reform Act would make the process for building Presidential libraries more transparent. Presidential libraries have become increasingly expensive as they have evolved into multipurpose centers.

The costs for building a Presidential library must come from private funding, and modern libraries cost millions—in some cases, hundreds of millions—of dollars to build.

The George W. Bush Presidential Center, for example, cost an estimated $250 million to build, and President Bush raised approximately $500 million for the building and an endowment for his library, museum, and institute.

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There is no limitation on who can donate to a sitting President for a Presidential library, or how much they may donate, and their identities remain secret.

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A group of 15 good government organizations, including Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington and the Sunlight Foundation, sent a letter last Congress urging the House to support this bill.

Here is what they wrote: "Under the current opaque system, Presidents raise funds privately to establish their Presidential Libraries. These efforts, which often begin long before they leave office, are unregulated and undisclosed, creating opportunities for, and/or the appearance of, influence peddling. Improved transparency would help reduce the appearance of impropriety and help deter inappropriate behavior."

This bipartisan legislation would require the disclosure of donor information about every donor who gives $200 or more for a presidential library and establish penalties for false reporting and non-compliance. This bill would make these vital changes to the law to deter inappropriate behavior.

Former Republican Representative John Duncan of Tennessee first sponsored a bill to improve the process for building presidential libraries 19 years ago. Representative Duncan also sponsored the same legislation we are considering today with me last Congress. The bipartisan support and passed the House last Congress without opposition. It is past time for us to enact this bipartisan reform and shed light on an otherwise opaque system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1063, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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SOCIAL MEDIA USE IN CLEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS ACT OF 2019

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1065) to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

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 “Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. STUDY ON USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN SECURITY CLEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall submit to Congress a report on the examination of social media activity during security clearance investigations, including—

(1) the current use of publicly available social media in security clearance background investigations;
(2) any legal impediments to examining publicly available social media activity, and whether these impediments are statutory or regulatory in nature;
(3) the results of any pilot programs to incorporate social media checks in such investigations, including the effectiveness and cost of such programs;
(4) options for widespread implementation of the examination of social media activity during such investigations; and
(5) estimates on the cost for such options as part of—
(A) all Top Secret investigations; or
(B) all Secret and Top Secret investigations.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressmen LYNCH and HICE for their work on this bill. This bill would require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue a report to Congress on the use of social media checks in background investigations for security clearances.

In recent years, a number of agencies have begun pilot programs to help develop the best methods for incorporating social media into background checks. For example, the Army initiated a pilot program that found that, while checking social media is a valuable tool, it can be costly and may raise legal issues.

This bill would require that OMB conducts a comprehensive study on these issues and report back to Congress. This one-time report would describe the current use of social media postings for investigative purposes and any legal concerns or impediments to their use.

In addition, the report would summarize the results of any pilot programs on the use of social media for background investigations. It would also provide cost estimates for implementing their widespread use in the background investigation process.

This report would greatly assist Congress in determining whether further legislative action is needed when it comes to the Federal Government’s use of social media in background investigations. An identical measure was approved by the House last year without opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every Member of this body to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1065, the Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act, introduced by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. Speaker, I was at one of these hearings where we were talking about this very issue and how it was just mind-boggling that we would not use current protocols, in terms of looking at national security clearances and the approval thereof.

It was Mr. LYNCH’s initiative here to actually address that in a legislative manner, and I support his good work there.

Millions of Americans use social media to interact with family members, friends, and followers. Public posts on social media websites occasionally provide insight into a person’s character and interests.

In several high-profile cases, Federal contractors with valid security clearances who leaked classified information had posted highly suspicious entries on their social media accounts. For example, Edward Snowden used various online aliases to post suspicious content on the comment boards of a tech magazine before he received his security clearance. A simple check—perhaps simply ratifying what he had said—would have let us know of these suspicious activities and certainly could have worked to mitigate some of the damages that we all know too well.

Private companies and private citizens can and often do search publicly available social media profiles as they conduct background investigations for security clearance applicants.

On May 12, 2016, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence issued a new policy permitting the use of public social media information in security clearance investigations. Despite that legal clearance, most security clearance investigations still do not involve a social media check.

Various Federal entities have studied the potential use of social media information in background investigations for at least a decade. The National Security Agency, the Army, OPM, and others have conducted pilot programs on the effectiveness of social media checks and it is not clear what use has been made of this data for these programs or whether the programs can be expanded to cover more applicants.

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

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

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

As chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1065, the Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act, bipartisan legislation that I introduced earlier this month. It had passed this House previously, last session, with no opposition.

I commend our full committee chair, Mr. CUMMINGS of Maryland, for his continued leadership on this issue of security clearance reform and for his work to advance H.R. 1065 to the floor today.

I also thank the new ranking member of our subcommittee, Mr. HICE of Georgia, for his support as well.

In order to enhance the Federal security clearance process, H.R. 1065 will require the Office of Management and Budget to examine the extent to which Federal agencies are reviewing publicly available social media profiles as they conduct background investigations for security clearance applicants.

This bill will also require OMB to submit recommendations to Congress on how we can implement this examination of social media activity in clearance investigations across the Federal Government while also safeguarding individual privacy rights.

Our bipartisan oversight of the security clearance process has already revealed that Federal agencies have too often missed red flags in determining an individual’s eligibility to access classified information and facilities.
We need only recall the tragic shooting at the Washington Navy Yard in 2013 to underscore the devastating impact of a failure to effectively vet security clearance holders such as Aaron Alexis, a defense contractor with a marked history of gun violence who was still issued a secret-level clearance.

Chief among the recommendations offered by the interagency council that President Obama convened to identify lapses in security clearance reviews was the need for agencies to have “access to relevant information from a variety of sources.”

As noted by William Evanina, the head of counterintelligence for the U.S. government since 2014, his quote is:

Social media has become an integral and very public part of the fabric of many Americans’ daily lives. And we cannot ignore this important open source in our effort to safeguard our national interests.

Moreover, a public social media profile adds to the “mosaic” of a person and can reveal background investigations evidence suggesting a change in ideology, ill intent, vulnerability to blackmail, and allegiance to another country.

The integration of social media into security clearance background investigations falls in line with the unprecedented exploitation of Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, and other networking services by terrorist organizations, including the Islamic State.

As reported by the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, the prolific use of social media by terrorist groups has not only facilitated the dissemination of propaganda, but also served as a primary global recruitment and financing tool.

Foreign governments are also increasingly relying on social media to advance their espionage efforts. According to open source reports, Chinese spy agencies have routinely resorted to using fake LinkedIn accounts to try to recruit Americans with access to government and commercial secrets.

“60 Minutes” recently reported that former CIA officer Kevin Mallory, who has been convicted on espionage charges, was first approached by his Chinese government handlers through the LinkedIn career networking site.

In advance of our 2016 subcommittee hearing on this issue, then-Director of National Intelligence, James Clapper, directed Federal agencies to integrate public social media reviews into the security clearance process. While this directive was a step in the right direction, it has been incorporated quite unevenly in practice.

Our bill, H.R. 1065, will advance the full integration of this important reform to better ensure that our national security framework is adapting to evolving technologies much faster than the current process that is characteristic of the Federal Government.

I would note that, according to the annual job recruitment survey issued by CareerBuilder, an online employment resource, seven out of 10 private sector employers have already incorporated social media reviews into their hiring process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his kind remarks in reference to this bill, and commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1065.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman, again, for his thoughtfulness on this particular provision. I know that he has worked with my previous colleague, now the Governor of Florida, Mr. DeSantis, and we have great bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the adoption and passing of H.R. 1065, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 1065, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EBELING). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1065.

The question was taken.

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

ALLOWING WHISTLEBLOWERS TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION TO CERTAIN RECIPIENTS

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1064) to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

SEC. 1. RECIPIENTS OF WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURES.

Section 2029b(8)(B) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “or to the Inspector” and all that follows through “such disclosures” and inserting “the Inspector General of an agency, or a supervisor in the direct chain of command or to and including the head of the employing agency, or to an employee designated by any of the aforementioned individuals for the purpose of receiving such disclosures”.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of compliance 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I introduced this bill, along with the distinguished Congressman from North Carolina, Mr. MARK MEADOWS, to make it easier for whistleblowers to disclose wrongdoing. This bill would protect whistleblowers who report waste, fraud, or abuse, to their supervisors at a government agency.

Under current law, an employee would not be protected from retaliation for disclosing information to a supervisor, even if the employee reasonably believes it is necessary to expose a violation of a law, rule, or regulation. A whistleblower is currently only protected under law if they take their disclosures to the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, Congress, the head of the whistleblower’s agency, or an employee designated by the head of the agency.

Under this bill, an employee who is covered by the Whistleblower Protection Act could report alleged misconduct to any supervisor in their direct chain of command. This sensible change in law would allow employees to provide evidence of wrongdoing to a supervisor instead of whistleblowers to report all the way up to the head of an agency or an inspector general.

This change in law would protect employees who use the proper channels at their agency to report waste, fraud, and abuse. Employees in the intelligence community already have these whistleblower protections as a result of a Presidential policy directive issued in 2012. This bill would ensure that all federal employees have the same protections as whistleblowers in the intelligence community.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1064, and I want to thank the gentlewoman from California for her leadership on this effort. Any time that you support whistleblowers, it is a good day in Congress; and to do that in a bipartisan way, with

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the gentlewoman’s leadership, is cer-
tainly a day that should be applauded.
I thank the gentlewoman for her lead-
ership.
Whistleblowers in the Federal Gov-
ernment should be able to tell their su-
periors when something is going wrong.
That is the truth, no matter what,
especially in cases involving classified information which implies,
Mr. Speaker, that it is a matter of na-
tional security.
Under the current law, whistle-
blowers dealing with classified infor-
mation in the intelligence community
make protected disclosures to their superiors. However, whistleblowers
dealing with classified information
outside of the intelligence community
do not have the same protection.

With fewer legally-protected options,
employees outside of the intelligence
community may be more likely
to make an illegal disclosure to people
or entities without the proper security
clearance.

Federal employees dealing with clas-
sified information outside of the IC
community must be reassured that
they can report wrongdoing to the ap-
propriate people, including their su-
pervisors.

With that protection, whistleblowers
will be less likely to disclose protected
sensitive information on waste, fraud,
and abuse to the media or other enti-
ties or individuals outside of the proper
security clearance.

This bill would allow whistleblowers
to make protected disclosures of clas-
sified information to individuals within
their chain of command, as the gentle-
woman has already suggested.

There are very few conceivable cir-
cumstances in which a whistleblower
complaint to a supervisor would jeop-
ardize national security, but such dis-
closures are not currently protected.

There is no reasonable basis for con-
cern that whistleblowers throughout
the Federal Government having the
right to contact individuals within
their chain of command about waste,
fraud, or abuse of a classified nature.

These additional whistleblower protec-
tions will make it easier for Federal
employees to do the responsible thing
to disclose information.

I urge my colleagues to support this.
I thank the gentlewoman for her lead-
ership, and I yield back the balance
of my time.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker,
I urge passage of H.R. 1064, as amended,
and yield back the balance of my

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the motion offered by
the gentlewoman from California (Ms.
Hill) that the House suspend the rules
and pass the bill, H.R. 1064, as amend-
ed.

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

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT INFOR-
MATION DATABASE ACT OF 2019
Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker,
I move to suspend the rules and pass
the bill (H.R. 995) to amend chapter 3 of
section 5551 of title 5, United States Code,
to require the publication of settlement agree-
ments, and for other purposes, as
amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:
H.R. 995
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Rep-
resentatives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of
2019”.

SEC. 2. INFORMATION REGARDING SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS.—Chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

*§ 307. Information regarding settlement agreements

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘local government’ has the meaning given that term in section 6051 of title 5, United States Code.

(B) ORDER TYPE.—The term ‘order type’ means the type of action or instrument used
to settle a civil or criminal judicial action.

(C) SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The term ‘settlement agreement’ means a settlement agreement (including a consent decree) that—

(I) is entered into by an Executive agency;

(II) relates to an alleged violation of Federal civil or criminal law;

(III) is subject to a confidentiality provi-
sion that prohibits disclosure of the informa-
tion or copy (or portion thereof); and

(IV) is subject to a confidentiality provi-
sion that prohibits disclosure of the informa-
tion or copy (or portion thereof); and

(ii) A copy of each—

(1) settlement agreement entered into by the Executive agency; and

(2) statement issued under paragraph (4).

(B) Data standards, including common
data elements and a common, machine-readable,
platform-independent format,

(C) LOCAL GOVERNMENT .—The term 'local

management database for Executive agen-
cies to directly upload and submit the infor-

Cy .—In a case in which an Executive agency
is acting at the request or on behalf of an-
other Executive agency (referred to as the
originating agency), the originating agency
is responsible for submitting information
under subparagraph (A).

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Director of the Office of
Management and Budget shall issue guid-
ance for Executive agencies to imple-
ment paragraph (1). Such guidance shall include the following:

(A) Specific dates by which submissions

(B) Data standards, including common
data elements and a common, nonpro-
proprietary, searchable, machine-readable, plat-
form-independent format,

(C) A requirement that the information and
documents required under paragraph (1) are publicly available for a period
starting on the date of the settlement
through not less than 5 years after the termination of the
settlement agreement.

(D) ESTABLISHMENT OF DATABASE.—The Di-
rector of the Office of Management and
Budget, or the head of an Executive agency
designated by the Director, shall establish
and maintain a public, searchable,
downloadable database for Executive agen-
cies to directly upload and submit the infor-
mation and documents required under para-
graph (1) for immediate publication online.

(3) STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY.—If the head of an Executive agency determines that a confidentiality provision in a settle-
ment agreement, or the sealing of a settle-
ment agreement, is required to protect the public interest of the United States, the head
of the Executive agency may except the set-
tlement agreement from the requirement in
paragraph (1) and shall publish a written public statement stating why such action is
required to protect the public interest of the
United States, which shall explain—

(A) what interests confidentiality pro-

(B) why the interests protected by con-

(C) which Federal agencies and

(D) which Federal agencies and

(E) which Federal agencies and

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a. the public interest that is protected by

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(c)isettlement agreement shall be set-

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(z)isettlement agreement shall be set-
The Speaker: I ask unanimous consent that all Members to the rule, the gentlewoman from California, Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support this commonsense measure. The Settlement Agreement Information Database Act would create a database of settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies that relate to alleged violations of federal, civil or criminal law. The Office of Management and Budget would manage this database and set deadlines for submission. The heads of executive agencies would be required to submit details about the types of settlement agreements, the parties involved in the settlements, specific violations, and the dates on which the settlement agreements were agreed to.

The information about the settlement agreements would remain public until 5 years after the termination of the agreements. The information in the agreement would remain subject to the Freedom of Information Act, but if the head of the agency decided to keep an entire agreement confidential, he or she would be required to provide an explanation of that action.

This bill will improve the transparency surrounding settlement agreements which, in the past, have been difficult for the public to access. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 995. But before I do, I want to congratulate the gentlewoman on the passage, I believe, of her first bill here on the House floor; and I am very happy that, as someone keeping with this bipartisan support of H.R. 995, the Settlement Agreement Information Database Act of 2019 that was introduced, and is introduced, by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER).

Mr. Speaker, transparency and public participation are critical to maintaining the public trust in its government. However, Federal agencies have increasingly resolved litigation by entering into settlement agreements rather than going through a lengthy public trial.

Now settlement agreements are often negotiated behind closed doors. Those secret negotiations effectively prevent the public from participating in important policy sessions. Mr. Speaker, let me reiterate this. When these settlements are done, when they are actually consummated, they set up future public policy, and to do that behind closed doors is certainly not something that a transparent government should be about.

State and local governments, industry stakeholders, and taxpayers are often directly affected by these settlements, but unable to provide input. For example, through the settlement agreement, the Environmental Protection Agency required the city of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to overhaul its sewer system in 12 years. Sewer bills increased by 167 percent in 3 years to fund the obligation of this agreement. At the same time, Fort Smith residents' income actually decreased by 11 percent.

The burden of a Federal settlement can be difficult to see and understand. Poor recordkeeping makes it impossible for Congress and the public to determine the full impact of the Federal settlement agreements. Agencies release information about settlements at their discretion. Some agencies rely even on press releases to release the amount of information. So, as a result, the public only sees the facts through what the agency puts out annually in the most recent budget. So, in many cases these closed-door negotiations, the terms of the settlement are deemed confidential. Without an explanation to the public, the process becomes even more opaque and seemingly arbitrary.

H.R. 995 will shine a light on Federal settlement agreements. This bill will require the establishment of electronic and publicly available databases for agencies' settlement agreements. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this particular bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER), the sponsor of this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague from North Carolina in congratulating the gentlewoman from California for her first bill. I now know what that broad smile was about when the “yeas” were announced.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's duty to serve the public interest relies on transparency and accountability to its citizens; however, since the 1970s, Federal agencies have increasingly chosen to forego a public trial and settle litigation behind closed doors. The resulting consent decrees and settlement agreements can mandate terms beyond the scope of the original violation of Federal law and can lead to higher costs than a trial.

These agreements are nearly impossible to modify or vacate, and in many cases can remain in place for decades. In one instance in New York City, their special education program has been under a consent decree since 1972.

This process has influenced a range of public policies across governmental programs in States and cities, with elected officials inheriting the burden with little knowledge of the mandates or cost.
In Alabama, for instance, when former Member of Congress Governor Bob Riley was elected Governor of Alabama, he was going over the budget and saw the amount for legal fees and asked what it was for. He was informed of the number of cases dropped that the State was handling and they were paying out these legal fees, and it was an enormous amount.

Unfortunately, there is no uniform standard for recordkeeping across Federal agencies. While some agencies have issued directives to streamline and publish this information, most of the public’s access to Federal settlement agreement information is primarily issued, as my colleague from North Carolina pointed out, in the form of a press release. It is, therefore, impossible for the public to determine the comprehensive costs and outcomes of these settlement agreements.

This lack of transparency leaves elected officials, agency officials, and the public in the dark about the consent decrees that can impact them. Often times, newly elected officials, as I said, to governors to attorneys general to mayors are sworn in and inherit substantial legal obligations they were completely unaware of before they took office.

The Settlement Agreement Information Database Act will address this problem. The bill establishes a centralized and electronic database of settlement agreements entered into by Federal agencies. Basic information about the settlement agreements already collected by Federal agencies, such as payments and dates, will be available to the public online through this database.

H.R. 995 provides long overdue transparency and accountability and standards to the Federal settlement agreements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL), for their support on this bill, and I urge my other colleagues to support this bill as well.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for his leadership on this particular bill. I urge the adoption of it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentlemen from Alabama and from North Carolina for their congratulations and in sharing my excitement over the passage of my first bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 995, as amended, 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. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 995, 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. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CREATING ADVANCED STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC SERVICES FOR CONSTITUENTS ACT OF 2019

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1079) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes, as an amendment.

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

H.R. 1079

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 “Creating Advanced Streamlined Electronic Services for Constituents Act of 2019” or the “CASES Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) congressional offices provide crucial services to constituents by acting as a liaison between the constituents and the respective agencies;

(2) this includes assisting constituents by making inquiries and working toward resolutions on behalf of constituent with the respective agencies; and

(3) this process should be simplified through the creation of electronic forms that may be submitted under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Privacy Act), thus modernizing the process for constituents and improving access and efficiency of Government services and agencies in order to expedite the resolution of the problem for which constituents sought help.

SEC. 3. OMB GUIDANCE ON ELECTRONIC CONSENT AND ACCESS FORMS.

(a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance that does the following:

(1) Requires each agency to accept electronic identity proofing and authentication processes for the purposes of allowing an individual to provide prior written consent for the disclosure of the individual’s records under section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code, or for individual access to records under section 552a(d) of such title.

(2) Creates a template for electronic consent and access forms and requires each agency to provide a form to the public online through this data-base.

H.R. 995 provides long overdue transparency and accountability and standards to the Federal settlement agreements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HILL), for their support on this bill, and I urge my other colleagues to support this bill as well.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for his leadership on this particular bill. I urge the adoption of it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentlemen from Alabama and from North Carolina for their congratulations and in sharing my excitement over the passage of my first bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 995, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.
forms to be mailed or faxed, which can be next to impossible in certain circumstances, such as after a major storm or other natural disaster.

Under this bill, the Office of Management and Budget would be required to create a simple form for electronic consent forms and issue guidance to agencies requiring them to accept such forms.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan way in which this bill was developed. I thank Representatives Graves and Kennedy for their diligent efforts to address this problem.

This is a good bipartisan bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1079, the CASES for Constituents Act, introduced by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and, as was mentioned, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

I have some prepared remarks. Mr. Speaker, but let me just deviate from that for a moment.

Finally, two people have come together to get rid of the archaic way that we have to get disclosures, that only go to hurt our constituents whom we aim to serve. I mean, only in the government do we have this kind of way where we actually have to make sure that we run it over by a carrier pigeon to get something done.

All of us have been together where we are trying to serve our constituents. Sometimes it is very time sensitive, Mr. Speaker, and what do they want?

Well, you need to go get the privacy release form.

And when you go get the privacy release form: Well, no. That is not okay. You have got to get their actual signature.

And so we are sending people all over.

So it is with heartfelt gratitude, Mr. Speaker, that I want to thank these two gentlemen for doing something that is not only common sense but much needed.

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

Ms. HILL of California. Mr. Speaker, I will just note for the record that I believe faxes may or may not have ended their usefulness before I was born.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for her support and for her observation about the utility of fax machines; the gentleman from North Carolina as well for his comments of support; and my colleague, Mr. GRAVES, for his leadership, his advocacy on this piece of legislation, and for his determination in getting this done. It was a long, long slog to try to navigate our way through morass to get there, but we did, and Mr. GRAVES’ office deserves a lot of credit for that.

We were able to clear the House unanimously last year. Mr. Speaker, and I am excited for our prospects this year.

Importantly, as well, Mr. Speaker, today is the first time that identical text has been introduced in the United States Senate. Senators CARPER and PORTMAN are taking the lead, and I look forward to our offices working together to get this bill across the finish line.

For all the attention that is placed on Members of Congress when we are in Washington, there is no more important responsibility of this job than helping our constituents back home. Whether assisting a veteran seeking benefits or a retiree accessing Medicare, we can ease the burden off of our neighbors’ shoulders by getting them the help that they have earned.

When one of our constituents calls our office, whether it is in Newton, Massachusetts, or in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, they don’t ask us about our political parties or policy positions; they just ask for a little bit of help.

Usually, those neighbors only reach our office when they have fought every other battle possible first; but too often, as outlined by Mr. MEADOWS, build obstacles in our efforts to provide that help. With the CASES for Constituents Act, we can modernize our government, streamline that process, and more directly assist them when they need it.

Let’s bring the casework process a step closer to the 21st century and provide electronic access to privacy release forms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) in support of this particular piece of legislation that he and the gentleman who just spoke have led so eloquently and diligently on.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, years ago, they created something called the internet. If you are not familiar with it, I would urge you to go to your local library, go to the card catalog system to get the right Dewey decimal number, go find a book, and read up on it, because apparently many in our Federal Government haven’t realized that this has been created.

As was noted a little while ago, in 1974, there was an act called the Privacy Act that was passed—1974. Since that time, we have had companies like Apple and Amazon and Microsoft and many others that have proliferated and are now worth billions and billions of dollars, some of the largest companies in the world.

Mr. Speaker, this is similar to us having to mail in a form to get an ambulance to come to our house.

As was noted by some of the previous speakers, in many cases, people contact us because of emergency situations. We have had family members contact us when their loved ones were stuck overseas in emergency situations. We have had people contact us because there was water filling up their houses and they needed emergency services at the time. Under the Privacy Act of 1974 that was written 45 years ago, we were unable to help them, as Mr. MEADOWS noted, unless they sent us a signed privacy release form.

Remember distinctly August of 2016, when we had a record flood in my home State of Louisiana, talking to constituents who were on their cellphones saying that their homes had 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 feet of water and asking for help with FEMA, the Small Business Administration, and other government services, and myself or other folks on our team having to tell them: You bet, we want to help you. All you need to do is go to your computer, get to this website, click the link, and do it.

You can imagine the response from people: I would love to be able to go to my computer right now. I would love to be able to find it, if it wasn’t under 4 feet of water right now.

Incredibly frustrating.

Mr. Speaker, the government today has a customer service approval rating of 70 percent—70 percent is the customer service approval rating. While that was sufficient to get me through high school, that is not okay for the Federal Government. It is entirely inappropriate.

This bill simply updates the Federal Government to put it online with how we file our taxes, how we handle our banking, insurance, and virtually everything else we do, ensuring that when people contact us, we can use those same technologies to protect privacy, that we can ensure the right people are asking for the right approvals, and we can quickly, within minutes, begin providing them services through their own Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) for persevering and continuing to work with us on this. I want to thank my friends, Mr. MEADOWS from North Carolina and Ms. HILL from California. Thank you all very much for doing this.

This is bipartisan. This is common sense. It should have been done decades ago.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Jennifer Bollinger, Eric Fins, all the OGR staff and others who helped get this bill done, and I am looking forward to passage.

I urge full support.

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, I want to go ahead and close. If we can, at this point, the committee staff, and so I do so, I want to thank all of our staff.

It is so easy at times for us to get up here, and yet the legislation that gets introduced oftentimes is not just due to our personal staff in our offices, but the committee staff, and so I want to make sure that I emphasize that today.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with this final comment.
I had a constituent not long ago who said: You know, I will just email you a release, and we won’t have to go through all of this getting it in writing.

I said: No, no, no, no. That will take an act of Congress.

Well, let me just tell you, today the Congress has acted.

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

Ms. HILL of California, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the staff. I was handed through this entire process.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 1079, as amended, and I yield back my time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support, and I thank the staff. I was handed through all of this getting it in writing.

Through electronic means, we won’t have to go through a vote. You know, I will just email you a release, and we won’t have to go through all of this getting it in writing.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The question was taken.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

RESOLVED,

That the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of applicable accounts of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourns in memory of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

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:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1065; and

H.R. 1079.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XIX, the second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE IN CLEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS ACT OF 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule X, the unfinished business of the House is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1065) to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations, 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. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 3, not voting 51, as follows:

(Names of Members of Congress)

February 11, 2019
### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

#### H1505

#### February 11, 2019

**NAYS—3**

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#### □ 1857

Ms. Adams, Messrs. Arrington, and Gosar changed their vote from "nay" to "yea." So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the roll was 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.

**Stated for:** Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 76.

### CREATING ADVANCED STREAMLINED ELECTRONIC SERVICES FOR CONSTITUENTS 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. 1079) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 379, nays 0, not voting 52, as follows:

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**NOT VOTING—52**

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**□ 1904**

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.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. Cloud. Mr. Speaker, due to personal illness, I voted yes. Had I been present, I would have voted "Yea" on rollcall No. 76 and "Yea" on rollcall No. 77.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. Allred. Mr. Speaker, as 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 Roll Call No. 76 and YEA on Roll Call No. 77.

**REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 37, REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN YEMEN HAVING BEEN ASSEMBLED AND PASSING THE BILL AS AMENDED.**

Mr. McGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-8) directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules.

Mr. McGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-8) on the resolution (H. Res. 122) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 37) directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the
HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOHN DAVID DINGELL, JR., AND EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY ON HIS PASSING

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of House Resolution 120, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House; and, further, I ask unanimous consent that it be read in full.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. Res. 120

Whereas John Dingell, while serving as a Member of the House for 59 years, from December 13, 1955, to January 3, 2015, served honorably; whereas John Dingell took up the mantle of advocating for affordable health insurance coverage for the Nation’s seniors, as championed by his father, and worked to secure the enactment of Medicare in 1965, presided over its passage hand to hand to witness its signing into law by President Lyndon Johnson; whereas John Dingell was a crusader for the environment, not only helping to author and shepherd to passage the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act; whereas John Dingell fought to make civil rights a part of Democrats’ platform in 1960, standing up to those who believed it would alienate certain voters and declaring that it was the right thing to do; whereas John Dingell was a strong supporter in the House of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, the Civil Rights Act of 1960, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Voting Rights Act of 1965; whereas John Dingell served as chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce from January 3, 1981, to January 3, 1995, and again from January 3, 2007, to January 3, 2011, as ranking minority member during the years in between, making him the senior Democratic member on that Committee for 26 years; whereas during every Congress in which he served, John Dingell introduced legislation to provide universal access to health care, and he invited Speaker Nancy Pelosi to use the gavel with which he presided over passage of Medicare in 1965 to preside over the Affordable Care Act’s passage in the House in 2010; whereas John Dingell, over the course of his tenure, served with eleven Presidents (Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama); whereas John Dingell served as Dean of the House from January 3, 1995, until January 3, 2015; whereas John Dingell retired from the House in 2015 and was succeeded by his beloved wife whom he referred to as “loyal Deborah”, who carries on his legacy and now serves as a Democratic Policy and Communications Community in the Democratic Caucus; whereas, in 2014, President Barack Obama awarded John Dingell the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation’s highest civilian honor; whereas John Dingell, both before and after his retirement, gathered a large following on Twitter, where he demonstrated his wit, wisdom, and clever commentary on the Nation’s politics, while promoting great civil rights, patriotism, tolerance, justice, and inclusion; and whereas John Dingell was held in the highest esteem by Members of the House from both parties, of both the majority and minority, because of his record tenure in office but because of his sharp intellect, good humor, congeniality, and belief in working together to achieve consensus through trust and camaraderie.

Resolved, That the House of Representatives:

1) honors the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr.; and
2) expresses condolences to his family on his passing.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the consideration of the resolution?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 962, BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 962, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, and 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.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, if this unanimous consent request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and the majority leader to immediately schedule the born-alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life, and I would ask all others to join that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not been recognized for debate.

1915

NATIONAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus to recognize February as National CTE Month. Today, my good friend and caucus co-chair, Representative Thompson, and I introduced a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of CTE Month.

This resolution is particularly important because many Americans still hold an outdated view of CTE as a plan B. In fact, today it is quite the opposite. The CTE programs are academic pathways that allow students to explore careers in high demand, high-paying industries that are relevant to society from healthcare to advanced manufacturing to IT.

CTE Month is a time not only to celebrate the achievements of CTE students, like the bright and motivated SkillsUSA students from Rhode Island who visit my office each year, but to spread awareness of today’s CTE and its potential to help students and businesses succeed.

Mr. Speaker, society needs workers with these skills that are in demand today, and I want to thank Representative Thompson for his partnership and urge my colleagues to join us in supporting CTE programs across the country.
BORDER SECURITY
(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, after the conclusion of the last shutdown, I was hopeful that we would work together in good faith to find a commonsense approach to secure our border. However, it appears that the Democrats are more concerned with releasing illegal aliens than addressing border security.

Recently, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have suggested that we reduce the adult detention beds for illegal detainees in exchange for border security. This is unacceptable. As we in this body are all aware, adult detention beds are an essential aspect of enforcing our immigration laws. Reducing the amount of beds would further exacerbate our problems with interior enforcement, thus relying on an ineffective catch and release policy. Only 4 percent of those released ever show up for their court date. That means that they have a 96 percent chance of staying in this country.

Our primary role of government is security. Border security is national security, and our national security should not be a bargaining chip for the Democrats’ political games. I urge my colleagues across the aisle to take this issue seriously.

Please stop playing political games with our Nation’s security and the brave men and women of our Coast Guard, TSA, CBP, and ICE agents. We must work together as Americans and fix our broken immigration system which starts with a secure border.

CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN’S CAUCUS
(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the clarity that I would like to offer is that none of us should tolerate any shutdown of the government or ever holding our Federal workers hostage to policy debates, and that is for my colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle and for this administration.

But I think in all fairness, the clarity on the question of detention beds is to make sure that the criminals are detained and to make sure that women and children, like little 9-month-old Roger, have alternative housing. That is the debate. But that debate can go on and go on beyond holding the government hostage and our workers hostage.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce the fact that I am establishing the Congressional Children’s Caucus, as we have done every year since I have been here. Our focus is for better quality of life for children, not only in this Nation but around the world. One of the priorities will be hunger amongst children here in the United States and around the world.

It is noteworthy that children do go to bed hungry here in the United States, and it is important that we support the food nutrition programs and the lunch, breakfast, and dinner programs in our public schools.

We must ensure that this Nation protects its children.

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

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because every American should know that we are now at the point where the Democrats are demanding that ICE release dangerous criminals onto the streets of the United States.

First, they demanded that we not build a wall. Their leader said that would be immoral. Now they are demanding that we release dangerous criminals we have already apprehended.

Mr. Speaker, they are threatening to shut the government down, they are so committed to this position. Most Americans know their government’s most sacred obligation is the defense of the Nation. The Democrats want to abolish one of the very agencies tasked with this responsibility. This is a backdoor effort to do so.

Under this latest proposal, ICE has said they could be required to release as many as 15,000 criminals on to our streets. The far left radical positions of today’s Democrats are threatening the security of our Nation.

It is time to build the wall, secure our borders, support our law enforcement, and keep dangerous criminals off our streets.

CAPTAIN ICE’S DETENTION CAPACITY
(Mr. BACON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the dangerous proposal that has been brought forth by leadership on the other side of the aisle, the Democratic proposal to place an artificial and arbitrary cap on ICE’s detention capacity.

ICE is outlasting at arresting gang members, felons, drug dealers, and human traffickers, but now Speaker PELOSI and Minority Leader SCHUMER want to limit how many they catch. This represents a breakdown in law and order and will only make our broken border less secure.

It does not make sense to tell a State trooper that he can only pull over 10 people and then must stop, or a city cop saying: once you catch your second thief, she must stop.

Does the next person committing an illegal act get a free pass because we have hit some magic number?

Our country embraces the rule of law. We do not get to pick and choose, especially when it pertains to our national security.

I urge the Democratic leadership to withdraw this ludicrous proposal and come to the negotiating table. It is about time we work together, but we will not and cannot undermine our national security and the safety of our communities.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND A BORDER WALL
(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 3 year anniversary of the horrific shooting in Parkland, Florida, that took 17 precious lives. My community faced our own tragedy just 9 months later when 12 of our friends and neighbors were stolen from us at the Borderline Bar and Grill.

As our communities continue to mourn these devastating tragedies, we must also honor the memories of those we lost with action. There is no single answer that will stop every incident of gun violence, but to do nothing with the argument that it will not fix everything is unconscionable.

One of the first steps we need to take is passing H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, which is being considered by the House Judiciary Committee this week.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, a critical first step to keeping deadly weapons out of the wrong hands.
SUPPORTING OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of American tradition and heritage, American law enforcement, and the sovereignty of our Nation. I stand here in the Chamber of the people's House, a 57-year-old American man who has never witnessed such division and insanity as I have observed here in D.C., where right is wrong, where American traditions are rejected, where Christian principles are ridiculed, where many of my colleagues across the aisle envision an America with no sovereign borders, no fossil fuels, and no Second Amendment, a land where no airplanes fly, where police cannot arrest, and where jails do not exist.

I remind my colleagues that we are here to serve the best interests and security of the American people. We were not elected by citizens of foreign soil, nor should we allow our bicameral, bipartisan Congress to become infected with anti-American sentiment.

GOLD JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

(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, for the eighth consecutive year, the Juniata Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, achieved the Gold Journey to Excellence Award.

It was an honor to celebrate this outstanding achievement yesterday with the council as well as volunteers at the unit, district, and council levels, as well as the Scouts and parents in Centre, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties in central Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the Journey to Excellence Award measures a council's performance in a range of areas: including fiscal management, membership growth and retention, and program excellence; including camping, advancement, and community service, among other areas.

These key performance areas are directly related to producing successful, growing, and sustainable Scouting programs. I am incredibly proud of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council, which I have been a member of for four decades. The annual recognition dinner is the House Republicans who have come to the bargaining table in good faith.

Just this weekend, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America both stated: "Any legislation that reduces ICE's detention capacity would hinder its ability to perform its national security and public safety missions. . . . In order to meet the cap being tentatively proposed by Congress, ICE would be compelled to release thousands of aliens from custody."

The sheriffs went on to say that if the Democrats' plans were approved, then 9,000 illegal immigrants would have to be released by the end of the fiscal year. That is 9,000 criminals.

We need to focus on securing our border, funding the wall, and making our country safer, not protecting criminals and sending them back onto the streets to endanger our citizens.

We need to listen to these recommendations.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address the dangerous proposal being put forth by Democrats in the ongoing negotiations to secure our border and fund the government.

Talks on this issue are now stalled because Democrats are demanding a cap in the number of beds allocated to detain illegal criminals. But this new initiative blatantly contradicts what our leaders on the ground are asking us to do on this issue.

Just this weekend, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America both stated: "Any legislation that reduces ICE's detention capacity would hinder its ability to perform its national security and public safety missions. . . . In order to meet the cap being tentatively proposed by Congress, ICE would be compelled to release thousands of aliens from custody."

The sheriffs went on to say that if the Democrats' plans were approved, then 9,000 illegal immigrants would have to be released by the end of the fiscal year. That is 9,000 criminals.

We need to focus on securing our border, funding the wall, and making our country safer, not protecting criminals and sending them back onto the streets to endanger our citizens.

We need to listen to these recommendations.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to finally come to the table for a meaningful discussion around securing our Nation's borders.

The Democrats' leadership would have the entire country believe that our President and the Republicans are the ones holding up negotiations to avoid another unnecessary government shutdown, but it is the President and the House Republicans who have come to the bargaining table in good faith.

Just this week, there were rumors that a deal was near with less border funding than the President and my party wanted. That is what happens in negotiations: We give, and they take.

Now that we are close to a deal being cut, the Democrats are moving the goalpost, Mr. Speaker. This brand-new cap on ICE detention beds came out of thin air and is proof that the Democrats are willing to do anything to keep from making a deal with the President and the Republicans.

What is worse, the move by the Democrats would make our country less secure. It is just a backdoor attempt to get rid of ICE entirely.

The citizens of this country deserve better, Mr. Speaker. They deserve a government that works. Let's do the job our constituents sent us here to do.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, sheriffs from across the country are in D.C. this week, and they have a single message for Congress: Secure the border.

These sheriffs know that border security will help stem the flow of illegal drugs and human trafficking which affects communities all across the country.

The sheriffs warn that a new demand from my colleagues across the aisle could mean over 8,000 criminals would have to be released by authorities.

They wrote: "This dangerous Congressional proposal not only jeopardizes the risk of our national security, but hinders our law enforcement officials in effectively enforcing and upholding the law and protecting their communities."

In other words, this demand does not make our country safer.

We need to empower law enforcement to hold criminal aliens, when appropriate, to protect our communities. The last thing we should do is release dangerous criminals from custody.

I urge negotiators to come to an agreement to secure our border, build the wall—a barrier, a fence, a partition, a panel. I am less interested in semantics and more interested in supporting the law enforcement officers who are on the front lines every day protecting our communities.

BORDER SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, instead of working in good faith to secure our borders and reach a compromise to
American people are tired of it. We are tired of it, and the
Democrats want us to say, Mr. Speaker, that we just need to release
thousands of aliens from custody.
Now, listen to this data point:
To achieve the 16,500 adult average de-
tainee population—ADF—caps for the re-
maining 7 months of the fiscal year, a net re-
duction of 9,264 adults by the end of this fisc-
ral year would be required.
Now, what does that mean? It means, if you are not meeting the caps, these folks, these criminal aliens, are going to get released.
You say, well, are these criminal aliens? Here is the number:
Approximately 72 percent of ICE’s current detention population is subject to manda-
tory detention due to the alien having cer-
tain convictions or having committed cer-
tain acts.
So, of that number, 72 percent we know of, we are just going to say, or the Democrats want us to say, Mr. Speaker, that we will need to release
these because we want to put a cap, just pick a number out of the air be-
cause we don’t think we should have
Mr. Speaker, these aren't the words of ing this depreciated budget could have the dangerous ramifications that pass- proposal and urge Congress to consider the streets.

there you have it. They are saying the reduction of these detention beds, which is just a backhanded way of defending Immigration and Customs Enforcement, would hinder them from doing their job.

So tonight I am reminding my Demo- cratic colleagues that, by pushing for the reduction of detention beds, these sheriffs, who serve for little pay and serve in dangerous situations in many places, in many remote areas, they are telling my colleagues: Don't do this. This puts us in a dangerous situation. This puts our communities in a more dangerous situation when we allow thousands of criminal aliens to be put back in the different communities on the streets.

This is preposterous.

The National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America oppose the current budget proposal and urge Congress to consider the dangerous ramifications that pass- ing this depreciated budget could have on the citizens of America.

Mr. Speaker, these aren't my words. Mr. Speaker, these aren't the words of our minority leader, KEVIN McCARTHY, or our whip, STEVE SCALISE, or our chair, LIZ CHENEY. These are the words of our local county sheriffs, urging and pleading: Do not continue to push for this.

It is a real shame that these sheriffs have to come to Washington, D.C.—33 degrees outside, in the rain—to plead with a Member of Congress to try and stop such a preposterous suggestion.

As they stood today—and I brought them inside the Capitol, gave them a quick tour, even took them over into the Rayburn Room, and we talked a little bit. We talked about how structures work, how steel slats work. We talked about places of San Diego and El Paso, where there has been a drastic reduction in crime.

You see, these sheriffs get it. These sheriffs are elected officials themselves and have a duty to uphold the law, much like the same oath that Members of Congress take to protect and serve the American people.

Structures work.

Now the Democrats, at the last minute, are trying another ploy by try- ing to come up with some crazy sugges- tion to reduce the amount of detention beds, putting a cap on it, automatically releasing criminal aliens. It is time for my Democratic colleagues to put up or shut up when it comes to being genuine about border security.

One of the things that we have seen recently is not only a lackadaisical approach about border security, but we have also seen a lack in the protection and the sanctity of human life.

Many Members are very passionate and should be so. You see, this isn't about an argument over how much funding a certain project should receive. This isn't about a preference on a particular issue that comes out of committee. The reason this has been a major series of passion for the last 50 years is because this has to do with human life.

I can tell you, as a former pastor and being in the hospital room when a loved one breathed their last breath, it is a very sad and tragic situation. They would have given everything they had for another few precious minutes with that loved one: a son, a daughter, a dad, a brother, a mother.

Yet we have cheapened life to the place, in these Hallowed Halls, that it has simply become a political pawn, a bargainship. How did we get to this place?

The other night, the night before the National Prayer Breakfast, I was speaking with a wonderful representa- tive, a lady from the country of Latvia, who was appalled at our abortion laws, who are so much further than anything we see in Europe.

When we have to begin to talk about only six other countries that have such extreme abortion laws as ours, is that not a wake-up call?

When the former governor of New York, Mr. Speaker, continues to advocate with such lack of respect for human life, is that not a wake-up call?

When Governor Ralph Northam be- gins to talk about incubicide, is that not a wake-up call?

What does it take for everyday Ameri- cans to say enough is enough when it comes to human life?

Right now, we are trying to bring to the floor a Born-Alive Abortion Protec- tion Act. What does it say? Well, it is not overwhelming too much. It basi- cally says, if a baby survives a botched abortion, then the providers would be required by law to sustain its life. Yet we can't get it to the floor.

The reason why is because, when it was introduced last time, last cycle, we had several brave, strong Democrats who had the courage to step forward and vote for a piece of legislation that would require providers to sustain life during these times.

I remember I was so moved by that kind of courage nearly a year or so ago that I went back to my office and wrote thank-you cards to those Demo- crats who were willing to stand up for the sanctity of human life.

What is it worth to us? Not only is the Born-Alive Protection Act some- thing that is important; I would even add another bill that was passed out of the House, not taken up before the Senate, the Pain-Capable Child Protec- tion Act, that would limit abortions after 20 weeks to only specific circum- stances.

What is it going to take for our coun- try to put the kind of concern and the favor that God's creation deserves?

Speaking of God's creation, Mr. Speaker, our Speaker, our House, just 3 days ago, sent this tweet out that I will read. She said: 'We have a moral responsibility to protect God's creation for generations to come.' That is why, today, she was naming a large animal veterinarian from the Gainesville, Florida, area, to share his thoughts on what we need to do secure our border.

Mr. YOHO, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's yielding and putting this together. It is such an important issue.

I just left another meeting, and we were talking about border security. There shouldn't even be a fight, because what we are talking about is what we are charged with in Congress, Republicans and Democrats, and the President. We have all taken that oath, and that oath talks about protecting our country and upholding our Con- stitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic.

When you look at border security, that should not be a partisan issue if you focus on border security and take politics out of it—not Donald Trump's fence, not a party's fence; this is secu- rity for the American people.

Just last week, there was a bust of drugs coming in from Mexico in a load of bell peppers that had over 1,000 pounds of methamphetamines. It was valued at $1.2 billion, coming from our southern border. That came through a legal border checkpoint. That is border security that we are not doing that we should do that erodes the very social fabric of this Nation.

Two weeks before that, there was a bust of a legal truck coming in carrying cucumbers from the southern border through Mexico that had over 200 pounds of fentanyl. In fact, it had enough fentanyl to kill an estimated 55 million Americans—55 million Ameri- cans. Again, it came through a legal checkpoint.

So when we talk about border secu- rity, take the narrative and the argu- ment off of Donald Trump's border wall
and put it on Americans’ border security. If we as Republicans and Democrats come together as Americans, we will have border security.

It is not racist. It is not trying to keep anybody out who wants to come here legally, which there are places for people to come legally. This is about securing the people in our country, the men and women who get exposed to these drugs.

In addition to that—and I don’t understand why the Mexican Government hasn’t done more about this. They are growing over 22 hectares of poppy fields. Poppy is used for heroin production. There is not a medicinal use in that quantity that needs to come into this country. The only way that is coming in is illegally, through either illegal checkpoints or no checkpoints, or it is coming through legal checkpoints where we are not emphasizing border security with the new technologies we have.

So I get very sad to think of this country going through another shutdown that it doesn’t need to because people want to play party politics.

You think of the young men and women in DHS, with border security, our TS, our Coast Guard, Customs and Border Patrol, and ICE agents. They show up for work, and we here in this body can’t come to an agreement about America’s border security. It is shameful for us. It is embarrassing.

But when you try to tell the people who are in those situations—I know people very well who are in the Coast Guard, and when you say, “Well, you just don’t understand. They are holding up. They don’t want Trump to have a wall,” they say, “I don’t care whose problem it is. Fix the problem.”

In fact, one of them said, “You know where you need to build a wall around first is around Washington, D.C. so you guys don’t leave until you solve this problem.”

It is just a shame that we, together, as Republicans and Democrats, can’t solve this problem. But, unfortunately, politics gets put into this.

If I may talk about the other issue the gentleman was talking about, being a veterinarian, I have come to believe, and my Christian values say, that life begins at conception. There is no doubt in my mind. The good Lord put it in His Word. I have come to believe that I have had the experiences I have had.

In fact, I have been able to do embryo transfers in the equine, in the horse world, and I can withdraw an embryo from a female horse between 5 and 7 days of pregnancy. Even at that stage when you look at it under a microscope, it looks like a golf ball—it is a baby horse developing.

I think it is ironic and it is sad that in this country we have laws on the books that will protect the unborn turtle in an egg or the eagle within an egg, in a nest, and we have laws that say that it is a Federal offense and you will go to prison for it, that we will protect species, but yet when it comes to our own kind, the human species—that if you believe like you and I do and the majority of Americans that we are created in the image of God—I have seen an erosion of our society, and it pains me.

I know, every 100 years they say there is a breakdown of our society; but I can only think that this time around, when you are saying it is okay to kill a baby, full term, that is a breathing, living, creature of God, it is okay, that something is wrong in our society.

I think of that verse in the Bible—the gentleman will know the number and all that—that says:

If my people will turn away from their wicked ways and humble themselves and get down on their knees, I will forgive them.

And He says:

If they do that, then I will continue to bless them.

So, I appreciate the gentleman doing this, but we need more facts and figures if he has time.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Yoho. I appreciate his wisdom and his experience in this area.

As we continue to talk about these two issues that I think back to the border security issue and how this has become more of a campaign against the President of the United States, when just a few short years ago, the majority of Senators, who were Democrats at that time, voted for a wall. It wasn’t politically incorrect at that point to call it a wall. But we see how quickly in Washington, D.C., things do become politically correct.

Why? It is because we see the numbers. We see the work of our border agents. We see the work of ICE, which, in 2017, was able to ascertain over 800,000 pounds of drugs. Think about that, 800,000 pounds of drugs. Enough fentanyl to kill almost every man, woman, and child not just in our country, but in all of North America was ascertained.

A week ago tomorrow night, sitting right up to my left in the second row there, was my sister-in-law. Her brother was an Army veteran, wonderful young man, played basketball in college with my youngest brother. Scott Aaron was his name.

One day, he injured his knee, and he had to have an operation. From that operation painkillers. Painkillers went to opioids. Opioids obviously included heroin, to the place where he became a full-fledged addict.

He tried multiple times to overcome that addiction to heroin but, in the end, failed and realized that, in his mind, he did not have hope, which brought him to the place of committing suicide.

Now, Scott is not by himself, to the tune of 300 families per week that are having the funeral of a loved one due to some kind of tragic overdose, mostly heroin. Now heroin is laced with fentanyl, and we are seeing more and more epidemic proportions.

We are doing everything we can in Congress to provide the funding to combat the heroin crisis, but why wouldn’t it make sense that we also put up some structures, specifically in hot spots along the border, to help reduce and maybe even, in some cases, eliminate.

On this floor, I have talked with more than a dozen of my Democratic friends and colleagues who have told me time after time after time: We have no doubt that a structure works.

So why not move forward? Why not come to an agreement—a compromise, if you will—to be able to begin to lay out the places where a structure, a fence, a wall could work?

How many lives would need to be saved to make it worth it?

How many families could be reunited without an empty chair this Thanksgiving or this Christmas?

How many would it take for it to be worth it? How many would it take for there to be past the real justification of being able to use this as some kind of pawn to argue back and forth?

I would say just one. The case could be made for thousands.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Yoho. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

As we continue to talk about these two issues tonight, I think back to the agreement about America’s border security. It is shameful for us. It is embarrassing.

But, unfortunately, politics gets put into this.

If I may talk about the other issue, the gentleman was talking about, being a veterinarian, I have come to believe, and my Christian values say, that life begins at conception. There is no doubt in my mind. The good Lord put it in His Word. I have come to believe that I have had the experiences I have had.

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Now, Scott is not by himself, to the tune of 300 families per week that are having the funeral of a loved one due to some kind of tragic overdose, mostly heroin. Now heroin is laced with fentanyl, and we are seeing more and more epidemic proportions.
There are 300 opioid deaths a week in this country alone, but that is just the tip of the iceberg.

A good friend of mine, he is a heart surgeon in Gainesville, Florida. He said: Ted, that is just the tip of it. I have a young lady in, and it is her fourth heart valve replacement. At 25 years of age, the fourth heart valve replacement, because as they use the drugs, they don’t use sterile techniques. They get infected. Their immune system goes down, and the bacteria grow on the heart valve. Her fourth one.

I said: Tom, what is the cost of that?
He said: The average heart valve is close to $100,000. $400,000, and if she dies, she doesn’t die from a drug overdose. In the records, it is from heart failure.

So the 300 a week who we know are dying from drug overdoses, that is just the tip of the iceberg.

We talk about the cost. You can put a monetary cost on the deaths and the EMTs and all the emergency support staff and the ERs that we as taxpayers are funding, because, as he said, guess who paid for that? I said the hospital.
He said: Absolutely. No insurance. We can put a price on that, a monetary price, but you can’t put a price on the disruption and the loss of a family member, as Mr. WALKER’s family went through. The price of that goes on forever.

If we look at just numbers, from a typical number standpoint, we get 2,000 inadmissible migrants arriving at our southern border daily. That means, since January 2, when the Democrats took over, 41 days approximately, that means there were 82,000 inadmissible migrants who came into this country or were trying to.

Of the family units—that is a spouse, a husband and wife, or just a mother and father with their children—in the last 41 days, that equates to 36,385 family units.

If you look at the illegal aliens arrested for homicide charges just in the last 41 days, it is more than 228 arrests.
Let’s take politics out of this argument, and let’s do what is right by the American people: fund our government, fund DHS, secure our borders with any means from above.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his passion about this policy.

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Yoho for his comments tonight. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, just a couple more thoughts on border security as we move forward.

America was built on immigration. Nearly everyone within the sound of my voice, even though the halls have emptied out tonight, can go back and trace, from some ancestry point, the impact that immigrants had on this country, it is legal immigration.

Now, somebody might ask, how are we doing in that area? Thank you for asking.

America has the most generous immigration laws in the world. In 2017 alone, we took over 1.1 million immigrants who raised their right hand, who took an oath to pledge allegiance to this great country of America. We are doing pretty good there, and the President has made proposals to increase that amount.

It is the illegal immigration. We don’t want our hearts to get lost in this, as Republicans, and specifically speaking for myself, having worked in refugee assistance for years, worked internationally to understand the plight and the struggle that goes on, to be able to expand America as fast as we can, to legally allow people to be part of the greatest country in the history of the world.

Yet, as Members of Congress, when we raise that right hand to do our best to protect, we need to take that seriously.

The crazy calls to abolish our law enforcement, agencies like ICE, which in 2017 rescued 904 children who were being exploited, how many children would it take for it to be worth it, for Immigration and Customs Enforcement? How many of those children would you measure any success by this?

To go as far as calling for abolishment, that is not America. That is crazy political speech.

Speaking of crazy political speech, the recent absurd language that has become acceptable, in the last trimester and to talk about infanticide, what are we coming to in this country?

Listen, we don’t pass judgment on the young woman who is making sometimes a life decision. Working with our own Greensboro Pregnancy Care Center, sometimes these young ladies don’t even realize they have another option. We don’t pass judgment. Do not believe the lies that this is about hating or judging these more innocent souls.

The problem that I have tonight is the political leaders who are providing the pathway to cheapen the sanctity of our human lives. That is where the focus needs to be. It needs to be that colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, are willing to stand up for those who simply don’t have any rights.

Who advocates for the baby? Who speaks out on behalf of the baby? It is all about choice. It is all about what is now called women’s healthcare. Who voices or who stands up for the baby?

As we talked about a little earlier tonight in our bipartisan prayer caucus where a dozen or so Members were gathered, I brought up the point it wasn’t too long ago that I remember sitting in a prestigious place with my wife, being the honored guests. To add to that, I think back over the last 4 years we have served with the United States Congress. I have met with Prime Ministers and royalty all across this world to have opportunities to talk policy. But I am well aware that, in our life, the remembrance of a Congressman lasts about 15 minutes, maybe 20 minutes, once you are gone from these hallowed halls.

We are judged, in some ways, by our policy. But ultimately, what we do for God, to me, matters the most, when it comes to eternal values. When we all stand before God, we will be judged not by just whatever button we pushed on the back of these chairs but, ultimately, what we did, I believe, with life.

That is why it is important to me. It is why it is important to millions and millions of Americans.

Let’s get back to the place where we are willing to stand up, where we are willing to raise our voices for a child who cannot raise its own.

Tonight, let’s get back to a place where we have a respect for the Almighty, for God, who, as I read in a tweet earlier, is the giver and the creator of life.

I think of David’s writing in the Old Testament. I think of Psalm 139, where David captured quite poetically the words how we are “fearfully and wonderfully made,” how that even when we were formed, the beginning of our subterranean know us, it is that he had a purpose and a plan for every life born and unborn.

May we never grow weary, and may we never tire of doing all that we can to work in this Congress to protect, stand for, and defend the sanctity of human life.

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

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, first, I want to thank the gentleman from North Carolina for bringing that up.

Mr. Speaker, we had the longest shutdown in history caused by the President of the United States claiming the mantel that government needed to do the right thing. We all stand before God for his border wall. Then, finally, government was reopened as every party came to their senses.

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, we have Senate Members and House Members diligently negotiating a bipartisan border deal, four Republicans in the Senate led by Senator SHELBY and three Democrats led by Senator LEAHY. In the House, we have Chairwoman NITA LOWEY, subcommittee Chairwoman ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ranking Member GOSAR, and Ranking Member FLEISCHMANN.

I believe a deal is imminent, where both sides will deliver concessions and
have to compromise. Yet, tonight, I heard dozens of speeches by my friends across the aisle on the one hand pleading for a bipartisan deal and on the other hand condemning Democrats with every other breath. What they do not realize is that there is a bipartisan negotiation happening as we speak that their colleagues are involved in? Devoid of reality, perhaps, or maybe it was just political scare tactics.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, when bipartisan plans come up before this body this week, and we show that we will keep the government open and protect our nation, I know one other thing is for sure: My colleagues across the aisle are going to need a new script, because these scare tactics aren’t going to work anymore.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I want to recognize Anna M. Pinellas, Anna M. Pinellas and her husband, Louis C. Pinellas, moved to Kissimmee, Florida, in 1961 after having worked in local government in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia.

Having knowledge in securing funds for various projects, she was hired by the city of Kissimmee and was able to secure funds for the infrastructure around Osceola Square Mall, the paving of Hill Street, and John Young Parkway, the first of those grants being $750,000.

2015

She was also hired by Osceola County government to secure Federal funds for projects, which include bringing Head Start back to Osceola County, refurbishing the old courthouse, and the establishment of a salary plan for Osceola County employees.

One of her primary goals was to pursue the establishment of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday in the city of Kissimmee, as the first city of St. Cloud, Osceola County, and the school board. Thirty-four years ago, Pinellas founded Osceola Visionaries, Inc., a nonprofit corporation devoted to honoring and celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., before the holiday was observed.

Today, Pinellas continues to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by hosting their annual banquet and holding programs for the central Florida community.

And for that, Mrs. Pinellas, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING BEVERLYE COLSON NEAL

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I recognize Beverlye Colson Neal.

Beverlye Colson Neal is the president of the Orange County branch of the NAACP and the former executive director for the Florida State Conference of the NAACP. She has spent most of her life fighting for civil rights, beginning in her early childhood, as a member of the Jacksonville Youth Council of the NAACP.

She has a wealth of experience in the field of civil rights, community, and political organizing. Her involvement has been centered around safeguarding the Black community.

She coordinated the 1984 GOTV efforts for the Congressional District 3 for Reverend Jesse Jackson for President of the United States, getting the only elected Jesse Jackson delegate from Florida from that congressional district. In 2009, she was asked by Dr. C. Delores Tucker to start a chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. in Florida. She has since organized five other chapters in the State. She has been instrumental in ensuring the programs under the NCBW-Orlando reflect the needs of Black women and their families in the full range of employee and labor relations duties for Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For 32 years, he has been a labor activist, advocate, and trainer, with extensive experience working with unionized bargaining unit members, and others. His advocacy has obtained over $500,000 in back pay for D.C. government bargaining unit employees.

Walker received his undergraduate degrees in political science and liberal arts from the College of Central Florida and Howard University. He worked as the constituent liaison for the late Florida Congressman Bill Chappell, Jr., from 1983 to 1986. He has received numerous recognitions from the D.C. Committee on Political Education, D.C. Central Labor Council, and the AFGF.

Walker represents Federal Government employees and provides community support and outreach to thousands of union members he represents, the most recent example being the ongoing support for furloughed employees by holding town halls, distributing food, and providing transportation.

And for that, Mrs. Johnnie Walker, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING CYNTHIA DOWNING

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I recognize Cynthia Downing.

Cynthia Downing is a native of Florida; mother of one daughter, Cyntoria; and a recent grandmother of grandson, JaMarcus. She is a graduate of Haines City Senior High. She received her Bachelor’s degree in Management of Government Resources, Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix.

Ms. Downing is a lifetime member of the Haines City NAACP, where she serves as president. Her love of adversarial politics and her people has afforded her the opportunity to serve on social and economic panels. She is most proud of instituting the Black History Program, Black History Essay Contest, quarterly mission projects, a scholarship program, and the Drum Major for Justice Award.

Serving in this capacity allows her to bring awareness and new initiatives to her community.

She always had a passion for helping others reach their fullest potential, and her management skills allowed her to start her own business as a trainer and coach. She also assists with vocational rehabilitation with job placement.

Ms. Downing is also active in many ministries of her church, New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Haines City. She serves as a Sunday school teacher, newsletter editor, website administrator, and president of the Shepherd’s Care Ministry.

She lives by the quote her dad often repeated: “To whom much is given, much is required.”

And for that, Ms. Cynthia Downing, we honor you.

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY GORDON

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I recognize Anthony Gordon.

Anthony Gordon was born and raised in Avon Park, Florida. After graduating from Avon Park High School, he attended Polk State College on a baseball scholarship, and soon began his professional baseball career with the Seattle Mariners, Kansas City Royals, Chicago White Sox, and Milwaukee Brewers.

After retiring from professional baseball in 1996, he began working with Bill and Brian Jarrett to purchase and operate the Jarrett-Gordon Ford dealerships in central Florida.

Anthony serves as a board member for the Ford Motor Minority Dealers Association, as a Rotarian since 2002, and also served a Haines City chamber board member, on the Board of Directors for Heart of Florida hospital, and was recognized as the Haines City Chamber of Commerce Noncitizen of the Year. He volunteers for the Great American Smokeout, Avon Park High School, Bethune Academy and Horizon Elementary in recognition of Black History Month.

Mr. Anthony Gordon is a dedicated husband and father, as well as a long-time active member of New Zion Temple Holiness Church Association, where he currently serves as an ordained minister. He is a firm believer that his
life’s accomplishments are directly ordered by the mercy and grace of God. And for that, Mr. Anthony Gordon, we honor you.

**RECOGNIZING WAYNE GANDY**

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I recognize Wayne Gandy.

In 1969, as a senior at Haines City High School, Wayne Gandy was recruited by Auburn University to play football. He was then drafted as a first-round pick to the Los Angeles Rams, where he played for his first 5 years. Since then, he has played for the Pittsburgh Steelers, New Orleans Saints, and the Atlanta Falcons, having never missed a game.

After the NFL, Gandy focused on his foundation, The Wayne Gandy Foundation, organized exclusively to support and promote the power of sports in developing the qualities of leadership, social responsibility, and excellence through the sponsorship of sports camps, team building events, and programs that build healthy spirits, bodies, and minds of at-risk teens.

In addition to this, he also hosts a daily 3-hour syndicated radio show, the Sports Joc Show with Wayne Gandy, and a sports analyst for ESPN. Gandy still returns to his hometown, Haines City, Florida, and offers help wherever it may be needed. For the past 3 years, he has sponsored the Wayne Gandy Christmas Tournament, a semi-final high school basketball tournament in Haines City.

In 2017, Haines City High School dedicated the Wayne Gandy field to Mr. Gandy, thus showing how much his name is synonymous to the meaning of truly being a “hometown hero.”

And for that, Mr. Wayne Gandy, we honor you.

**RECOGNIZING LEMUEL GEATHERS**

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I recognize Lemuel Geathers.

Mr. Lemuel Geathers, from the historic Pughsville neighborhood of Winter Haven, Florida, served as the city’s first African American Commissioner and Mayor. He was also the special assistant to Congressman Andy Ireland. He is a World War II veteran, and a graduate of Florida A&M University. He spent 28 years as a teacher and education from Florida A&M University. He is a World War II veteran, and a graduate of Florida A&M University. He spent 28 years as a teacher and education from Florida A&M University.

In 1954, he went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial arts and education from Florida A&M University in 1967, after his retirement in 1967. He traveled the world extensively, with stops in seven continents, including Antarctica, finally ending up in Nalcrest, just outside Lake Wales.

Staff Sergeant George Brooks enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954; 7 years after the USAF had integrated its forces. He was stationed in Biloxi, less than 1 year before Emmett Till was murdered in Money, Mississippi. He was also one of the first African Americans to attend electronics school.

While stationed in Spokane, Washington, he worked on the B–36 aircraft, becoming one of the first Black bomb navigation technicians to fly the craft, flying three missions. He left Spokane in 1956 for Westover Air Force Base, in Massachusetts, where he first started working on the B–52 bomber, also joining the first ranks of Black navigators on that plane.

He flew 47 missions in the B-52, and was awarded the Air Medal with two cluster wings. Over the course of his 20-year career, he flew over 100 missions, until retiring from the USAF in 1974.

Mr. Brooks went to work for the Department of Defense for 13 years after that as an electronics consultant, until his retirement in 1987. He traveled the world extensively, with stops in seven continents, including Antarctica, finally ending up in Nalcrest, just outside Lake Wales.

Staff Sergeant George Brooks, for that, we honor you.

**RECOGNIZING ORETT DAVIS**

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I recognize Orrett Davis.

Orrett Davis is a growth marketer, startup advocate, and technology enthusiast. While continuing to support Orlando’s tech community, Mr. Davis currently serves as Director of Marketing at SightPlan, an Orlando-based technology company providing cutting-edge solutions for the Nation’s growing multifamily industry.

Mr. Davis is a proud graduate of the University of Florida, and received a master’s degree in business administration from Rollins College. Prior to SightPlan, Mr. Davis was head of growth for AI, a financial technology company, recently acquired by Envestnet Yodlee, where he launched the largest virtual summit on artificial intelligence and banking.

Mr. Davis was the first executive director for the OrangeTech Association, OTA, which helped cultivate the explosive growth of Orlando’s startup and technology ecosystem.

Ms. McMillon moved to Kissimmee in 1966 after marrying her college sweetheart, the late Samuel Lawrence McMillon, Jr.

During a time when schools were still segregated, she helped pave the way for the integration of Black educators into the Osceola County School System.

After receiving her master’s in administration and supervision in 1969, she was promoted to assistant principal at Osceola High School, and then principal of Parkway Middle School.

Ms. McMillon has received numerous awards for her outstanding contributions and leadership in education and community service. She is a recipient of the NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award, the Rosa Parks Memorial Award, the OCTA Human and Civil Rights Award, and more.

Other involvements include Valencia Community College Board of Trustees; Osceola County Fire and Rescue Advisory Board; Osceola Visionaries, Inc.; and a member of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce Leadership.

Deloris McMillon is currently the President of the Osceola County branch of the NAACP. She continues to advocate for equal rights and education. She encourages young people to seek higher educational opportunities by providing tutoring and financial assistance to college-bound students. She is a true role model for all women, not just women of color.

And for that, Ms. Deloris McMillon, we honor you.

**IN RECOGNITION OF GAIL PASCHALL-BROWN**

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I want to recognize Gail Paschall-Brown. Gail Paschall-Brown started her life in Brooklyn, New York, but was raised by her grandparents in rural North Carolina.

Now a Floridian, Paschall-Brown is celebrating 21 years at WESH-2 News, where she has served as an anchor and is a general assignment reporter.
Starting in television while in high school, working in her hometown, Paschall-Brown did everything from shooting video for the city to doing commercials for advertisers.

Gail received a bachelor of arts in drama and speech, with a minor in broadcasting, from East Carolina University. While at ECU, she received the Broadcaster of the Year Award from her peers and worked at WITN-TV 7 in North Carolina. She served on ECU’s first practicum program for journalists.

Paschall-Brown learned the business from all angles. Beginning as a tape jockey, she moved to reporter, then to anchor, and even did weather before Doppler radar was implemented.

In Florida, she has covered countless stories, including related to Trayvon Martin and Casey Anthony, and Polk County’s Alejandro Juarez’s deportation story to Mexico, that I am currently working on legislation for.

Some of Gail’s most memorable stories include the first Gulf War, the Grenada Invasion, and Susan Smith, who drowned her two sons, tragically. She has interviewed notables, including Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, author Alex Haley, sportscaster Jayne Kennedy, and did stories ranging from Bob Hope, Phyllicia Rashad, to Pope Air Force Base.

Gail has received numerous community awards, including: being inducted into the Central Florida Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame; Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs proclaimed Gail Paschall-Brown Day on April 30, 2015, for being a committed and engaged reporter who has shown integrity and compassion for the community; and that same year, she also received the Spirit of Journalism Oprah Winfrey Journalism Award.

She is most proud of her two children: Jasmine, a senior at North Carolina A&T; and Joshua, a sophomore at Florida Gulf Coast University. After nearly four decades as a journalist, Gail says she loves this business and engaged reporter who has shown integrity and compassion for the community; and that same year, she also received the Spirit of Journalism Oprah Winfrey Journalism Award.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. QUIGLEY (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of illness.

Mrs. SUSAN BROOKS of Indiana (at the request of Mr. McCARTHY) for today on account of district business.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o’clock and 36 minutes p.m.), under its previous order and pursuant to House Resolution 121, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 9 a.m., as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Honorable WALTER B. JONES.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 995, the Settlement Agreement Information Database 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.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1063, the Presidential Library Donation Reform 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.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1064, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to select recipients, would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1079, the Creating Advanced Streamlined Electronic Services for Constituents 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:

116. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Compensation of Certain Former Operatives Incarcerated by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam [Docket ID: DOD-2018-OS-0050] (RIN: 0700-AK38) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

118. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Un satisfactory Performance of Ready Reserve Obligation [Docket ID: DOD-2018-OS-0069] (RIN: 0700-AK29) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

119. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Participation in Reserve Training Programs [Docket ID: DOD-2018-OS-0070] (RIN: 0700-AK29) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

120. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting the Department’s notice — Supplement NOT SUPPLEMENT TO UNDER TITLE I, A PART OF THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965, AS AMENDED BY THE EDUCATION ACT OF 1980 received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

121. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses [Docket No.: OSHA-2013-0023] (RIN: 1218-AD17) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

122. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Formic Acid [Docket No.: FDA-2017-F-2130] received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

123. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3396(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2691-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

124. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the Department’s fiscal year 2018 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203(a) of the Notification and Federal Employee Anti-Discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

125. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Services, Office of General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation [Docket ID: ED-2019-OEC-0004] (RIN: 1801-AA18) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

126. A letter from the Assistant Director, Office of Regulation Enforcement, Office of the Secretary (00REG), Department of Veteran Affairs, transmitting
the Department’s final rule — Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Amendments (RIN: 2000-AQ55) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 110-212, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

127. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Casper, WY [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0082; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ANE-5] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

128. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Lompoc, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1146; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

129. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Jackson, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1117; Airspace Docket No.: 17-AGL-25] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

130. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Olympia, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1012; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

131. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Atqasuk, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0577; Airspace Docket No.: 18-AGL-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

132. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Nuiqsut, AK; Perryville, AK; Pilot Point, AK; and Point Lay, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0448; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANE-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

133. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Olympia, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0043; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

134. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Aspen, CO [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0015; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ANM-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

135. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Lompoc, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-0515; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANE-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

136. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Olympia, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1012; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANM-11] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

137. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Leitchfield, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1169; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANE-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

138. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Leitchfield, KY [Docket No.: FAA-2017-1169; Airspace Docket No.: 17-ANE-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

139. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Olympic, WA [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0043; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

140. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Reno, NV [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0043; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

141. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Bureau, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0001; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ANE-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

142. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Glen Ullin, ND [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0043; Airspace Docket No.: 18-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 8, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. CINEREOS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BERA, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. HOUDE, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. ESHTO, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SOTO, Ms. LOFUREN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MEYER, Mr. NODLER, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. HARDER of California).

H.R. 138. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 to repeal the authority relating to reprogramming during national emergencies; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H.R. 136. A bill to reauthorize the West Valley demonstration project, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. REESE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FLOUREN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CUMMINS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BLANT ROCKSTIR, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SHERR, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MECEANCHIN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SHAH PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. TONKO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CLARK of New York, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SIRES, Mr. FALLONE, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Mr. DESAUNILER, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. DAVIS of California, Mr. KRISANNA MOUTH, Ms. MOORE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. OMAR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. PASCRELL, Ms. LOFUREN, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PASCHELLE, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

H.R. 142. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and restore the 30.6 percent individual income tax rate bracket; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. ESHTO:

H.R. 143. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to require a health insurance issuer offering short-term, limited duration insurance to include a standardized disclosure and certain information with respect to exclusions and premiums in variations in marketing, application, and enrollment materials distributed in connection with writing and prohibiting the sale of such insurance during certain periods; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 144. A bill to prohibit the use of funds during a lapse in appropriations to support congressional delegations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH:

H.R. 145. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit former Members and elected officers of Congress from lobbying Congress at any time after leaving office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BUMNEBA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CARBALLO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CANTOR of Florida, Mr. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLE, Mr. CLARK of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CROW, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DEMING, Ms. DESAUNILER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINCHEL, Mr. MICHAEL P. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HIMES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KILDER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KRISANNA MOUTH, Mrs. LAWRENCE of California, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. TIDIO LUI of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFUREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LOYAN, Mr. LYNN, Mr. SHAH PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MECEANCHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINACK, Mr. MCOULT, Mrs. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEKUSE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OMAR, Ms. PANETTA, Mr. PETERSON of California, Ms. POCAH, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SHALALA, Ms. SHORT of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WILSON of Florida, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SCHLAICH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SHALALA, and Mr. MAST).
Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 1137.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. REED:
H.R. 1138.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:
H.R. 1139.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:
H.R. 1140.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. SAN NICOLAS:
H.R. 1141.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to make appropriations as set forth in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the United States Constitution.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to the Constitution and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. Garamendi:
H.R. 1137.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. Reed:
H.R. 1138.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. Napolitano:
H.R. 1139.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clauses 1, 3, and 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

By Mr. Thompson of Mississippi:
H.R. 1140.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. San Nicolas:
H.R. 1141.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of the Congress to make appropriations as set forth in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the United States Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 38: Mr. Poe.
H.R. 64: Mr. Smith of New Jersey, Mr. Allen, Mr. Mooney of West Virginia, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Kelly of Mississippi, Mr. Bilirakis, and Mr. Flores.
H.R. 93: Ms. Grijalva, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Takano, and Mr. Cooper.
H.R. 94: Mr. Brendan F. Boyle of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 117: Mr. Rouud.
H.R. 123: Mr. Richmond.
H.R. 141: Mr. Sablan and Mr. Richmond.
H.R. 155: Mr. Mooney of West Virginia.
H.R. 218: Mr. Calvert.
H.R. 219: Mr. Flenos.
H.R. 223: Mr. Katko.
H.R. 273: Mr. Louján and Mr. Carbajal.
H.R. 275: Mr. Cartwright and Mr. Rouda.
H.R. 276: Mrs. Demings, Mr. Trone, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Bost.
H.R. 299: Mr. Gallego, Ms. Granger, Mr. Graves of Missouri, Ms. Dean, Mr. Yarmuth, Ms. Goulahan, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Malinowsk, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Higgins of New York, and Mr. McKinley.
H.R. 305: Mr. Brooks of Alabama.
H.R. 307: Mr. Malinowski.
H.R. 310: Mr. Larsen of Washington.
H.R. 365: Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. Wasserman Schultz.
H.R. 366: Mr. M. Thompson, Mrs. Koby, and Mr. Brooks of Alabama.
H.R. 394: Mr. Takano and Mr. Meeks.
H.R. 402: Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Gosar, and Mr. Schweikert.
H.R. 510: Mr. Barin, Mr. Lamborn, Mr. Luetkemeyer, Ms. Granger, Mr. Carter of...
The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.

O God, our Redeemer, thank You for Your abundant mercy and grace. You continue to do for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Guide the steps of our Senators. May they look to You to bring them to Your desired destination, as You surround them with the shield of Your divine favor.

Eternal King, help us all to never forget how Your sustaining grace has kept us in the past. May the memories of Your loving providence in our history infuse us with the spirit of optimism for all of our tomorrows.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:
I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as recently as a few days ago, our government funding discussions seemed to be in a pretty good place. Bipartisan, bicameral negotiations on finishing out the year’s appropriations process seemed to be right on track. We appeared headed toward a compromise result that would have provided much needed investments in border security and completed our remaining appropriations bill to fully fund the government.

Last week, the Democratic leader seemed confident that “we worked out a plan to refund the government, deal with border security in a way that would be acceptable to all sides. That’s working pretty well.” Just this past Friday, the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator LEAHY, suggested that “we’re 95 to 98 percent done.”

But then over the weekend, we heard that the talks had suddenly hit a snag. The bipartisan momentum had stalled. What went wrong? Here is what happened. The House Democrats decided to add a poison pill demand into the conversations at the eleventh hour. It is a new demand. It is really extreme—a hard, statutory cap on the number of illegal immigrants who could be detained by the Federal Government. This would result in the release of thousands of criminal aliens and our inability to detain thousands more criminal aliens whom our Federal and State law enforcement authorities will apprehend.

This is a poison pill that no administration—not this one, not the previous one—would or should ever accept. Imagine the absurdity of this. House Democrats want to set a limit on how many criminal aliens our government can detain. This is a limit that is not based on any aspect of reality, such as how many criminal aliens there actually are or what crimes they have committed; it is just an arbitrary number a couple of lawmakers have pulled out of thin air. The consequence of such an arbitrary limit is obvious: Thousands of criminal aliens would simply be released into the interior of our country, both immediately and then on a rolling basis into the future.

The National Sheriffs’ Association explained this in a letter to Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY. Here is what the sheriffs had to say:

Capping the number of detention beds . . . not only jeopardizes the integrity of the immigration system, but would cripple ICE’s ability to detain criminal aliens and other aliens who pose a risk to public safety or are a flight risk . . . . In order to meet the cap tentatively proposed by Congress, ICE would be compelled to release thousands of aliens from custody.

That is what the National Sheriffs’ Association had to say about it—repassion just like that, right out into the United States of America. It is hard to believe this is where some Democrats are—a get-out-of-jail-free card for criminals because the radical left doesn’t like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Let me say that again. It is a get-out-of-jail-free card for criminals because the radical left doesn’t like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

It is hard to believe the “Abolish ICE” fringe among House Democrats actually thinks enforcing our laws is wrong. It is hard to believe a group of House Democrats see kneecapping American law enforcement as a higher priority than keeping the government open. But it would be even harder to believe that leading Democrats would be open to this craziness and would let this last-minute poison pill scuttle the entire appropriations process.

Just last year, when the Democratic leader was highlighting productive, bipartisan work on this appropriations process, he said: “Both sides have worked to avoid poison pill riders. That has meant steady progress.” Ranking Member LEAHY celebrated that through last year’s committee process, “We avoided new poison pill riders.” So I hope my Democratic colleagues are able to talk some sense into their side. Some House Democrats are risking a second partial government shutdown by calling for this absurd, last-minute poison pill. No administration of any party would sign a bill that forced them to release criminal aliens into
the interior of the United States. No administration would accept this poison pill forcing the release of criminals now and on a rolling basis going forward.

I understand that the four leaders on Appropriations in both Chambers will be meeting in just a few minutes. I would implore my friends across the aisle: Untangle yourselves from the most extreme far-left voices out on the fringe. Do not let this radical fringe and its absurd demand prevent you from making yes for an answer. Don’t let them torpedo all of this bipartisan work.

This provision would, rightly, be a total nonstarter with the White House—with any White House, not just this one. It would erase our progress and kick us back to square one. It is a total poison pill, pure and simple.

The American people are not clamoring for more aliens with criminal backgrounds to be roaming at large in their communities. I never heard anybody ask for that. And they certainly are not so eager for that outcome that they want another partial shutdown in order to achieve it.

My Democratic colleagues in this Chamber need to see this stunt for what it is, bring their side back to the table, and finish our work for the American people.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 47, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 47) to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Muckowski/McCaskill amendment No. 111, in the nature of a substitute.

Muckowski amendment No. 132 (to amendment No. 111), to modify the authorization period for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation Program.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 6, H.J. Res. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 6, H.J. Res. 1, a bill making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for no more than 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 47

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, Chairman MURKOWSKI and I and I have been working with the majority leader and minority leader to resolve the few remaining issues on our bill, which is the land management bill we have before us.

I would like to thank all Senators for their cooperation and for the work they have put in to get this to this point. I believe we are making good progress.

We will vote on the motion to invoke cloture at 5:30. I will be joining Chairman MURKOWSKI in voting yes on cloture, and all of my colleagues to do the same.

I understand that Senator LEE, my dear friend from Utah, may want a vote on his amendment to exempt Utah from the Antiquities Act. I have talked to Senator LEE many times about his concerns with national monuments in his State. While I respect his views, I will oppose any amendment that threatens the success of this lands bill.

At this point, any amendment would threaten the success of the bill.

This bill is truly a great piece of legislation for our country. This package includes numerous important provisions that will enhance conservation, recreation, and hunting, fishing, and shooting opportunities for sportsmen by the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and state and local management agencies.

In my view, one of the most important provisions in the bill is the permanent—rather, the permanent—reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has played a crucial role in making my State all the more wild and wonderful. In fact, since 1965, $243 million of LWCF funds have been spent on improvements at Ritter Park. As one can see here, the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service.

In West Virginia, we have the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Canaan was established in 1994 and was the 500th wildlife refuge to be established. Since 1994, every single acre of the 16,013-acre area was acquired using LWCF funds. As you can see here, the Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a truly beautiful place that would not have been possible had we not had the LWCF. Permanent reauthorization of the LWCF will ensure States and Federal land management Agencies will continue to protect and conserve nationally significant lands for future generations—all without relying on taxpayer dollars. It is past time for Congress to permanently reauthorize the LWCF.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the many pieces of legislation in this package. It is another reason we need to pass this bill without
amendments and send it over to the House and then to the President for his signature. I am pleased that we are making good progress, and I hope we will be able to move to its final passage without additional delays. I thank the Presiding Officer. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we are here this Monday afternoon to continue debate on S. 47, which is our Natural Resources Management Act, which we introduced just last month with Senator CANTWELL. We have been working on this bill with not only Senator CANTWELL and Senator MANCHIN but with the chairman and ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee. We did that last fall when the composition of that committee on the House side was a little bit different in this new year. We have been working forward with the commitment from our respective leaderships to bring this measure to the floor early in this Congress, and here we are.

I am very thankful and appreciative to Leader MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER for keeping their word to allow us a few days of debate on this very important natural resources and lands package. We have a great partnership going on in working with my new ranking member on the committee, Senator MANCHIN, in working with his team in conjunction with ours, and, again, in building on the great, great work that we have had with my friend and colleague from the State of Washington, Senator CANTWELL, and her team. There have been so many who have really come together in a very collaborative way and in a very dedicated way to help make this happen.

I make mention of the contributions of a few Members on our side and a few Members on the Democratic side who have really been engaged with us throughout this process—Senator GARDNER, Senator Daines, Senator WYDEN, and Senator MANCHIN—among the dozens of Members who are on this measure as cosponsors. We truly appreciate it.

We made some good progress last week. We reached agreement to enter into debate on our bill. We considered two amendments. Both of those amendments were tabled in order to preserve what we would refer to as the spirit of the bicameral-bipartisan agreement. We anticipate one more amendment to process today before we move to a closure motion that is expected to be at this point as we near the end of the floor debate on this measure, and I would like to spend just a few moments this afternoon, if I may, speaking to the really extensive progress that has gone into this bill.

It is a substantive bill. There is no doubt about it. It is substantive because of the many, many different, discrete priorities that have been incorporated into it. Reaching this point has been no small task. I mentioned last week the way that we handle many of these lands matters before the U.S. Senate. It is an imperfect process. It's the only process—but so many of these issues are so parochial that they just do not command the floor time that is available here. Invariably, what we effort to do is to put together a package of these measures. We really haven't seen a lands package before the Congress that has been ready to move out or, actually, been signed into law—that is, I guess, the best way to say it—since 2014. So that is 5 years of really pent-up demand, if you will, to address these matters.

So over the several years and multiple Congresses, both the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the House Natural Resources Committee have held dozens of hearings and business meetings to prepare the bills we have now incorporated into S. 47. So when you think about, again, the process that goes into it—this is endless hours, countless hours of Member time, of staff time that go into these meetings as we work on these priorities and then drafting the legislative text and refining it to make it right and refining it yet again to make it right.

We have also worked for months on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to truly negotiate every word in this bill, literally down to one-tenth of a mile for a certain designation on a specific conveyance there, so really taking a very sharp eye and a sharp pencil to all of the provisions that are in here.

We have tried to try to incorporate as many local, State, and Member priorities as possible. The process these matters went through in order to get where we are today—the regular order process in the House, in the Senate, and in many cases, in both—is really quite impressive. I mentioned some of the Member priorities last week. Members have come to the floor. I indicated that we have included provisions sponsored by at least 50 different Members within this bill. That number rises to about 90 Senators when we count the cosponsorship of various Members. So, again, it was very collaborative in terms of how we reached out to everyone to ensure their priorities were heard.

We have heard a lot on the floor about the contributions contained within the sportmen's provision—something I have worked on with Members over the course of years, with different partners on both sides, but we have worked with BLM management survey. So we believe they didn't have clear title to their land due to an issue with the Federal Government even owned this local park. So what we do in this bill is we clean up the ownership issue, which allows the city to move forward with the day-to-day activities without facing these Federal bureaucratic hurdles that happen back here. So when they want to do something that would be good for that community, such as expanding a farmers market or improving cell service on the softball fields, they don't have to come to us and ask for permission. I think it's really quite common sense.

I mentioned some of the priorities coming out of the State of Louisiana and a measure that Senator Cassidy has been working on, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Act. There is a provision in here that would need an act of Congress to do, something that you wouldn't think you would need an act of Congress to do, but we do that.

Up in the State of Minnesota, we worked with their delegation to modify the boundaries of the Voyageurs National Park.

In Georgia, we are expanding the Ocmulgee National Monument—this is a prehistoric American Indian site, and we are doing this at the request of the local community. It has strong support from the Creek Indian Tribe and the local community. It is a designation that will help preserve the historic and cultural values of the area as well provide economic benefit by giving greater opportunities for visitors.

So these are some of the various priorities we have included in this very
The comprehensive package. These are not things that are going to make the front page of the Washington Post or the New York Times. These are very local. But I can pretty much guarantee that they will be on the front page of the Ocmulgee—I still don’t know if I am pronouncing that correctly—and with the Creek Indian Tribe. They are going to make sure people know that this is something we have been working on for a long period of time and that it has finally been addressed in Congress.

Working over the years to help address these priorities is very, very important. We have received the support of not only so many colleagues in the Senate and in the House, Republicans and Democrats, but we have heard it from organizations and communities around the country. Some of these names are pretty well known to us: Ducks Unlimited, the Boone and Crockett Club, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the U.S. Travel Association, the Nature Conservancy.

That is just a few of the many that have weighed in. I want to give a couple more examples of groups that have written in to share their support. The Tourism Society wrote that “S. 47 has earned the enthusiastic support of the travel and tourism industry.”

I mentioned last week that so many of the provisions contained in this bill really address some of the thorny issues. I mentioned protégées’ rights, for example. The consensus was that “current monitoring capacity in the United States is deficient, and we are unable to accurately forecast and detect eruptions at an adequate level. . . . Passing and funding [this measure will provide] for a safer and more resilient United States.”

The benefits we provide for so many around the country—these are just a few of the examples of the many communities and organizations that support this passage of this bill. We have a full list of our supporters that is available on the committee’s website—it runs almost 7 pages long—that I am going to be submitting for the record—not only that consolidated list but also the many, many letters of support we have received. These folks—these individuals, these groups, these communities—are writing in to make their support known because there is good policy in this package. It is policy that fosters economic development in rural America. It is policy that ensures that our incredible landscapes are conserved for future generations to enjoy. It is policy that ensures access for sportsmen and women. It also allows for greater access for some of our off-highway vehicles. It is policy that enhances our volcano-monitoring systems. It empowers local water managers to make decisions on how to conserve water and endangered species.

I want to just kind of segue off of that because we haven’t had a lot of discussion about the water provisions within this bill. I keep referring to S. 47 as the lands package, but the truth is, it is not just about land; it is about water as well, and it includes a number of important western water provisions.

We improve water management by taking important steps to provide greater local control over water resources and promote management that balances the needs of water users with fish and wildlife protection. As an example, one provision that I can highlight is that the Bureau of Reclamation title transfer program. This is going to facilitate conveyance of water facilities to the local agencies that have been managing them for decades and in some cases longer than decades—almost over a century—and that have fully repaid the government for the cost. So effectively what we are talking about here is we are simplifying the process for local utilities, which will be a huge result of the title transfers for reclamation projects, not by requiring an act of Congress to do it. So it is simplification. It is common sense. It is making things work. It is a straightforward change in the law that will make sure that the entities in 17 of our Western States that manage water projects, canals, and other water infrastructure that irrigate more than 11 million acres of land—land that provides fresh fruits and vegetables for millions of Americans every day.

In the bill, we also authorize individual title transfers to California and Oklahoma. These provisions will greatly improve water management and incentivize capital investment in water infrastructure while conserving water resources and protecting public safety.

The authorization of the Upper Colorado and the San Juan River fish recovery program and phase 3 of the Yakima Basin Water Enhancement Project are both included in this bill. I think both of these are great examples of how a collaborative approach to water challenges, rather than litigation and conflict, results in solutions that benefit us all.

We have certainly heard from Senator Cantwell on this as it relates to the Yakima Basin project and the very collaborative effort that was involved with that. The Colorado River project involves bringing four species of endangered fish back from the brink of extinction while water development projects move forward.

There are other important water provisions that didn’t make it into the bill for various reasons. But of us who were disappointed, it is fair to say. It is clear to me that there is a lot more that we have to do to address these major challenges with western management of water and drought resilience. We have some issues to work through on that, certainly not the least of which is the Colorado River drought contingency plan. This involves an interstate agreement to keep Lake Mead from dropping to critical levels. It has taken years of negotiation with cities, Tribes, farmers, and elected officials.

I clearly understand that this is a time-sensitive issue. I had hoped we might be able to finalize it for this package, but I am looking forward to working with both Senator McSally, who is the new chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Energy Committee, and Senator Cortez Masto, who is the ranking member, so we can get this over the finish line as quickly as possible, to pursue title transfers for reclamation projects, not by requiring an act of Congress to do it. So it is simplification. It is common sense. It is making things work. It is a straightforward change in the law that will make sure that the entities in 17 of our Western States that manage water projects, canals, and other water infrastructure that irrigate more than 11 million acres of land—land that provides fresh fruits and vegetables for millions of Americans every day.
to better utilize Federal lands and water facilities for aquifer recharge and eliminate duplication in the permitting of reclamation pump storage projects.

We are making good strides on the water side with this measure as well. I think it is important to remind folks that it is a lands package; it addresses many of the issues related to water; it is a sportsmen’s package; and it is truly a conservation package as we look to what we have included and incorporated as the permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This is a good bill we have in front of us. We have been able to make it even a little better through our substitute amendment. I do know that we have many colleagues who, if we had more time, would say that they have more amendments they would like to offer for this package. We are not going to have the time or the ability to come to an agreement to add them here, but it is not without a great deal of work that we have gotten to this place. Again, the fact that we have been working literally, years to put this together is demonstration of our good faith to try to incorporate as much as we possibly can.

I do want to repeat, and I know Senator MANCHIN has, as well, that this is not going to be our last chance to pass natural resources legislation in this Congress. As soon as we get done here—hopefully, no later than early tomorrow—we are going to be right back at work. We have been in Energy and Natural Resources Committee is going back to work, holding hearings, moving lands legislation. This is our effort, what we are dealing with right now, to clear the deck, and then move on to some new issues. We will be back again to move many of the provisions that perhaps weren’t quite ready for this particular package.

Later this afternoon, we are going to vote on motions to end debate on S. 47. I strongly, strongly encourage all Members to support that motion and to allow us to take final steps to move this important package with good, strong, robust bipartisan support, and send it over to the House of Representatives so that we can finally get this enacted into law.

I see my friend from Nebraska is here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

LEAD PROGRAM STUDENTS

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I offer my thanks and appreciation to the chairman of the committee, Senator MURPHY, and the ranking member, Senator MANCHIN, for the work they have done on this lands package. They have tried their best to bring to the forefront a number of different viewpoints and, obviously, a wide variety of issues that are included in this package. They have worked hard to meet many demands on all sides, and I thank them for getting that done.

I am going to be installed this week as one of the chairmen of the sportsmen’s caucus, and we are thrilled to be able to have the sportsmen’s bill included in this package so that we can continue to see this great American tradition of families and friends enjoying the outdoors, and also recreating in this beautiful land that we have here in the United States of America.

I am very fortunate today to welcome two conservationists from Nebraska to Washington, DC. This is a group of bright, young people who are taking part in Nebraska’s Leadership Education/Action Development Program, true conservationists who are ag producers, ag business people, and are here visiting us. This is known as the LEAD Program. They are individuals from various backgrounds who participate in this premier agriculture leadership program.

Over the course of 2 years, Nebraska LEAD fellow engage in monthly seminars all across the State; they visit our Nation’s Capital; and they even have the opportunity to study agriculture systems overseas. The goal of the LEAD Program is to develop the next generation of effective thinkers, problem solvers, and decision makers who will work to provide food and fuel to our world.

As a proud LEAD alum myself, I can tell you that it has helped to shape who I am. This program continues to be near and dear to my heart. Through the LEAD Program, I learned valuable leadership skills that I have carried with me in serving my community in the Nebraska Legislature and right here in the U.S. Senate.

Many may not know this statistic, but by the year 2050, there will be an additional 2 billion people to feed in this world. It is important that the future generations of agricultural leaders be motivated to deal with unforeseen challenges on the road ahead. The LEAD Program is an extraordinary opportunity for Nebraskans to learn more about international trade, about foreign policy, and the unique agricultural systems that we have in our State, in our country, and in our world. Participants in the program will gain firsthand experience in what it means to be an agricultural leader here at home.

Agriculture is the beating heart of my State’s economy. The hard work of our farmers and ranchers in Nebraska produces abundant bounties every year. We feed the world. We are privileged to do this and proud of this responsibility, and we pass it on to the next generation.

We also know that putting food on family dinner tables around the world does not come easy. It is the result of calloused hands and long days. It is chopping ice in the tank for thirsty cattle when it is below, and moving irrigation pipes for thirsty crops when it is 110. It is the product of bright innovations, new technology, critical thinking, and fresh solutions in addressing some of our world’s most pressing challenges. Now it is in the hands of the next generation of leaders.

Nebraska’s LEAD Class 38 understands this. They know that our future is filled with promise. So I am expecting the good work that you will do to help build a stronger Nebraska and a stronger world. I want to again extend a formal, warm welcome to all members of LEAD 38, and I hope you will enjoy your time in our Nation’s Capital.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Majority leader.

CLUTCH MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I send a clutch motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clutch motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLUTCH MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending motion to proceed to Calendar No. 6, H.J. Res. 1, making further and continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019, and for other purposes.


Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. I withdraw the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The motion is withdrawn.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed as in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you. The remarks of Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 433 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”

February 11, 2019

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE
Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, the second bill that I have introduced is the Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act. I have introduced this bill with my friend and colleague from Maryland, Senator CARDIN. Our legislation will improve the access that Medicare beneficiaries have to home healthcare by allowing physician assistants, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, and certified nurse midwives to order home health services. These healthcare professionals are playing increasingly important roles in the delivery of healthcare, particularly in rural and underserved areas of our Nation, like those represented by the Presiding Officer and the State of Maine.

I have learned of far too many cases of seniors experiencing unnecessary delays in accessing home healthcare because a physician was not available to order the care promptly. To avoid these needless delays, it is common sense that other medical professionals who are familiar with a patient’s case should be able to order these services. Under current law, however, only physicians are allowed to certify or initiate home healthcare for Medicare patients, even though they may not be as familiar with the patient’s case as the nonphysician provider. In some cases, the certifying physician may not even have a relationship with the patient and must rely on the recommendation of the nurse practitioner, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, or certified nurse midwife to order the Medicare home healthcare. That makes no sense whatsoever. In too many cases, these requirements create obstacles, delays, and unnecessary paperwork before home healthcare can be provided. The result can be an unnecessary, readmission or an over reach for an other setback for the patient that would not have occurred had the home healthcare been provided promptly.

The Home Health Care Planning Improvement Act improves the needless delays in getting Medicare patients the home healthcare they need simply because a physician is not available to sign the form required by law. Again, I would make the point that this physician may not even have a relationship with the senior or other patient who needs the home healthcare. That primary care relationship may be between the patient and a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant, and yet that qualified nonphysician professional is unable to order the home care that the patient needs.

These two bills will help to ensure the viability and accessibility of home health services now and in the future. By helping to avoid the most pressing policy challenges, we should embrace cost-effective solutions like home healthcare.

Thank you, Madam President. I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, imagine going into a U.S. prison and announcing that a substantial number of the prisoners had to be released immediately—no exceptions, even if the prisoners in question had participated in serious crimes or committed violent offenses. That is an unthinkable scenario, and no one would seriously suggest going into our Nation’s prisons and immediately releasing thousands of prisoners, including violent offenders onto the streets. Yet that is exactly what Democrats are proposing as part of a border security agreement.

Over the weekend, Democrats proposed capping the number of illegal immigrants who could be detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Underweightly, they are refusing to allow an exception to the cap for violent criminals. Under Democrats’ proposal, if Immigration and Customs Enforcement needed to detain more than 16,500 violent criminals in the interior of our country, they wouldn’t be able to do it. Instead, immigration enforcement officers would have to choose which violent criminals to release back into our communities. Think about that.

Obviously, everyone who has come here illegally has broken our laws, but in a lot of cases in question, we are talking about people who have violated other laws, like laws against assault, rape, murder, theft, drug trafficking, and more. We are talking about limiting law enforcement’s ability to make sure that those individuals are detained.

It isn’t just about future detentions either. If the Democrats’ enforcement cap went into effect, Immigration and Customs Enforcement would be forced to release criminals already in detention onto our Nation’s streets.

Additionally, there are an estimated 120,000 criminal illegal aliens in the United States who currently are not in custody.

So, under the Democrats’ proposal, not only would Immigration and Customs Enforcement be forced to release violent criminals, for all practical purposes, it would also be prohibited from trying to take additional dangerous criminals off of our streets.

Let’s be very clear about what we are talking about here. We are talking about limiting the ability of a law enforcement agency to enforce criminal laws. No administration of either party would accept an arbitrary limit on the number of criminals it would be able to detain. No administration would or should sign off on a law that would force law enforcement agencies to leave violent criminals on our Nation’s streets. As of a couple of days ago, the President, I would say, were encouraged by the bipartisan nature of the negotiations to prevent another government shutdown. Then the Democrats came forward with this absurd proposal to limit law enforcement’s ability to detain even dangerous criminals.

Are Democrats trying to derail negotiations with a poison pill at the eleventh hour and force another shutdown? The question has to be asked since no one could seriously think that any President of either party would sign a deal that would limit his administration’s ability to enforce the law.

We still have a few days left. I hope the Democrats will abandon this preposterous proposal to release dangerous criminals onto our Nation’s streets. We can achieve a deal to avert another shutdown, but we can’t do it by jeopardizing law enforcement’s ability to protect the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, a little over a month ago, I stood before this body to object to the massive public lands package that it was poised to pass. This bill, some 680 pages long, was released at 10 a.m. that morning—very early the morning when they first wanted us to pass this. My staff and I had not seen it beforehand, and we had been given no time to read it. This is, of course, really bizarre process. This is not the way legislation should be written. It is not the way legislation should be debated. It is, of course, never ever the way legislation should be passed. In addition to the bad process, I objected at the time because it included a bad policy—bad policy that would disproportionately and negatively affect my State of Utah.

Now we find ourselves today, more than a month later, at a moment at which we are considering the same bill. During that time period, I have, of course, had time to read the bill. Unfortunately, those suspicions that I had
about the bill have since been confirmed. This bill perpetuates a terrible standard for Federal land policy in the West, particularly for the State of Utah.

To give one some background, the Federal Government owns—put all of them—to drive down a road that looks like some places almost unusable—by pot-holed and made dangerous—in some cases, have actually kept people away from our national treasures rather than allowing them to access them.

To be clear, in 1976, the law was amended, and it was amended to remove that 60-percent State provision, stating simply that not less than 40 percent must be used for Federal purposes. Then it was silent on whether a State would, in fact, receive a penny. The result? Well, it has been used for more Federal land acquisition than to actually care for, access, and manage the land that has been expanded. So for any one entity to own and manage that much land is going to be a daunting task, and I am not just talking wild—look to the immense needs on Federal lands is itself staggering. Now, this shouldn’t be surprising. The Federal Government is run by human beings, and the Federal Government owns an enormous amount of acres of land. So for any one entity to own and manage that much land is going to be a daunting task, and I am not just talking here about neglect of garden variety BLM lands—those managed by the Bureau of Land Management or one of the other land management agencies of the Federal Government. A lot of those lands that comprise what we might describe as the crown jewels, even of our National Park System, are parts of the Federal public lands that the American people know and enjoy the most and identify most closely with what they like about Federal land management—even many of those have been neglected.

Take, for example, Grand Canyon National Park. We have deferred maintenance costs there of over $320 million. Yellowstone National Park has deferred maintenance of over $515 million. So in Yellowstone, here you have a picture of a road going through the park, and that road is completely potholed and made dangerous—in some places almost unusable—by pot-holes that haven’t been repaired.

No American would necessarily want to drive down a road that looks like that. This is some of what happens when you continue to acquire more when you can’t manage what you have.

Here in the Grand Canyon, we have a picture of a pipe that has sprung a leak and is leaking quite dangerously. So what we have is a situation that, according to a 2017 CRS report, has resulted in a maintenance backlog of Federal lands totaling $18.6 billion.

Wildfires have run rampant in parts of the country, especially in the West, which the government has failed to prevent, and it is not just that they have failed to prevent those wildfires. It is not just that the Federal Government is not always able to either prevent them in the first place or to fight them because of the vast inventory of lands that it has. In many instances, poor land management processes have resulted in severe environmental degradation that has itself been the predictable cause of widespread environmental catastrophe within Federal public lands.

To cite one of many examples, there is an infestation of a certain type of bark beetle within a certain area of federally owned forest. Locals understand that it is coming and ask the Federal Government to abate the nuisance, to address the infestation. The Federal Government refuses. The State and local authorities come back and say: OK, you will at least let us deal with the nuisance, get rid of the bark beetle so it doesn’t destroy the trees, because if it destroys the trees, it is going to create a tremendous environmental and economic catastrophe for our people. The Federal Government says no. The trees then die.

The local populations go back to the Federal Government and say: These trees are dead. Will you cut them down so that we don’t have a tinderbox of forest fire waiting to happen? The Federal Government says no.

The people come back, those who live around the area, and say: Can we cut them down because, otherwise, this is going to be a fire. The Federal Government refuses. The State is going to be a fire. People are going to get hurt, and it is going to wreak havoc on our local environment.

The Federal Government still says no.

Then, guess what happens. Those trees catch on fire. They burn down, creating environmental catastrophe, disrupting the watershed, and this, in turn, leads to floods. All of these things connect back up to poor Federal land management processes, and those poor Federal land management processes are the result of the fact that we have too much Federal land in the inventory to begin with.

Meanwhile, we have ill-kept roads and trails that, in some cases, have actually kept people away from our national treasures rather than allowing them to access them.

Furthermore, none of the current LWCF funds—not any of them—are directed toward maintenance or upkeep.
of these lands, including within our national parks.

But for years now, Congress has perpetuated the status quo of this broken, dangerous, and environmentally reckless program by reauthorizing it in giant, bloated bills continuing resolutions without even the slightest incremental, modest reform. Worse still would be making reauthorization permanent. Indeed, it would deny us any regular opportunity as a Congress to actually reform and improve the program.

Second, the bill creates another 1.3 million acres of wilderness in the West—half of that being in Emery County, UT.

Now, at the outset, I want to say that wilderness designations might sound like a good thing, and sometimes they are. But this highly restrictive designation limits far more activities than is necessary in many, many instances to actually protect the land.

In fact, these designations prohibit almost all human activity. This land usually cannot be used for any commercial activity or any infrastructure. It cannot be developed for recreational purposes or traveled across by cars, trucks, or even by bicycle—even a bicycle made for that specific purpose—to say nothing of any type of agricultural development or timber harvesting. In a State like Utah, where the Federal Government owns more than two-thirds of the land, these designations have big consequences, especially for the poor and middle class in my State.

The amount of Federal land in Utah already sets out a great disadvantage to the people of Utah to begin with. While private landowners would pay property taxes on this land, and those taxes would go to the State and its political subdivisions, the Federal Government does not. It does not pay property taxes. So Utah is deprived of what should be and otherwise would be a huge source of revenue and of opportunity.

What does that mean? Well, as a result, our schools are crippled, fire departments are, ironically, depleted and, therefore, unable to properly take care of the land they are charged to protect in the first place, and many times strapped in their ability to provide basic services to those most in need.

With a large portion of this land in the grip of Federal bureaucrats, it is again limited in its use, in its opportunity, in its potential for use for development, for infrastructure, and for jobs that are essential to our State’s economy—jobs that would be essential to any State’s economy.

But with further wilderness designations by Congress, this is an even tighter grip. As the LWCF perpetuates the acquisition of ever more Federal public land, communities like those throughout my State start to suffer even more. Citizens, you see, in this type of an environment have to go to the Federal Government, cap in hand, to ask permission for the use of any of the land at all, for access to any of the land at all, whether that means to dig a well, to build a road, to bury a cable, or to do virtually anything on it at all. So in excess of 600,000 acres of wilderness in Emery County is of no small consequence.

I understand that a lot of people here like the fact that we are doing that. Make no mistake. They are not the people who live in Emery County. They are not the people who live within hundreds or even thousands of miles of Emery County.

Finally, this bill does nothing to address the imminent threat that Utah faces from unilateral Executive land grabs through the Antiquities Act.

To be clear, anything and everything that is designated as red on this map may be designated as a national monument overnight, at any moment, solely at the discretion of the President. Any thing here is fair game to any President, at any time, to say: I now make you a monument.

Now, the Antiquities Act, passed in 1996, was intended to give the President of the United States the power to declare land that is privately owned or controlled by the Federal Government as a national monument and to do so by Executive fiat. This was done in order to protect specific historic and cultural objects in the country in an emergency. They couldn’t otherwise be protected. But instead of reserving the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected, as the law itself requires and as the text of the Antiquities Act itself mandates, Presidents in more modern times have designated enormous, million-acre monuments far beyond the scope of the objects in need of immediate protection.

These monument designations—perhaps the most intrusive of all Federal land designations—often do more harm than good. They radically undermine a State’s economy by prohibiting energy production, mining, fishing, ranching, recreation, and a myriad of other uses.

Furthermore, without allowing Congress or the State legislature any actionable input in a decision like this, they effectively silence and disenfranchise the voices of the people closest to and most affected by and connected to the land by depriving them of any say in the process. This is not fair. It is wrong, and it is something that needs to be addressed.

Take, for example, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, designated by President Clinton in 1996. The Clinton Administration designated 1.7 million acres of land—or about 67 percent of Kane County, UT, for the monument, all the while claiming that grazing would remain at historical levels.

But this promise, of course, was not kept. Since then, the BLM has revoked permits and closed much needed range land. You see, the men and women of the Bureau of Land Management, while well educated, well intentioned, and perhaps hard-working in many instances, are not from Utah. They don’t respond to or stand accountable to anyone who is from Utah. They don’t negotiate with these counties or from my State, where people’s day-to-day livelihood and their ability to access their own land for their own purposes and to make a living—they don’t have anything to do with this land. So why would they care? They don’t.

Today, grazing is down almost one-third from what it had been more than two decades ago when the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was proclaimed by President Clinton—proclaimed and designated as such, by the way, without any advance notice to the people of Utah, without the President even entering the State of Utah to do it.

Now, ranchers were hit hard. Many of them lost their ability to fence in water resources and maintain roads around them. In some cases, they could no longer bring water to their cattle, and many families were forced to reduce their herds, sometimes by half. This may not sound like much to someone who doesn’t understand ranching or doesn’t know anyone who makes their living off of ranching, but this means all the world to those people whose families for generations have supported themselves through ranching and ranching in that area where they are deeply connected to this land.

Second, there is Bears Ears National Monument of the Bears Ears National Monument by President Obama. The citizens of San Juan County, UT.—incidentally, Utah’s poorest county—woke up on December 28, 2016, to find out that the Obama administration had unilaterally designated 1.35 million acres for that monument overnight, even though they had specifically pleaded against that.

Keep in mind that San Juan County has historically had some divisions—some of them along political lines, between Republicans and Democrats, and some of them along ethnic lines, between those who are Native American and those who are not.

This was an issue that united Democrats and Republicans alike in San Juan County. It united Native Americans in San Juan County and non-Native Americans in San Juan County like no issue ever before in San Juan County and few issues ever will in San Juan County. This brought them together because people from all walks of life opposed this if they lived in San Juan County.

And so in 2016, President Obama, at the time he declared it, claimed this to have had the overwhelming support of Native American populations. What was often left out of that discussion is they were not the Native American populations in Utah. They were not the people who lived in San Juan County. They were people outside of this area, most of them out of State, who supported it.
Yes, it is easy to designate something as wilderness or a national monument when it is not in your land, when it is not in your community, when it doesn’t affect your way of life. That is what happens when we abuse Federal public land ownership. That is what happens when you take others out of the room and decide the Federal Government is going to own more than two-thirds of the land in that State.

Imagine if in your State—or in any other other landowner, whether an individual, a for-profit corporation, a nonprofit foundation, or anything else, owned more than, let’s say, 5 percent of the land. People would be understandably, justifiably concerned that that person or that entity or that nonprofit, or whatever it was, could have a disproportionate, outsized impact on that State’s economy.

Imagine if that number were increased to include not just 5 percent of the land in your State, but 10, 15, 20, 25 percent of the land. As you rounded the corner of 30 percent, people would start to get freaked out. Imagine if that number then soared above that—35, 40, 45, 50 percent—until it got up to nearly 70 percent of the land in your State. Imagine, at that point, that landowner declared itself exempt from all forms of property taxation. That would create problems for your State.

This is what I beg and plead for my colleagues from around the country, particularly those who live east of Colorado, to understand. It is really easy to support these things when it is in somebody else’s State. It is really for people on the northeastern seaboard to look at Utah and say: Well, it is just one of those square States. They have plenty of land out there. They have plenty of room. They don’t need to worry about it.

Try living there. Try earning a living there. Try raising a family. It is not right. This goes against so much of what we believe in, in this country.

Federal land ownership is not the only unfair thing about this. Again, Federal land ownership makes possible the designation unilaterally, by one person, of a national monument, and if that one person happens to decide that a particular State ought to be the next victim, that person will make it so.

It just so happens that, just as Utah has a disproportionate share of Federal public land in its State, so, too, is it a disproportionate victim under the Antiquities Act. Since the passage of the Antiquities Act, Presidents have designated 77.85 million acres of land as national monuments, and 87 percent of that has been designated in the last 40 years. Of the land that has been designated as a monument over the last 25 years, 3.23 million acres, or 28 percent, are in Utah. All of the land in the United States designated as a monument over the last 25 years, 27.28 million acres, or 30 percent—nearly 30 percent—is in my State. Why is that fair? It is not, especially when you consider the harm done to the economies, the disruption that takes place as a result of these designations, the widespread opposition from Democrats and Republicans alike, and in San Juan County the Native American population and the non-Native American population alike are overwhelmingly opposed.

What was intended to be an act of cultural preservation has, sadly, deteriorated into a greedy, harmful Federal land grab. As it currently stands, there is always the threat of a decision coming down from on high that will utterly decimate the livelihoods of people in Utah. There is no good reason for this. Already, two other States have felt the abuse of the Antiquities Act within their borders, and they have received relief. In the 1990s, Wyoming and Alaska successfully called on Congress to grant them Antiquities Act protections. Why? Because they had been disproportionately burdened by this law. As a result of their efforts, in Wyoming only 1 percent of the land must be approved by Congress, and, in Alaska, any designation made by Presidential fiat that exceeds 5,000 acres must be approved by Congress.

To be clear, in both of these States, Congress will not be moving to designate this. It is just that they are saying, for those States where it has been abused in the past, Congress as a whole—people’s elected lawmakers as a whole in Congress—ought to be the ones designating, rather than putting it in the hands of one person.

There is no reason why the people of Utah, who have suffered more under the Antiquities Act than any other population in the entire country, should be treated any differently. There is no reason Utahns should live under this constant threat of abuse. That is why we have offered an amendment that would remedy this.

With permanent authorization of the LWCF, we can have property ownership in a greater Federal land footprint, and with the roughly 660,000 acres of new wilderness designation in Utah, I fear my State is at even greater risk for yet another monument designation. Thus, at a bare minimum, Utah deserves the same protection Wyoming has received. Our amendment would add just two words: “or Utah.” Without it, I simply cannot vote for this bill. With it, it gives us the protection we deserve and protection that other States like ours have already received.

In a day and age when we have to deal with 680-page bills dropped on our desks at 10 a.m. on the day we are asked to pass it or a 2,232 page spending bill as we faced last March, for the omnibus spending package, a bill that is not two pages long, but just two words long, should be welcomed.

There is much that is wrong with our Federal land policy in the West, and, unfortunately, much of that is something that fails to correct. Utahns, and Americans, deserve better than the stranglehold that the Federal Government is exercising over so much of our country’s lands. Yet Washington greedily continues to grab more, year after year, imposing tighter and tighter restrictions, all the while failing to maintain the lands that it already owns. These lands will not be national treasures for everyone if we can’t take care of them. Indeed, they will be treasures for no one if we continue along this same pattern of willful neglect.

Let me be very clear. My opposition today is not about whether our national treasures or parks or monuments or lands should be protected. It is about whether they should be, but how to do that and who is best equipped to do that and who is most knowledgeable to do it well.

What I am asking for is for Utah’s elected leaders—its elected lawmakers in Congress—to at least be given a chance to weigh in on these matters before they become law, rather than to have those decisions being made from thousands of miles away by just one person. Indeed, the very best way to ensure that these national treasures are protected and recreation available is to empower our local communities, which understand and appreciate their backyards best. They know which land to prioritize, and they know how to make that happen.

Just look at the State and local ballot initiatives in the last few decades to see the evidence. Since 1988, these State initiatives and local initiatives have raised over $72 billion in combined expenditures for recreation and conservation. These things matter to States and local communities, and they have already raised huge funds and found ways to preserve and competently manage their public lands.

Protection of our lands will happen without the Federal Government’s thumb on the scale, and it will happen in a way that actually makes these treasures more available for future generations. We will not be helping these preserves themselves by denying access to the people who are in the best position themselves to preserve them; that is, the people who live and work and recreate on them, the people whose lives are interwoven with them and who have been for generations. And we will not be helping the American people by depriving them of their livelihoods.

That is why I have introduced amendments that would make reforms and improvements to the LWCF, the Emery County wilderness designation bill and other provisions in this package—amendments that would steer our lands policy in a better direction, at least as a starting point.

These are conversations worth having. They need to be had, and we ought to have them. But at a bare minimum, with the least shred of compromise, we need just two words: “or Utah”—to give Utahns justice, to give them a voice in managing and caring for their lands.
The PRESIDENT. The following Senators from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and from Nebraska (Mr. BLUNT), from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. President, just to speak very, very briefly to the good Senator’s amendment to amend the Antiquities Act to prohibit the President from designating national monuments in Utah, and I have had some opportunity to speak to this issue, and I certainly agree with him when it comes to the policy goals that he is seeking to assert here. I clearly understand the frustration he has.

With the previous administration, I believe we have seen a real abuse of authority—certainly an abuse of the spirit—of the Antiquities Act. We saw that in Utah when millions of acres were locked up under Executive designation. This was done despite some pretty robust local opposition and objection. This is a scenario that I know pretty well because, in my State, we have a Federal landlord that owns about 63 percent of the State, 224 million acres. We have a provision in ANILCA that is a specific no-more clause, prohibiting the withdrawal of more than 5,000 acres absent congressional approval. The Obama administration circumvented that law. They placed hundreds of thousands of additional acres off limits to development. What my colleague is seeking here, the ability to affirm or reject a monument designation by the State of Utah, is something that, again, I truly understand. I have supported legislation and introduction of legislation to do just as he has done—maybe not specific to one State but making sure that we truly do respect the spirit of the Antiquities Act and making sure when monuments and monument designations move forward, that they are done with local support.

I am in a bit of a quandary here because what he is advocating for is something that, again, I have been there with him on. But our dilemma, if you will, is that we have a package before us of lands bills, of water bills, of sportsmen’s provisions of conservation provisions that we have been working to kind of—not kind of, but to build that level of consensus.

This measure is one that has been identified by those with whom we have been trying to work, not only here in this body but with the House as well. They have identified this as one of those measures that would bring down this effort. So we are in a position where, while I support the goals the Senator is seeking to achieve, I don’t see a path forward for it in this Chamber at this time.

As I mentioned—as you have heard me say—we have some very important provisions that we have been working on for a period of years. I want to ensure those proceed. I don’t want to see S. 47 fall. So I am going to move to table the Lee amendment, but I want to once again commit to the Senator from Utah that I will work with him, as the chairman of the Energy Committee, to address these monument designations.

Given the vehicle that we have in front of us, I will move to table and ask that colleagues join me in this tabling motion.

Mr. President, at this moment, I move to table the Lee amendment No. 187.

The PRESIDENT. The Senate has agreed to the motion to table.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we be allowed to proceed to table Lee amendment No. 187.

The PRESIDENT. The following Senators from California, Senator FEINSTEIN.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move to table Lee amendment No. 187. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. Sasse).

Further, if present and voting the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “nay.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDENT OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 20 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Mr. Alexander
Mr. Baldwin
Mr. Bennet
Mr. Blumenthal
Mr. Burr
Mr. Cassidy
Mr. Capito
Mr. Carcieri
Mr. Carper
Ms. Castile
Mr. Chaffetz
Mr. Corker
Mr. Coons
Mr. Cortez Masto
Mr. Daines
Mr. Duckworth
Mr. Durbin
Mr. Feinstein
Ms. Gardner
Mr. Grassley
Mr. Hawley
Mr. Heinrich
Mr. Hyde-Smith
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Kinzinger
Mr. King
Mr. Leahy
Mr. Menendez
Mr. Merkley
Mr. Miao
Mr. Murkowski
Mr. Murkowski
Mr. Nunez
Mr. Ernst
Mr. Cornyn
Mr. Cruz
Mr. Klobuchar
Mr. Grassley
Mr. Rubio
Mr. Mccain
Mr. Lankford
Mr. Lee
Mr. McConnell
Mr. Hirono
Mr. Scott (FL)
Mr. Scott (GA)
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Thune
Mr. Van Hollen
Mr. Whitehouse
Mr. Wyden
Mr. Young

NAYS—33

Mr. Barrasso
Mr. Blackburn
Mr. Boozman
Mr. Braun
Mr. Cassidy
Mr. Cotton
Mr. Cramer
Mr. Crapo
Ms. Cassidy
Ms. Ernst
Ms. Klobuchar

NOT VOTING—7

Mr. Cornyn
Mr. Cruz
Mr. Klobuchar
Mr. Grassley
Mr. Hoeven

The motion is agreed to.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with my colleague from California, Senator FEINSTEIN.

While I was pleased that we could reach agreement to include a designation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area in the substitute amendment, I want to clarify what this designation does and, perhaps more importantly, what it does not do.

The purpose of this designation, as with congressionally designated National Heritage Areas in general, is to celebrate the region’s history and cultural heritage by promoting education, tourism, recreation, and other historic values. It also creates the opportunity for Federal participation in promoting these regional attributes.

In no way does this designation implicate or interfere with any water facilities or operations associated with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. We are not creating new regulatory authority or modifying existing regulatory authority, including those used to control or allocate water, at any level of government.

Further, S. 47 includes protections to ensure that private property will not be impacted by the designation, protections that apply to the ownership and use of water rights both inside and outside of the Delta National Heritage Area’s boundary.

I ask Senator FEINSTEIN, you have championed this National Heritage
Area designation for quite some time. In her view, have I properly characterized the intended effect of this designation?

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. I thank my colleague from Alaska and appreciate her help this afternoon. Yes, her characterization of this provision is exactly right. There is no intent that this designation will have any impact on water rights or water-related management decisions. The general protections and limitations, along with the inclusion of language specific to Delta water operations, makes certain that the designation of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area will not affect or influence water operations of the Central Valley Project, State Water Project, or other water supply facilities within the Bay-Delta watershed, including a reduction in water exports from the Bay-Delta. I am pleased that we have included additional language to dispel any such concerns and make absolutely certain that this provision reads anything into the legislation that is not there and was never intended.

I thank her for including this designation in S. 47 and for all of her work to move this historic public lands package forward. The public lands package includes a number of provisions that will benefit California, and I appreciate her leadership in building bipartisan agreement to steer it through the Senate.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I thank Senator FEINSTEIN. As we have explained, the purpose of this designation is straightforward and intended to promote and celebrate the cultural heritage of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region, without any broader implications on water or land management.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I wish to engage in a colloquy with the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator MURKOWSKI, regarding S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, often referred to as the lands package, of which Chairman MURKOWSKI is the sponsor and which is currently under consideration by the full Senate. In particular, I am interested in clarifying the intent of title IV, regarding “Sportsmen’s Access and Related Matters.”

This title of the legislation deals with—among other issues—the amount of Federal lands open to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting that are not currently open to those activities. Moreover, under this bill, those lands may be closed for reasons, including public safety and environmental protection, among other reasons.

Is that a correct reading of the bill? Ms. MURKOWSKI. Senator MURPHY’s reading of the bill is correct.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you. It is also my understanding that S. 47 makes uniform the process by which Federal lands may be closed to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting. Moreover, it is my understanding that S. 47 does nothing to change the standards that the Federal Government uses to determine whether to close Federal lands to hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting or to otherwise limit those activities.

Is that a correct reading of the bill? Ms. MURKOWSKI. Senator MURPHY’s reading of the bill is correct.

Mr. MURPHY. Thank you.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk reads as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 7, S. 47, a bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lisa Murkowski, Kevin Cramer, Mike Braun, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, Michael B. Enzi, Steve Daines, John Cornyn, John Thune, Thom Tillis, Tom Cotton, Richard Burr, Shelley Moore Capito, Rob Portman, Todd Young.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 47, a bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from the great State of Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I announce that the Senator from MN (Mrs. KLOBUCHER) and the Senator from MI (Mrs. STAVENOW) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. SULLIVAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

(Rollcall Vote No. 21 Leg.)

YEAS—87

Alexander
Baldwin
Barrasso
Bennet
Blackburn
Blumenthal
Blunt
Booker
Boozman
Braun
Brown
Brown
Cantwell
Capito
Carter
Carper
Casey
Classony
Collins
Cortez Masto
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo

NAYS—7

Inhofe
Johnson
Kennedy
King
Lankford
Lee
Paul

NOT VOTING—6

Cruz
Hoeven
Klobuchar
Sasse
Stabenow

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 87, the nays are 7.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Florida.

AMENDMENT NO. 112 TO AMENDMENT NO. 112

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 182 to amendment No. 112.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk reads as follows:

The Senator from Florida (Mr. RUHIO) proposes an amendment numbered 182 to amendment No. 112.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To give effect to more accurate maps of units of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System that were produced by digital mapping.)

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 2402A. JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

(a) in general.—Section 2(b) of the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–358) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(36) The map entitled ‘Cape San Blas Unit P30/P30P (1 of 2)’ and dated December 19, 2018, with respect to Unit P30 and Unit P30P.

“(37) The map entitled ‘Cape San Blas Unit P30/P30P (2 of 2)’ and dated December 19, 2018, with respect to Unit P30 and Unit P30P.”.

(b) EFFECT.—Section 7003 shall have no force or effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from the great State of Alaska.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, all postcloture time be considered expired on S. 47; that following the disposition of any pending amendments, the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be
read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I appreciate that the resolution is on the very substantive vote, and I look forward to tomorrow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, 2 1/2 weeks ago, we had to limit and Republicans—the House, the Senate, and the White House—agreed to reopen the government for 3 weeks to be able to continue negotiations on border security.

A very simple statement that was made by my Democratic colleagues was this: Reopen the government for 3 weeks. We will negotiate on border security and come to an agreement, but only if the government is open, and it would be limited to border security.

It was a pretty straightforward conversation.

President Trump said: We trust you on this.

We agreed to reopen the government for 3 weeks to focus on border security.

Now it appears that based on the negotiations that are happening right now in this building, this has become a Lucy-and-the-football-type negotiation because this doesn't seem to be about border security anymore.

My Democratic colleagues have said: Now we want to add one thing. We will vote for fencing at the border as long as you agree to defund a section of ICE.

The whole negotiation now is this: Yes, we will add border fencing, but you have to agree to defund ICE.

Here is the way that works. Their agreement is this: You will have to make difficult choices about the number of people that ICE can detain.

Now, to our credit, this Congress has always allocated funding to say: Here is x amount of dollars for detention facilities and for bed space for ICE, knowing that if somebody is picked up at the border, when they are picked up at the border as they cross, the Border Patrol does not house them. They are not detained by Border Patrol. They are arrested by Border Patrol, and then they are turned over to ICE.

So the plan is not to allocate enough dollars for ICE detention but to create a new arbitrary cap for the number of people that ICE could actually detain, so that ICE could only hold x amount of people. That is what they want to get a negotiation—for the first time ever to have a maximum cap of the number of people that ICE could detain.

Why does that matter? One is to allow funding for it, and another one is to have a cap. A cap is very different, and my Democratic colleagues know it. In real life, here is what it would look like. If ICE, at any point, already had the number they have in custody at that point and they arrest someone else, they would have to choose to release someone currently in detention before they could arrest someone and put them in detention.

Let me give an example.

Coyotes now try for any adult who is coming to try to have them bring a child with them because they know if a child travels with the adult, they are going to get a special lane into the country, as if they are coming as a family. They get their own fast lane into being released into the country.

If you have this ICE detainer cap, coyotes will know: Bring people in mass migration because ICE can't release enough people at once. So if you come as a thousand across the border or 500 across the border, they have to be released into the country because ICE can't quickly release 500 people from detention to add the new 500 people who are coming through.

My Democratic colleagues also know that it is currently the case for someone who is in detention to go through the whole process to get a hearing and get finished. This would accelerate the process of getting those people out and released into the country, rather than getting them through the actual process.

The better solution on this is to add judges and actually get people to go through the process and get due process faster, instead of releasing people into the country. Once someone crosses our border, and they are released into the country, the vast majority of those individuals never get deported because they either don't show up for the hearing at all or, when they do show up for the hearing and they are told, no, you can't legally stay, they disappear.

This cap negotiation that is going on right now is exactly the wrong direction to go. It is not about border security. It is about releasing people into the country.

Several years ago, there was a young lady named Sarah Root. She was in Iowa. It was graduation night from college, and she was hit by a drunk driver and killed. Sarah Root's loss drew the Nation's attention for a moment to the issue of not only drunk driving but illegal immigration, because the person that hit Sarah was illegally present in the country and had a blood alcohol level three times above the legal limit.

Let's allow the ICE folks to be able to enforce the law—both the immigration law and not put up a cap on them, saying: You can't enforce the law this far, and then after that, you cannot enforce the law anymore because we have an arbitrary cap. That needs to be rejected, and that is not a serious offer in negotiations.

The reason we don't already have a deal that is already done right now, with this body debating it, is that debate about capping ICE detentions got added into the conversation last week-end and blew up the whole negotiation.

This is not the White House blowing up negotiations. This is not Republicans blowing up negotiations. This is my Democratic colleagues saying they want a cap on ICE detentions and allowing coyotes to be able to rush large quantities at the border or force ICE to have to make difficult choices about which gang members they are going to release and which they are going to hold, literally getting a briefing every morning saying: We can't arrest anyone today because we don't have enough detention space, so today we have to look the other way.

That is an absurd proposal, and we should not accept it.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to continue the order for the quorum call being rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.
Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise to discuss two economic issues this evening. The first is a reaction to a proposal that comes to us from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Let me begin with the observation that I am pretty sure we are living through the strongest economy in the United States in my adult lifetime. It has been fantastic for the people I represent.

Our unemployment rate is pretty much at a 50-year low. African-American and Hispanic unemployment is the lowest that has ever been recorded. The youth unemployment rate is extremely low. It is at historically low levels. Our economy has accelerated, and wages are growing exactly as we said they would. It is very simple. The demand for workers has grown so much that employers are being forced to bid ever higher for the services of the workers.

Now we are in a tremendously enviable position of having more job openings in America than there are people looking for work in America. It is fantastic. This is exactly what we want to happen.

Last week, the President was right when he said that our economy is the envy of the world. It is totally true.

So what do our colleagues on the other side of the aisle propose to do in light of the fact that we have this fantastic economy? Well, Senator SANDERS and Senator SCHUMER joined up and made a proposal that we adopt legislation that would severely restrict the ability of American companies to buy back their own stock. This is just the latest iteration of a socialist tendency that seems to be growing on the far left. This is a horrendous idea.

I suppose we shouldn’t be surprised when we hear a Socialist-leaning idea coming from a self-described Democratic Socialist or a Socialist Democrat—Senator Sanders and Senator Schumer. I am surprised to hear this coming from the Senate minority leader.

Let’s talk about this a little bit. First of all, what is a stock buyback? It is not that complicated. It is when a company first complies with a list of circumstances an investor can withdraw his or her own money from a business in which he invested? I don’t know what that principle is.

I will say, to me, it seems exactly equivalent to confiscating the property of somebody—in this case, their ownership in a business—and redistributing that confiscated asset to whomever they choose. That strikes me as pretty close to the definition of socialism. It clearly is an attack on the economic freedom that underpins our entire economy, an entire market economy.

My second point, and related, is this would be terrible for the economy. It would be terrible for the economy. It would be terrible for the economy. That is doing quite well right now. The main way it would be so damaging is it would scare away capital.

Just stop and think about it. Our economy thrives when people are willing to invest in existing businesses, in new businesses, and in startup businesses, but that investment is an absolutely essential part of a thriving economy. Well, people are much less likely to make an investment if Congress makes it harder to take that investment. This is what they would do is we would dry up sources of capital for companies that need that capital because investors would understandably say: Well, we are heading down the road of putting all kinds of limits on my ability to ever get my money out. I think it may be good to just park it and not invest it.

That would be a very bad development.

The proponents of this idea of restricting companies this way say they want to “incentivize productive investment.” I have to laugh because I have a secret for our colleagues. You see, the free enterprise system already provides an incentive for productive investment. It is called the profit. That is the whole idea. So we don’t need to punish people for making an investment as a way to incentivize productive investment. In fact, it will not work at all.

I think some of what they have argued displays a little bit of confusion about how this works. In their argument about why something has to be done, they say that 90 percent of profits go to buybacks and dividends. What else would you use it for? I mean, you first have to cover all of your expenses before you have a profit. So you could have record amounts of research and development, record amounts of expansion, huge sums of money out. The buybacks and dividends. What else would you use it for? We are running at record high levels of investment in our economy. Capital expenditures have gone through the roof in response partly—largely—due to the change in the tax law that we made. The buybacks that have been occurring have coincided with record levels of investment in our economy.

By the way, as I pointed out earlier, wage growth has accelerated at the highest rate we have seen in many, many years. I really don’t understand what problem they think we are solving.

By the way, there is an alternative to distributing excess capital to shareholders. The alternative is keeping the capital trapped in the company where it is not being put to its most productive use. You see, one of the great dynamics of a market economy is that by returning excess capital to shareholders, shareholders get to decide what new idea deserves to be funded by recycling this capital. Whether it is in the form of dividends or stock buybacks, we encourage this capital to find a new home—a new startup, a new idea, or an expansion of an existing business. The capital is constantly being redirected to the best ideas, as long as you allow it to happen.

The buybacks are harmful to the people it is, presumably, meant to help. About 40 percent of all equities in the United States are
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held in pension and retirement accounts. These are the accounts of teachers and cabdrivers and truck-drivers and folks who work at factories and do every other job that our economy depends on, who put a little money away. It may be in a 401(k) plan, in a thrift savings plan, or in their employer-sponsored pension plan; these folks own an awful lot of the stock in America. Well, buybacks are good for their investment because, in some cases, it returns cash that can then be redeployed. In other cases, it provides a bid; it provides upward pressure on the stock price, which is good for the value of their savings. Over time, if the stock gets retired, then the diminished supply gets that much greater a share of all of the future earnings. This is completely a win-win for savers and investors.

Let me just conclude by saying it is a very, very bad idea for America to take any steps down the road toward socialism. This is very much an idea of that ilk. It is a big step in the direction of a collectivist socialist economy, and we should reject this out of hand.

U.S. TRADE

Mr. President, I also want to touch on an unrelated topic, but it is an important one, the ongoing discussion we are having in this Congress and across the country with respect to trade.

I think most of us in this Chamber agree that our national trade is very good for the United States. I know it is very good for Pennsylvania.

I think we all understand that if we impose tariffs on imported goods, that is a tax that American consumers have to pay on a product or a service just because it originates somewhere else. If you add up the impact of the tariffs that this administration has already applied, according to the Congressional Budget Office, that is already going to take away a percent of our GDP, off of our economic growth. That is assuming no further tariffs occur, which is unknown at this point.

In particular, I want to address a category of tariffs that are known as section 232 tariffs because that is the part of the trade law which justifies these tariffs. This is an old law. It is a Cold War-era trade law that is designed to allow a President to impose tariffs when he believes there is a national security threat that requires these tariffs, or for some foreign product for some reason that affects our national security.

In my view, the recent imposition of these 232 tariffs on aluminum and steel were not really about national security. They had other motives and other purposes, and, in my view, they have done much more harm than good.

If you look at tariffs on imported steel, you might believe that it is helpful to the people who are in the steel industry. We had about 140,000 Americans employed at steel mills. It is possible that the tariffs are helpful to those companies and those employees at some level. The problem is, we have 6.5 million people in companies that use many, many multiples, and everybody who works in that sector of our economy across a wide range of industries is put at a competitive disadvantage when they have to pay that tax on imported steel.

Some examples come to mind. Allegheny Technologies is a company in western Pennsylvania that last year had to pay $16 million in taxes on the steel they imported. They had no choice but to import it because of the unique nature of that steel. It is threatening one of their production facilities.

American Keg is the only steel keg maker in the United States and makes beer kegs in Pennsylvania. They had to lay off one-third of their workers in March of last year because they are not as competitive as they need to be.

Colonial Metal Products is a small manufacturer. They use steel in fabrication. Their entire workforce is at risk.

The list goes on and on because fundamentally these taxes make many companies that use steel and aluminum less competitive. That is not the only problem. As we all know, many American exporters are subject to retaliation by companies that experience these tariffs. So there are a lot of problems.

I have introduced legislation that is meant to address this. One aspect of that I think is very important is that the Constitution unambiguously assigns to Congress the responsibility for managing our economic relations—our competing trade relations with other countries. Yet for years Congress has just let administration to determine this responsibility that the Constitution gives to us.

So what my legislation does is pretty simple. It says, let’s restore to Congress the responsibility that the Constitution gives to Congress. Let’s make sure that national security-related tariffs are only imposed when Congress says they should be imposed.

The legislation has 11 original cosponsors, roughly even between Republicans and Democrats. Senator Warner is the lead Democrat on this bill, and Senators SASSE and HASSAN are also original cosponsors. Four of the cosponsors are from the Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over this issue. There is the House companion, which is also bipartisan. There are 61 organizations, business groups and others, that have endorsed this from the outside.

It is important to make the point that this original legislation, while it is designed to restrain to Congress this important responsibility, doesn’t eliminate the ability of a President to invoke section 232 and impose tariffs if there is a genuine threat to American security. What the President needs to do is explain the threat, make the case to the Congress, and under our legislation, there is a mechanism that requires expedited consideration of the President’s request. It can’t be filibustered. It doesn’t take 60 votes. There is a strict timeline. So this can’t languish on a shelf somewhere; Congress has to respond.

One other feature that is important in this bill is that the executive branch determination of whether there is a threat to national security would no longer be conducted by the Commerce Department, as it is now; it would move to the Department of Defense. My view on that is very simple. The Department of Defense is the entity within our executive branch that is best qualified to determine threats to our national security.

I am hopeful that we will grow our support and be able to get a vote on this legislation.

I should point out that there are other legislative approaches. There are other ideas on 232. There is one bill that, like mine, would shift the responsibility for evaluating the threat from the Commerce Department to the Defense Department, but the difference with some of these other pieces of legislation is they contemplate a disapproval resolution. They simply observe that Congress can pass a law to prevent or rescind a 232 designation, but these alternative bills would do nothing to restore that responsibility to Congress today. We could pass a law if we had the votes, and we could override a Presidential veto. We could pass a law to rescind any kind of tariff. The alternative legislation doesn’t change that fact. What my legislation does is it would require the affirmative consent of Congress before the tariffs can go into place. That is a fundamental difference.

So I think, for the sake of expanding trade, but importantly, in my mind, for the sake of restoring the constitutional responsibility that is assigned to Congress, we ought to pass this legislation.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for a quorum be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

NOMINATION HOLD

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, due to the actions of the Department of Justice, I have placed a hold on Donald Washington to be Director of the U.S. Marshals Service. This hold does not reflect any misgivings I may have
against Mr. Washington. I believe he is a man of great integrity, and his previous role as a U.S. Attorney has prepared him for the post he has been nominated to. Mr. Washington is an excellent candidate, and I look forward to supporting his nomination. However, I cannot allow this nomination to proceed at this time due to the actions of the Department of Justice.

On December 10, 2018, the Department of Justice agreed to provide my staff with a briefing on the Marshals’ apparent misuse of the Assets Forfeiture Fund. Then on January 7, 2019, less than 24 hours before the briefing was set to take place, the Department cancelled on account that I was no longer the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

As I have explained several times, it is the constitutional duty of every Member of Congress to conduct oversight. Furthermore, at the time that the Department communicated their cancellation, I was still chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

I am placing this hold on Mr. Washington, a Department of Justice nominee, until the Department of Justice fulfills the promise to provide my staff with a briefing of the Assets Forfeiture Fund.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING CLAYTON JOEL TOWNSEND

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and legacy of Officer Clayton Joel Townsend, killed in the line of duty on January 8, 2019, at the age of 26. Officer Townsend was born in Glendale, AZ, on May 30, 1992. He was a dedicated, loyal, and highly skilled police officer at the Salt River Police Department. Our State will miss him dearly.

Officer Townsend served the Salt River Police Department for 5 years and was applauded by superiors on numerous occasions for exceptional communication skills and performance on the job. He had always dreamed of becoming a police officer and truly embodied a genuine, caring, and compassionate commitment to protect and serve others.

Officer Townsend is survived by his wife Deanna, his 19-month-old son Brixon, and his mother Toni. He will be dearly missed by other family members, friends, and hundreds of bereaved members of the Salt River community. In the words of his older brother Cole, Clayton “brought a warmth with him wherever he went. He had a smile that everyone felt.” Please join me in honoring his memory.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2019, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 8, 2019, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H. R. 439. An act to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. R. 450. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes.

H. R. 494. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, and for other purposes.

H. R. 507. An act to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes.

H. R. 732. An act to 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.

H. R. 840. An act 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.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, February 11, 2019, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H. R. 439. An act to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H. R. 450. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. R. 494. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. R. 507. An act to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. R. 732. An act to 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; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H. R. 840. An act 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; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

1. By Mr. RUBIO, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, without amendment:
   S. Res. 52. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

2. By Mr. ALEXANDER; Mr. RICHARDSON; Mr. MANCHIN; and Mr. MERKLEY:

   S. 430. A bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

   By Ms. BALDWIN:

   S. 431. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships and on-the-job training for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

   By Mr. RUBIO:

   S. 432. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

   By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PAUL, and Mrs. SHAHN) (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PAUL, and Mrs. SHAHN):

   S. 433. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

   By Mr. BRAUN:

   S. 434. A bill to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

   By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

   S. 435. 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 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

   By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

   S. 436. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

   By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINGOLD, Mrs. BILLBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

1. By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. MERKLEY):

   S. 430. A bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

   By Ms. BALDWIN:

   S. 431. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships and on-the-job training for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

   By Mr. RUBIO:

   S. 432. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

   By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. PAUL, and Mrs. SHAHN):

   S. 433. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

   By Mr. BRAUN:

   S. 434. A bill to provide for a report on the maintenance of Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

   By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN):

   S. 435. 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 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

   By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. REED, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

   S. 436. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require the development of public transportation operations safety risk reduction programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

   By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. FEINGOLD, Mrs. BILLBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, February 11, 2019, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H. R. 439. An act to amend the charter of the Future Farmers of America, and for other purposes.
S. 437. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the dollar limitation on the deduction for State and local taxes and restore the 39.6 percent individual income tax rate bracket; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO:
S. Res. 62. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):
S. Res. 63. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 12, 2019, as “Darwin Day” and recognizing the importance of science in the betterment of humanity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ALEXANDER:
S. Res. 64. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. GARDEIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ENZI):
S. Res. 65. A resolution congratulating the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of North Macedonia on ratification of the Prespa Agreement, which resolves a long-standing bilateral dispute and establishes a strategic partnership between the 2 countries; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):
S. Res. 66. A resolution rejecting the use of Government shutdowns; to the Committee on Appropriations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 74, a bill to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes.

S. 162
At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to provide back pay to low-wage contractor employees, and for other purposes.

S. 204
At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to waive certain penalties for affected Federal employees receiving a distribution from the Thrift Savings Plan during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 231
At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend the SOAR Act.

S. 235
At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 235, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to establish teacher leader development programs.

S. 262
At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 262, a bill to provide for a pay increase in 2019 for certain civilian employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

S. 274
At the request of Mr. ENZI, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children.

S. 274
At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 274, a bill to amend XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure more timely access to home health services for Medicare beneficiaries under the Medicare program.

S. 193
At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 193, a bill to improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

S. 367
At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 367, 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.

S. 368
At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, 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.

S. 378
At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 378, 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.

S. 380
At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 384
At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 384, a bill to authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

S. 385
At the request of Mr. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 385, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide increased labor law protections for agricultural workers, and for other purposes.

S. 387
At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 387, 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.

S. 406
At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an annual cost-of-living adjustment to be made automatically by law each year in the rates of disability compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors of certain service-connected disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 409
At the request of Ms. HARRIS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 409, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of Aretha Franklin.
At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a co-sponsor of amendment No. 134 intended to be proposed to S. 47, a bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 157 intended to be proposed to S. 47, a bill to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. CASIDY, Mr. PAUL, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 433. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve home health payment reforms under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support two bills that I have introduced that will help to preserve and to expand access to home healthcare.

I have been a strong supporter of home care since my very first home visit early in my Senate service. This experience gave me the opportunity to meet and to visit with home healthcare patients, where I saw firsthand what a difference highly skilled, caring visiting nurses and other healthcare professionals make in the lives of patients and their families. I have been a passionate advocate of home healthcare ever since.

The highly skilled and compassionate care that home health agencies provide in the State of Maine and across the country have enabled millions of our most frail and vulnerable individuals to avoid hospitals and nursing homes and to stay just where they want to be—in the comfort, privacy, and security of their own homes.

As we look to the future, home health services will continue to be in high demand. The Census projects that by the year 2030, the proportion of U.S. residents older than age 65 will have nearly doubled from 2010.

The Home Health Payment Innovation Act, which I have introduced with Senator STABENOW, Senator KENNEDY, Senator JONES, Senator CASIDY, and Senator PAUL, preserves access to existing home health services under the Medicare Program while also providing a pathway for innovative approaches to using these vital services. This bipartisan legislation is endorsed by the National Association of Home Care and Hospice, as well as by the Partnership for Quality Home Healthcare.

Our bill would make two key adjustments in home health payment reform provisions that were passed last year. First, it would prevent unwarranted payment rate cuts by basing any behavioral adjustments on actual evidence. Second, it would limit the risk of disruption in care by providing a phase-in for any necessary rate increases. This phase-in is critical for home health providers, as CMS has already proposed cutting Medicare payment rates in 2020 by more than $1 billion in the first year alone, based purely on assumptions of changes in behavior.

Our bill also provides the pathway to expanded use of home healthcare in the Medicare Program without increasing program spending. It provides flexibility on waiving what is called the “homebound requirement” for home health services when a plan or innovative care delivery model, such as an accountable care organization, determines that providing care to the patient in the home would improve outcomes and reduce spending on patient care.

As plans and providers continue to experiment with innovative ways to deliver care and improve value in Medicare spending, allowing them the flexibility to waive this limitation—the homebound limitation—will help to advance the goals of ensuring that care is delivered at the right time, in the right place, and at the right cost.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 62—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. RUBIO submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. Res. 62

Resolved,

SEC. 1. GENERAL AUTHORITY.

In carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 8 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship (in this resolution referred to as the “committee”) is authorized from March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2021, in its discretion,

(1) make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate;

(2) employ personnel; and

(3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, use on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

SEC. 2. EXPENSES.

(a) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019—The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019 shall not exceed $1,708,807, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(b) EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 PERIOD.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 under this resolution shall not exceed $1,283,583, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

(c) EXPENSES FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 2021.—The expenses of the committee for the period October 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 under this resolution shall not exceed $1,230,576, of which amount—

(1) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(i) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (2 U.S.C. 4301(i))); and

(2) not to exceed $10,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of the committee (under procedures specified by section 202(j) of that Act).

SEC. 3. EXPENSES AND AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee.

(b) VOUCHERS NOT REQUIRED.—Vouchers shall not be required for—

(A) the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate;.

(b) AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS.—There are authorized to be paid from the appropriations account for “Expenses of Inquiries and Investigations” of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee—

(1) for the period March 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019; and

(2) for the period October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020; and

(3) for the period October 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021.
SENATE RESOLUTION 63—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019, AS “DARWIN DAY” AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE IN THE BETTERMENT OF HUMANITY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. McCaskill, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Coons, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. Enzi) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. Res. 63

Whereas Charles Darwin developed the theory of evolution by the mechanism of natural selection, which, together with the monumental amount of scientific evidence Charles Darwin compiled to support the theory, provides humanity with a logical and intellectually compelling explanation for the diversity of life on Earth;

Whereas the validity of the theory of evolution by natural selection developed by Charles Darwin is further strongly supported by the modern understanding of the science of genetics;

Whereas it has been the human curiosity and ingenuity exemplified by Charles Darwin that has promoted new scientific discoveries that have helped humanity solve many problems and improve living conditions;

Whereas the teaching of science must be protected from those unconcerned with the adverse impacts of global warming and climate change;

Whereas the teaching of creationism in some public schools compromises the scientific and academic integrity of the education systems of the United States;

Whereas February 12 is a worthy symbol of scientific advancement on which to focus and around which to build a global celebration of science and humanity intended to promote a common bond among all the people of the Earth; and

Whereas February 12, 2019, is the anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin in 1809 and would be an appropriate date to designate as “Darwin Day”; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of “Darwin Day”; and

(2) recognizes Charles Darwin as a worthy symbol on which to celebrate the achievements of science, and the advancement of human knowledge.

SENATE RESOLUTION 64—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES BY THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. ALEXANDER submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. Res. 64

Resolved, That, in carrying out its powers, duties, and functions under the Standing Rules of the Senate, in accordance with its jurisdiction under XYZ of an agency rule, including holding hearings, reporting such hearings, and making investigations as authorized by paragraphs 1 and 6 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized from March 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019; October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020; and October 1, 2020, through February 26, 2021, in its discretion (1) to make expenditures from the contingent fund of the Senate, (2) to employ personnel, and (3) with the prior consent of the Government department or agency concerned and the Committee on Rules and Administration, to enter into reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis the services of personnel of any such department or agency.

Ssc. 2(a). The expenses of the committee for the period March 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019; and October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, shall not exceed $5,451,418, of which amount (1) not to exceed $75,000 may be expended for the procurement of the services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

Ssc. 2(b). For the period October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, expenses of the committee under this resolution shall not exceed $9,345,288, of which amount (1) not to exceed $75,000 may be expended for the procurement of services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof (as authorized by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, as amended), and (2) not to exceed $25,000 may be expended for the training of the professional staff of such committee (under procedures specified by section 202(1) of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946).

Ssc. 3. The committee shall report its findings, recommendations for legislation as it deems advisable, to the Senate at the earliest practicable date, but not later than February 28, 2019, and February 28, 2020.

Ssc. 4. Expenses of the committee under this resolution shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the chairman of the committee, except that such payments may be liquidated (1) for the disbursement of salaries of employees paid at an annual rate, or (2) for the payment of telecommunications provided by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, or (3) for the payment of stationary supplies purchased through the Keeper of the Stationery, United States Senate, or the Postmaster, United States Senate, or (5) for the payment of metered charges on copying equipment purchased by the Office of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate, or (6) for the payment of Senate Recording and Photographic Services, or (7) for payment of franked and mass mail costs by the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, United States Senate.

Ssc. 5. There are authorized such sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the committee from March 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019, October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, and October 1, 2020, through February 26, 2021, in its discretion to make expenditures from the Appropriations account for “Expenses of Investigations and Inquiries.”

SENATE RESOLUTION 65—CONGRATULATING THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN MACEDONIA ON RATIFICATION OF THE PRESPA AGREEMENT, WHICH RESOLVES A LONG-STANDING TERRITORIAL DISPUTE AND ESTABLISHES A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE 2 COUNTRIES

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Risch, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Coons, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Gardner, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Cramer, and Mr. Enzi) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. Res. 65

Whereas, in 2017, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras and Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia Zoran Zaev displayed great political courage and leadership by intensifying efforts to resolve a nearly 30-year dispute between the 2 countries;

Whereas, on June 17, 2018, the foreign ministers of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of Macedonia signed the Prespa Agreement, in which, subject to ratification by the Parliament of each country, both parties agreed that the official name of the Republic of Macedonia would be changed to the Republic of North Macedonia;

Whereas, on September 30, 2018, the Republic of Macedonia held a consultative referendum on the proposed name change in which over 90 percent of those voting supported joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (referred to in this preamble as “NATO”) and the European Union (referred to in this preamble as the “EU”) by accepting the Prespa Agreement;

Whereas, on January 11, 2019, the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, in accordance with the Prespa Agreement, approved constitutional amendments to change the name of the country to the Republic of North Macedonia;

Whereas, on January 25, 2019, the Hellenic Parliament ratified the Prespa Agreement, pledging not to object to the Republic of North Macedonia joining international organizations, including NATO and the EU;

Whereas the Republic of North Macedonia continues to provide soldiers to the Resolute Support Mission of NATO in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the Republic of North Macedonia joined NATO on March 29, 2019, and the Hellenic Republic has been a NATO member since 1952, and has faithfully met the 2 percent of gross domestic product defense-spending goal established at the 2014 Wales NATO Summit;

Whereas the Republic of Macedonia made key contributions to the United States-led Operation Iraqi Freedom and to the International Security Assistance Force of NATO in Afghanistan;

Whereas the Republic of North Macedonia continues to provide soldiers to the Resolute Support Mission of NATO in Afghanistan; and

Whereas the Republic of Macedonia joined NATO on March 29, 2019, and the Hellenic Republic has been a NATO member since 1952, and has faithfully met the 2 percent of gross domestic product defense-spending goal established at the 2014 Wales NATO Summit;
Whereas, in June 2018, the European Council set out the path toward opening EU accession negotiations with the Republic of Macedonia; and

Whereas the resolution of the naming dispute between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of North Macedonia paves the way for the Republic of North Macedonia to become a member of NATO and the EU: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of North Macedonia for resolving their nearly 30-year naming disagreement;

(2) commends the leadership and courage of Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic Alexis Tsipras and Prime Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia Zoran Zaev;

(3) asserts that the agreement between the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of North Macedonia advances stability, security, and prosperity in Southeast Europe;

(4) supports the integration of the Republic of North Macedonia into euro-Atlantic institutions, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union; and

(5) encourages other countries in the region to follow the example of the Hellenic Republic and the Republic of North Macedonia in peacefully resolving long-standing disputes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 66—REJECTING THE USE OF GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

Whereas the Government shutdown that began on December 22, 2018 (referred to in this preamble as the “Government shutdown”), lasted 35 days before ending on January 25, 2019, becoming the longest shutdown in the history of the United States;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the Government shutdown resulted in a $3,000,000,000 decline in the gross domestic product of the United States, which will never be recovered;

Whereas the Government shutdown caused significant harm to the United States by disrupting important activities and services carried out by—

(1) the Department of Agriculture;

(2) the Department of Commerce;

(3) the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;

(5) the Department of the Interior;

(6) the Department of Justice;

(7) the Department of State;

(8) the Department of Transportation;

(9) the Office of Management and Budget;

(10) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(11) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(12) the National Science Foundation; and

(13) other Federal agencies;

Whereas, according to the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Government shutdown caused delays and uncertainty within the judicial branch of the Government, a branch co-equal with the legislative branch and the executive branch;

Whereas the Government shutdown created unnecessary chaos and, in many cases, financial hardship for approximately 800,000 Federal workers who were forced to go without paychecks during the duration of the Government shutdown and for the families of those Federal workers; and

Whereas the Federal workers working without pay or furloughed as a result of the Government shutdown faced tremendous hardships due to the Government shutdown; and

Whereas the Federal worker employees affected by the Government shutdown may never recover the earnings lost due to the Government shutdown;

Whereas private businesses working with Federal agencies affected by the Government shutdown saw a reduction in income and direct consequences, including—

(1) issues with obtaining Federal permits, loans, and grants; and

(2) in the case of small businesses with federal contracts, not having enough work for the employees of those small businesses;

Whereas airports experienced delays during the Government shutdown, as Transportation Security Administration agents, air traffic controllers, who remained on the job, dedicated to the safety of every flight, were forced to work without pay in an already stressful profession;

Whereas the Government shutdown—

(1) suspended the use of E-Verify technology by employers to verify the immigration status of their workers;

(2) caused a 10 percent increase in the backlog of cases in the immigration court system; and

(3) forced members of the Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to miss 2 paychecks and suffer severe financial hardship;

Whereas the Government shutdown threatened public health by hampering the operations of the Food and Drug Administration, limiting—

(1) the ability to address critical medical drug shortages; and

(2) Federal oversight of the food supply and medical products in the United States;

Whereas, according to the FBI Agents Association, the Government shutdown inhibited the Federal Bureau of Investigation from carrying out the full operations of the Bureau;

Whereas seniors at the Maritime Academies were unable to take licensing exams due to the Government shutdown, which will significantly delay the job searches of those seniors, and merchant mariners were unable to renew licenses;

Whereas thousands of low-income senior or disabled households were at risk of losing rental assistance during the Government shutdown;

Whereas small nonprofit groups across the United States that assist the homeless and victims of domestic violence were unable to access grants when employees were furloughed;

Whereas, in the wake of one of the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in the history of the United States, the Forest Service was forced to suspend wildfire prevention efforts due to the Government shutdown;

Whereas the Government shutdown harmed the National Parks and tourism that supports the National Parks, and resulted in—

(1) iconic Joshua trees being damaged and chopped down;

(2) historic artifacts being stolen;

(3) animals being harassed; and

(4) sensitive habitat being trampled;

Whereas the Government shutdown—

(1) severely limited the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (referred to in this preamble as “NOAA”) to fulfill critical regulatory and resource management responsibilities;

(2) kept numerous fishermen off the water in New England and other coastal areas because those fishermen were unable to obtain required permits from NOAA; and

(3) created a significant backlog of work on many critical initiatives of NOAA; and

Whereas the Federal Government has experienced 21 shutdowns since 1976, ranging in duration from 1 day to 35 days: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that, no matter how long a Government shutdown lasts, a Government shutdown causes unnecessary pain—

(A) to Federal workers; and

(B) to the people of the United States;

(2) rejects the future use of a Government shutdown as a negotiating tactic; and

(3) believes that the Government should never resort to a shut down again.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 171. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 172 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 172. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 112 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 173. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 174. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 175. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 176. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 177. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 178. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 179. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 180. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 181. Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. COHN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 182. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 112 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 183. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the
SA 171. Mr. CRAMER submitted an amendment to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of tile V, insert the following:

SEC. 5. CADASTRE OF FEDERAL REAL PROPERTY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CADASTRE.—The term ‘cadastre’ means an inventory of real property developed and maintained by the Department that includes—

(i) a reference frame consisting of a current geodetic network;
(ii) an existing cadastral boundary overlay depicting natural or man-made physical features, phenomena, or boundaries of the earth, and any information related to the data, including—

(I) surveys;
(II) maps;
(III) landform data;
(IV) satellite and airborne remote sensing data;
(V) images; and
(VI) services including services of an architectural or engineering nature performed by 1 or more professionals, such as—

(I) a surveyor;
(II) a geodesist;
(III) an orthophotographer;
(IV) a geodesist; and
(V) a cartographer.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The term ‘cadastre’ includes—

(i) a reference frame consisting of a current geodetic network;
(ii) the series of current and accurate large-scale maps;
(iii) an existing cadastral boundary overlay delineating all cadastral parcels;
(iv) a system for indexing and identifying each cadastral parcel; and
(v) a series of land data files, each including the parcel identifier, which can be used to retrieve information and cross-reference between and among other existing data files that may contain information about the use, assets, and infrastructure of each parcel.

(2) DEPARTMENT.—The term ‘Department’ means the Department of the Interior.

(3) REAL PROPERTY.—The term ‘real property’ means real estate consisting of—

(A) the statutory authorization for each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastral; and
(B) the amount expended by the Federal Government for each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastral in fiscal year 2017;

(C) the use of existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department that will not be eliminated or consolidated into the multipurpose cadastral under paragraph (1); and

(D) the use of existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department that will not be eliminated or consolidated into the multipurpose cadastral under paragraph (1); and

(E) the cost-savings that will be achieved by eliminating or consolidating duplicative or unneeded real property inventories or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department that can be used to become part of the multipurpose cadastral under paragraph (1).

(F) a plan for the implementation of this section, including cost estimate and an assessment of the feasibility of using revenue from any transactional activity authorized by law to offset any costs of implementing this section;

(G) an assessment described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) with regard to each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department, or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department, or any structure on the land; or

(H) other use of the real property.

(2) COST-SHARING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into cost-sharing agreements with States to include any non-Federal land in a State in the cadastral under paragraph (1).

(B) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of any cost-sharing agreement described in subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the development of the cadastral of non-Federal land in the State.

(3) CONSOLIDATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report describing—

(A) the existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department, including—

(i) the statutory authorization for each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastral; and
(ii) the amount expended by the Federal Government for each existing real property inventory or component of a cadastral in fiscal year 2017; and

(B) the existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department that will be eliminated or consolidated into the multipurpose cadastral under paragraph (1);

(C)(i) the existing real property inventories or any components of any cadastral of Federal real property currently authorized by law or maintained by the Department that will be eliminated or consolidated into the multipurpose cadastral under paragraph (1); and

(ii) a justification for not eliminating or consolidating an existing real property inventory or component of a cadastral described in clause (i) into the multipurpose cadastral under paragraph (1); and

(3) CONSOLIDATION AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall—

(i) establish a contract for services of surveying and mapping (‘contract for services’), which shall be carried out by the Department in accordance with the selection procedures described in subsection (b) for the purpose of developing the cadastral under subsection (a);

(ii) coordinate with the Federal Geographic Data Committee pursuant to the Federal Geographic Data Committee Act of 1998 (43 U.S.C. 475 note) to provide to the Department data on the cadastral under subsection (a) to the extent practicable;

(iii) maintain a cadastral inventory, which shall be maintained by the Department in accordance with the standards as may be applicable to the cadastral under subsection (a); and

(iv) make available to the public the cadastral inventory, which shall be made available by the Department in a publically accessible format.

(2) TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS.—The Secretary shall—

(A) make the cadastral under subsection (b)(1) publicly available on the Internet in a graphically geo-enabled and searchable format;

(B) ensure that the inventory referred to in subsection (b) includes the identification of any data suitable for disposal in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(C) in consultation with the Secretary of the Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security, prevent the disclosure of any parcel or parcels of land, any buildings or facilities on the land, or any information related to the land, buildings, or facilities that does not—

(i) cause the information to be classified by law or maintained by the Department as a national security or homeland defense of the United States;
SA 172. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 112 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI to the amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “3” and insert “4”.

SA 175. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”.

SA 176. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 3 days after enactment.

SA 177. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 1, strike “3” and insert “4”.

SA 178. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

The provisions in this Act shall go into effect 5 days after enactment.

SA 179. Mr. HEINRICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title I, add the following:

SEC. 11. — SAN JUAN COUNTY SETTLEMENT IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) Exchange of coal preference right lease application. In this subsection, the term “bidding right” means an appropriate legal instrument or other written documentation, including an entry in an account managed by the Secretary, issued or created under subpart 3435 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations, that may be used—

(A) in lieu of a monetary payment for 50 percent of a bonus bid for a coal lease sale under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.);

(B) as a monetary credit against 50 percent of any rental or royalty payments due under any Federal coal lease.

(b) Use of bidding right. —

(A) in general.—If the Secretary retires a coal preference right lease application under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) by issuing a bidding right in exchange for the relinquishment of the coal preference right lease application, the bidding right subsequently may be used in lieu of 50 percent of the amount owed for any monetary payment of—

(i) a bonus in a coal lease sale; or

(ii) rental or royalty under a Federal coal lease.

(B) Payment calculation.—

(i) in general.—The Secretary shall calculate a payment of amounts owed to a relevant State under section 35(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(a)) based on the combined value of the bidding rights and amounts received.

(ii) amounts received.—Except as provided in this paragraph, for purposes of calculating the payment of amounts owed to a relevant State under clause (i) only, a bidding right shall be considered amounts received.

(C) requirement.—The total number of bidding rights issued by the Secretary under this paragraph shall not exceed the number of bidding rights that reflect a value equivalent to $57,000,000.

(D) source of payments.—The Secretary shall make payments to the relevant State under paragraph (2) from monetary payments received by the Secretary when bidding rights are exercised under this section.

(E) treatment of payments.—A payment to a State under this subsection shall be treated as a payment under section 35(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(a)).

(F) transferability; limitation.—

(A) transferability.—A bidding right issued for a coal preference right lease application under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) shall be fully transferable to any other person.

(B) notification of secretary.—A person who transfers a bidding right shall notify the Secretary of the transfer by any method determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(C) effective period.—(i) in general.—A bidding right issued under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) shall terminate on the expiration of the date the bidding right is issued.

(ii) tolling of period.—The 7-year period described in clause (i) shall be tolled during any period in which exercise of the bidding right is precluded by temporary injunctive relief granted under, or administrative, legislative, or judicial suspension of, the Federal coal leasing program.

(D) deadline.—(A) in general.—If an existing settlement of a coal preference right lease application has been implemented in accordance with the date of enactment of this Act, not later than 108 days after that date of enactment, the Secretary shall complete the bidding rights valuation process in accordance with the terms of the settlement.

(B) date of valuation.—For purposes of the valuation process under subparagraph (A), the market price of coal shall be determined as of the date of the settlement.

(E) certain land selections of the Navajo Nation.—

(i) cancellation of certain selections.— The land selections made by the Navajo Nation pursuant to Public Law 90–551 (commonly known as the “Navajo–Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974”) (25 U.S.C. 640 et seq.), which are depicted on the map entitled “Navajo and Hopi Land Allotments: Navajo–Hopi Joint Selections” and dated April 2, 2015, are cancelled.

(ii) authorization for new selection.—(A) in general.—Subject to subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) and paragraph (3), the Navajo Nation may make new land selections in accordance with the Act referred to in paragraph (1) to replace the land selections cancelled under that paragraph.

(B) acreage cap.—The total acreage of land selected pursuant to paragraph (A) shall not exceed 15,000 acres of land.

(C) exclusions.—The following land shall not be eligible for selection under subparagraph (A):

(i) land within a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System.

(ii) land within—

(I) the Glade Run Recreation Area;

(II) the Fossil Forest Research Natural Area.

(iii) a special management area or area of critical environmental concern identified in a land use plan developed under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) that is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(iv) any land subject to a lease or contract under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Act of July 31, 1947 (commonly known as the “Materials Act of 1947”) (30 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) as of the date of the selection.

(iv) land not under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.
(v) Land identified as “Parcels Excluded from Selection” on the map entitled “Parcels excluded for selection under the San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act” (S. 2326, 112th Cong.)

(D) DEADLINE.—Not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Navajo Nation shall make all selections under subparagraph (A).

(E) WITHDRAWAL.—Any land selected by the Navajo Nation under subparagraph (A) shall be withdrawn from disposal, leasing, and development until the date on which the selected land is placed into trust for the Navajo Nation.

(3) EQUAL VALUE.—

(A) USE OF APPROXIMATION.—Notwithstanding the acreage limitation in the second proviso of section 11(c) of Public Law 95–531 (commonly known as the “Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974”) (25 U.S.C. 640d–10(c)) and subject to paragraph (2)(B), the value of the land selected under subparagraph (2)(A) and the land subject to selections cancellation under paragraph (1) shall be equal, based on appraisals conducted under subparagraph (B).

(B) APPRAISALS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land selected under subparagraph (2)(A) and the land subject to selections cancelled under paragraph (1) shall be determined by appraisals conducted in accordance with—

(I) the Uniform Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(II) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(ii) TIMING.—

(I) LAND SUBJECT TO SELECTIONS CANCELLED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the appraisal under this paragraph of the land subject to selections cancelled under paragraph (1) shall be completed.

(II) NEW SELECTIONS.—The appraisals under clause (I) of the land selected under paragraph (2)(A) shall be completed as the Navajo Nation finalizes those land selections.

(4) BOUNDARY.—For purposes of this subsection and the Act referred to in paragraph (1), the present boundary of the Navajo Reservation is depicted on the map entitled “Navajo Nation Boundary” and dated November 16, 2010.

(c) DESIGNATION OF AH-SHI-SLE-PAH WILDERNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in that Act to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) MANAGEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary, or any Indian Tribe that becomes part of the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, shall ensure that the wilderness area is managed in accordance with—

(i) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(ii) the Experimental Station of the United States Department of Agriculture.

(B) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within the wilderness that are within the boundary of the wilderness that is acquired by the United States shall not preclude the conduct of the activities or uses outside the boundary of the wilderness that is acquired by the United States.

(3) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND INTERESTS IN LAND.—Any land or interest in land that is within the boundary of the wilderness that is acquired by the United States shall—

(i) become part of the wilderness; and

(ii) be managed in accordance with—

(I) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(II) this subsection; and

(iii) any other applicable laws.

(D) GRAZING.—Grazing of livestock in the wilderness area established before the date of enactment of this Act, shall be—

(i) be continued in accordance with—

(I) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(c));

(ii) the guidelines set forth in the report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives accompanying H.R. 5467 of the 96th Congress (H. Rept. 96–617).

(E) ROAD MAINTENANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall ensure that L-54 between I-40 and Alamo, New Mexico, is maintained in a condition that is safe for motorized use.

(F) OF FUTURES.—In carrying out para- graph (1), the Secretary and the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs may not require any Indian Tribe to use any funds—

(A) owned by the Indian Tribe; or

(B) provided to the Indian Tribe pursuant to a contract under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5303 et seq.).

(3) ROAD UPRGRADE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this subsection requires the Secretary or any Indian Tribe to upgrade the road L-54 as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) WRITTEN AGREEMENT.—An upgrade to L-54 may not be made without the written agreement of the Pueblo of Laguna.

(4) INVENTORY.—Nothing in this subsection requires L-54 to be placed on the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory.

SA 180. Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURkowski (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 7003 and insert the following:

SEC. 7003. JOHN H. CHAFFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

Section 2(b) of the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–358) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(36) The map entitled ‘Cape San Blas Unit P30’ and dated April 2, 2015;” and

“(37) The map entitled ‘Cape San Blas Unit P30/P30P (1 of 2)’ and dated December 19, 2018, with respect to Unit P30 and Unit P30P.”

SA 181. Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. COHN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 695 of the amendment, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 90. REPORT ON MAINTAINING FEDERAL LAND HOLDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

Not later than 180 days after the date on which the President submits to Congress the budget of the United States for fiscal year 2020, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) all Federal land holdings under the jurisdiction of the Secretary; and

This amendment is the work of your Senator. This amendment is intended to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 695 of the amendment, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 90. REPORT ON MAINTAINING FEDERAL LAND HOLDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

This amendment is the work of your Senator. This amendment is intended to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 695 of the amendment, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 90. REPORT ON MAINTAINING FEDERAL LAND HOLDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

This amendment is the work of your Senator. This amendment is intended to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 695 of the amendment, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 90. REPORT ON MAINTAINING FEDERAL LAND HOLDINGS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

This amendment is the work of your Senator. This amendment is intended to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:
SA 182. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. S. COTT of Florida) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 112 proposed by Ms. Murkowski to the amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. Murkowski (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

SECTION 2402A. JOHN H. CHAFEE COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM.

(a) In General.—Section 2(b) of the Strengthening Coastal Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–358) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(36) The map entitled ‘Cape San Blas Unit P30/P30P (1 of 2)’ and dated December 19, 2018, with respect to Unit P30 and Unit P30P.

(b) Effect.—Section 7003 shall have no force or effect.

SA 183. Ms. CANTWELL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. Murkowski (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 3002.

SA 184. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. REED) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. Murkowski (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title II, add the following:

SEC. 24. MODIFICATIONS TO THE PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to strengthen economic development across the United States by supporting cultural heritage tourism and historic preservation activities through the Preserve America Program; and

(2) to encourage the Director of the National Park Service to partner with gateway communities (including Native American communities and National Heritage Areas) to leverage local cultural and historic heritage tourism assets.

(b) PRESERVE AMERICA GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 311102 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting ‘‘and the Secretary of Commerce’’ after ‘‘Council’’; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: ‘‘(3) the Secretary of Commerce shall advise the program with respect to job creation, economic growth, and tourism policy and promotion.’’;

(B) in section 311104, by striking ‘‘(c) METRICS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council and the Secretary of Commerce, establish a process through which States, units of local government, and Tribal governments shall develop specific metrics to measure the effectiveness of the program, including—’’ and inserting—

‘‘(c) METRICS.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Council and the Secretary of Commerce, develop specific metrics to measure the effectiveness of the program, including—’’;

(C) by inserting after section 311101 the following: ‘‘§ 311105. Reports.

(1) the economic impact of the program on local communities (including Native American communities and National Heritage Areas) and on local economies and create jobs in the community in which the project was carried out.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes data provided by grantees to demonstrate the economic impact of the program.

(c) OBTAINING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders of System units, shall establish a process through which States, units of local government, and Tribal governments may apply for designation as a gateway community to become eligible for financial and technical assistance made available under this section.

(d) National Park Service Partnerships with Gateway communities.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subdivision 1 of division B of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘CHAPTER 3092—PARTNERSHIPS WITH GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Sec. 309201. Definitions.

Sec. 309202. Partnerships with gateway communities.

Sec. 309203. Report.

Sec. 309204. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 309201. Definitions.

In this chapter:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.—The term ‘‘appropriate congressional committee’’ means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(E) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term ‘‘gateway community’’ means a community adjacent to a unit of the System, including a National American community or a National Heritage Area.

(3) HERITAGE TOURISM.—The term ‘‘heritage tourism’’ has the meaning given the term in section 311101.

Sec. 309202. Partnerships with gateway communities

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, offer to enter into partnerships with gateway communities to leverage heritage tourism assets to strengthen local economies and create jobs in gateway communities with the goal of establishing a standardized framework for partnerships throughout the System, including through—

(1) providing financial assistance to gateway communities to support outreach and promotional efforts;

(2) providing technical assistance to gateway communities based on Service best practices for gateway communities to support outreach and promotional efforts;

(3) assisting gateway communities in accessing additional Federal resources available to strengthen tourism assets and support economic development; and

(4) engaging with gateway communities to support outreach and promotional efforts.

(b) PROGRAM METRICS.—Chapter 311 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by redesignating section 31105 as section 31105; and

(B) by inserting after section 31104 the following:

*31105. Reports.

(1) the economic impact of the program on local communities (including Native American communities and National Heritage Areas) and on local economies and create jobs in the community in which the project was carried out.

(b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes data provided by grantees to demonstrate the economic impact of the program.

(c) OBTAINING FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, in consultation with stakeholders of System units, shall establish a process through which States, units of local government, and Tribal governments may apply for designation as a gateway community to become eligible for financial and technical assistance made available under this section.

(2) GATEWAY COMMUNITY.—The term ‘‘gateway community’’ means a community adjacent to a unit of the System, including a National American community or a National Heritage Area.

(3) HERITAGE TOURISM.—The term ‘‘heritage tourism’’ has the meaning given the term in section 311101.
§ 309203. Report

‘‘Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that—

(1) describes the efforts of the Secretary to partner with gateway communities under this chapter;

(2) analyzes the results of the financial and technical assistance using the metrics developed under section 309202(c); and

(3) identifies—

(A) the next steps that should be taken to improve partnerships with gateway communities; and

(B) any actions that the Secretary will take to improve the partnerships.

§ 309204. Authorization of appropriations

‘‘There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this chapter.’’.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters for title 54, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 3091 the following:

‘‘3092. Partnerships with gateway communities ................... 309201’’.

SA 185. Mr. CARPER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MUKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 568 strike line 9 and all that follows through page 576, line 9.

SA 187. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. TOOMEY, and Mr. ROMNEY) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 112 proposed by Ms. MUKOWSKI to the amendment SA 111 proposed by Ms. MUKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) to the bill S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the appropriate place, add the following:

‘‘SEC. 309202. Particpation with gateway communities.

Section 320301(d) of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ‘‘Wyoming’’ and inserting ‘‘The State of Wyoming or Utah’’; and

(2) by striking ‘‘Wyoming’’ and inserting ‘‘the State of Wyoming or Utah’’.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator Chuck Grassley, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Donald W. Washington, of Texas, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service, dated February 11, 2019.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Stephanie Miller, detaillee with the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, be granted floor privileges through May 15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 12; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 47 and that the Senate recess from 12 noon until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on S. 47.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. TOOMEY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:24 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at 10 a.m.
Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Barbara Pahre for her many successes throughout her career and at the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Napa County AAUW.

Ms. Pahre is an exceptional past president of the Napa County American Association of University Women. She started the Author’s Forum, an event to raise scholarships for girls and young women for their educational and professional pursuits six years ago. The event has been a major success and has raised over $100,000 in scholarship funds.

Ms. Pahre was born in Illinois and moved to Napa, California with her husband Keith in the early 1960s. She began her career as a teacher at Carneros School and retired as Napa Valley Unified School District’s (NVUSD) Associate Superintendent and Director of Human Resources. During her time at NVUSD she also directed the gifted students’ program and the state funded school improvement programs and was the main negotiator for salary and employment issues. Ms. Pahre has worked with students in other capacities as well. She ran Magic Years Preschool and taught master’s level courses at Chapman University and Pacific Union College.

Ms. Pahre is engaged in our community and has given her time to many state and county commissions and boards. Some of them include Napa Civil Service Commission, Napa General Plan Review Committee, Napa Open Space Committee, Golden Gate Bridge and Highway Transportation District, and Sonoma/ Marin Area Rail Transit.

Madam Speaker, Barbara Pahre has spent her career and retirement working to better our community and serve our county. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the service of Barbara Pahre here today.

SAFEGUARDING DISASTER-RECOVERY FUNDS FOR ARMY CORPS CIVIL WORKS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I introduce legislation to prevent the President from diverting disaster-recovery funds from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ civil works projects.

I want to thank my colleagues—Representatives Cisneros, Velázquez, Bera, Gomez, Takano, Lowenthal, Roua, Carbajal, Huffman, Eshoo, Vargas, Roybal-Allard, Soto, Lofgren, Matsui, Serrano, Napolitano, Plaskett, and Harder—for their support as original cosponsors.

Last month, I received alarming reports that the President had reviewed a list of Army Corps civil works projects in California and Puerto Rico, totaling nearly $5 billion, from which to divert disaster-recovery funding for border wall construction.

Madam Speaker, it is morally reprehensible that any President would take recovery funds from disaster victims as ransom for a campaign promise. Targeting funds for Californians to make a craven political point and residents of Puerto Rico, who are denied voting rights in national elections and full representation in Congress, is equally low.

One of the Army Corps levee projects the Trump Administration may defund protects 12,000 residents of Marysville, California from hypothermia-inducing floodwaters that could inundate the town in a matter of hours. This is a matter of saving lives in my Congressional district and helping California communities rebuild.

My bill would eliminate a provision from the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–662), authorizing Presidents to divert funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ civil works directorate in exigent cases for national defense and emergencies. This obscure 1986 provision is the legal authority President Trump could invoke to divert disaster-recovery funding for his promised border wall.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service, no President has ever invoked this 1986 legal authority, which was originally requested by the Reagan Administration for cases of Congressionally declared wars and presidentially declared national emergencies requiring civil defense during the Cold War.

In acting on my bill, the House can reassert its Constitutional authority to direct federal funding for national priorities that help communities rebuild and become more resilient to future natural disasters. Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join us in cosponsoring this important legislation. I also expect my bill will be included in the next Water Resources Development Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVEN C. WATKINS, JR.
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. WATKINS. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Roll Call Vote Number 75. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 75.
Worker of the Year (NASW), 1975; Humanitarian of the Year, Federal Women Employees Association, 1975; Founders Award, New Orleans Chapter, National Association of Black Social Workers, 1979; Doctor of Humane Letters, Dillard University, 1993; and she also was one of four women honored by the New Orleans YWCA for lifetime of service to the community. Millie Charles was hailed as a lifelong crusader for equality during a ceremony in which she was presented The Times-Picayune Loving Cup on Tuesday June 24, 2013. Throughout her life, Charles, a native of New Orleans' Central City, has said consistently that anything she might have accomplished was the result of a group effort.

Madam Speaker, I honor the work of Mrs. Millie Ruth McClelland Charles.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWEN MOORE
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I missed Roll Call vote number 72 on February 8, 2019. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE JOHNSON
OF LOUISIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes” on Roll Call No. 74—MTR on H.R. 840 and “yes” on Roll Call No. 75—Final passage of H.R. 840.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KATIE PORTER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, January 28, 2019 due to a delayed flight. Had I been present, I would have voted on “YES” on roll call votes 52, 53, and 54.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GWENN KUSKIN FELDMAN
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Gwenn Kuskin Feldman, a beloved constituent of Florida’s 21st Congressional District. Gwenn will be remembered as a loving mother and sister, generous friend, and the grandmother who never said no to her grandkids—Ellie, Ben, and Ruby.

I was introduced to Gwenn through her son, my colleague from New Jersey—Congressman JOSH GOTTHEIMER. Gwenn was a woman who stood strong in her convictions. She wasn’t afraid to give me a report on how I was doing as her Congresswoman or speak her mind about issues of the day. Above all, she truly cared about the future of our country.

Gwenn’s contribution to our community came from her immeasurable amount of love. Before moving to Florida, she spent years working with preschool children at Congregation Beth El in South Orange, New Jersey. Her dedication to the growth of our youth continued in Florida. Countless loved ones honored her memory through donations to Jewish Adoption & Family Care Options’ (JAFCO) Gwenn Feldman Fund for Fun. In facing this loss, I am reminded of a Hannah Senesh poem, “There are Stars” or Yesh Kochavim in the original Hebrew. The first few lines embody Gwenn:

There are stars whose radiance is visible on earth though they have long been extinct. There are people whose brilliance continues to light the world even though they are not longer among the living.

Gwenn’s star continues to shine bright through her children and the lives of the many she impacted. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this incredible American and celebrating the inspiring life she lived.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Captain Roger Harless and honor his commitment to public service and our community.

Mr. Harless was born in Berkeley, California and grew up in the nearby towns of Lafayette and Moraga with his brother, Paul. In May of 1990, he joined the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. He was in the first Fire District class of paramedics and kept his certification throughout his entire career. In April 2003, he became the captain of the district’s paramedics team, where he worked diligently to serve and protect the people of Contra Costa County. In 2018, Captain Harless was a member of the first group to complete Hazardous Materials training. Mr. Harless passed away on January 11, 2019 from an illness acquired in the line of duty. He spent 29 years at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, rising to the rank of Captain at Station 11.

Mr. Harless was dedicated to public service and our community. He cherished the time he spent mentoring new recruits and his fellow firefighters. Mr. Harless also mentored children in our community as a youth basketball and soccer coach. His joy was watching talent develop, whether at the fire station, on the court or on the field.

Mr. Harless leaves behind a loving and devoted family. He was married to his wife, Karen, for nearly 35 years. He was the father of Jessica, Martin, and Kelsie and the grandfather to Sophia, Claire, and Mattyson. He was adored by his wife, children, grandchildren, extended family, friends and many others throughout our community.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROGER HARLESS

HON. STEVE COHEN
OF TENNESSEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Memphis businessman Mike Bowen who was killed in a car accident in Costa Rica on Saturday but who will be long remembered for his grace in giving others, including formerly incarcerated individuals, a second chance. He was 61. Mr. Bowen was the CEO of Champion Awards and Apparel, a company that grew out of Custom Print, founded in 1979, now the largest local licensee of University of Memphis-branded merchandise. Mr. Bowen was a 1979 graduate of then-Memphis State University and was active in its alumni association. He was also an active member of the Tiger Scholarship Fund, the Beale Street Merchants Association, the Greater Memphis Chamber of Commerce, the Memphis Jaycees, Leadership Memphis and the Special Olympics. For years, Mr. Bowen coordinated the Memphis Business Journal’s Small Business Awards ceremony.

Growing up in Parkway Village, he said his mother taught him that the only color he and his brother should see is green, hopefully with a “Benjamin” on it. In 2007, Bowen made the principled decision to hire people with felony convictions for his business in a program that he called Late Bloomers, begun in 2007. By late 2016, 18 of his 48 employees had been formerly incarcerated. Mr. Bowen said he hired the men and women because his company was doing 20th Century work in the 21st Century and need people willing to work hard and sweat. In exchange, they received a living wage and a lot of guidance on staying straight, including meeting their legal obligations. Known for hugging his employees, Mr. Bowen called many of them “heroes” for overcoming adversity and sticking with hard work. I want to express my condolences to his wife, Suzie, and his sons Colby and Michael, his extended family and his many friends. He led a good life.
Madam Speaker, I commend the NCRA for its work and the work of its members, and I congratulate the NCRA on celebrating Court Reporting and Captioning Week.

The NCRA supports and promotes excellence among those who capture and convert spoken words to text. These skills provide a foundation of public transparency for our courts, government hearings, and even our very own House of Representatives. Court Reporting and Captioning Week is a nationwide initiative. It brings awareness to the importance of the work that court reporters and captioners do. Without the records they provide, assuring accountability and oversight over government institutions would be impossible. For this reason, court reporters, captioners, and the NCRA stand as part of the foundation of our democracy.

Madam Speaker, I commend the NCRA for its work and the work of its members, and I congratulate the NCRA on celebrating Court Reporting and Captioning Week.
HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Monday, February 11, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great American and a distinguished member of this House, the Honorable WALTER B. JONES, Jr.

The Honorable WALTER B. JONES, died on Sunday, February 10, 2019 after a long illness.

In addition to being a beloved and highly respected member of the House, WALTER JONES was also a small business owner and a veteran of the National Guard.

His presence will be greatly missed and we all mourn his loss and extend our sincerest condolences to his family and friends.

WALTER BEAMAN JONES, Jr. was born February 10, 1943 in Farmville, North Carolina to Walter B. and Doris Long Jones, where he was raised.

Madam Speaker, WALTER JONES attended Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia and graduated in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts from Atlantic Christian College (now Hargrave Military Academy in Chatham, Virginia).

Shortly after graduation WALTER JONES joined the North Carolina National Guard while also working as an executive with his family’s business supply company.

In 1982, WALTER JONES, the son of Congressman Walter B. Jones, Sr., was first elected as a Democrat to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

After serving five successful terms and being known for his advocacy of campaign finance reform and lobbying reform, in 1994, WALTER JONES sought and won a seat in the United States House of Representatives representing the Third Congressional District of North Carolina.

WALTER JONES was a dedicated and tireless advocate for his community and always put the interests of his district before the interests of his party.

In Congress, WALTER JONES was an effective and powerful voice for those serving on active duty as well as veterans.

In 2000, WALTER JONES fought to help clear the names of two Marine pilots wrongly blamed for the deadly crash of a V-22 Osprey.

In 2016, the Navy issued a clarification about the cause of the fatal crash.

Anyone who met WALTER JONES knew of his tenacity as well as his abiding love for the military. WALTER JONES fought against the corrosive influence of money in politics for much of his career.

As co-chair of the Campaign Finance Reform Caucus, WALTER JONES pushed for reforms to ensure the impact and role of large campaign contributions and called for the repeal of the Supreme Court’s decision in Citizens United, v. Federal Election Commission, 558 U.S. 310 (2010), which opened the floodgates for dark money and super PACs, and he advocated for public financing of election campaigns.

During his quarter century of service in Congress he served on the Committee on Armed Services as well as its Subcommittees on Tactical Air and Land Forces and on Military Personnel.

Madam Speaker, a dear colleague has fallen but he will not be forgotten.

We are all saddened by the passing of the Honorable WALTER B. JONES, Jr. but we are happy to have served with him and our prayers and condolences are with his family and loved ones.

Madam Speaker, WALTER J. JONES, Jr. was a faithful public servant, a great legislator, and a good man, who will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

I ask the House to observe a moment of silence in memory of the Honorable WALTER BEAMAN JONES, Jr., of North Carolina.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2019 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED
FEBRUARY 13

Time to be announced.
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD–226
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing on cyber operations to defend the midterm elections.
SVC–217
10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janice Miriam Hellreich, of Hawaii, Robert A. Mendell, of Florida, Don Munce, of Florida, and Bruce M. Ramer, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and a routine list in the Coast Guard.
SD–50
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the invasive species threat, focusing on protecting wildlife, public health, and infrastructure.
SD–406
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 380, to increase access to agency guidance documents, S. 396, to amend section 1202 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the continuation of service provision for members of the Merit Systems Protection Board, S. 394, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions, S. 195, to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, S. 74, to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, S. 387, to prohibit all U.S. Federal agencies and Federal contractors from requesting that an applicant for employment disclose criminal history record information before the applicant received a conditional offer, H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and the nominations of Dennis Dean Kirk, of Virginia, to be Chairman, and Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, and Andrew F. Mauz, of Ohio, both to be a Member, all of the of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.
SD–342
Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe
To receive a briefing on asset recovery in Eurasia.
SD–562
10:30 a.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to consider S. Res. 50, improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees for the 116th Congress, and committee rules.
SR–301
2 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
To hold a joint hearing to examine the current condition of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative.
SD–450
2:30 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Small Business Administration.
SR–428A
FEBRUARY 14
9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine United States Special Operations Command and United States Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program. SD-G50

10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bimal Patel, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, and Rodney Hood, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. SD-538

2 p.m.
Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219

FEBRUARY 26
10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress. SD-106

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the state of the U.S. territories. SD-366

FEBRUARY 27
10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine policy principles for a Federal data privacy framework in the United States. SH-216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Personnel
To hold an oversight hearing to examine military personnel policies and military family readiness. SR-222

MARCH 14
10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other emerging health threats. SD-124
Senate

Chamber Action

**Routine Proceedings, pages S1151–S1174**

**Measures Introduced:** Eight bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 430–437, and S. Res. 62–66. Pages S1165–66

**Measures Reported:**
- S. Res. 62, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.
- S. Res. 64, authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**Measures Considered:**

**Natural Resources Management Act—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of S. 47, to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: Pages S1152, S1155–64

Rejected:
- Lee Amendment No. 187 (to Amendment No. 112), to limit the extension or establishment of national monuments in the State of Utah. (By 60 yeas to 33 nays (Vote No. 20), Senate tabled the amendment.) Page S1160

Pending:
- Murkowski/Manchin Modified Amendment No. 111, in the nature of a substitute. Page S1152
- Murkowski Amendment No. 112 (to Amendment No. 111), to modify the authorization period for the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program. Page S1152
- Rubio/Scott (FL) Amendment No. 182 (to Amendment No. 112), to give effect to more accurate maps of units of the John H. Chafee Costal Barrier Resources System that were produced by digital mapping.

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:
- By 87 yeas to 7 nays (Vote No. 21), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill.
- A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXII, at 4:30 p.m., on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, all post-cloture time be considered expired on the bill; that following disposition of any pending amendments, the substitute amendment as amended, if amended, be agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended. Pages S1161–62

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, February 12, 2019; and that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the bill. Page S1174

**Department Of Homeland Security Further Continuing Appropriations—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H. J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for fiscal year 2019. Pages S1152–55

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice. Page S1155

Subsequently, the motion to proceed was withdrawn.

**Messages from the House:**

**Measures Referred:**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Additional Statements:**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Notices of Intent Submitted:**

**Privileges of the Floor:**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—21) Pages S1160–61

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:24 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, D141
Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 13 public bills, H.R. 1137–1149; 1 private bill, H.R. 1150; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 17 and H. Res. 119–121 and 123–124, were introduced.

Pages H1517–18

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H1518–19

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 122, providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 37) directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress; waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules; and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 116–8).

Page H1516

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Butterfield to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H1516

Recess: The House recessed at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.

Pages H1495–96

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the passing of the gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. Jones, the whole number of the House is 432.

Page H1496

Recess: The House recessed at 2:02 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m.

Page H1496

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Presidential Library Donation Reform Act of 2019: H.R. 1063, amended, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations;

Pages H1496–97

Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2019: H.R. 1065, to provide for a study on the use of social media in security clearance investigations, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 377 yeas to 3 nays, Roll No. 76;

Pages H1498–99, H1504–05

Amending title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients: H.R. 1064, amended, to amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients; and

Pages H1499–H1500


Pages H1502–04, H1505

Recess: The House recessed at 4:45 p.m. and reconvened at 6:29 p.m.

Page H1504


Page H1504

Honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr., and expressing condolences to his family on his passing: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 120, honoring the life, achievements, and distinguished public service of John David Dingell, Jr., and expressing condolences to his family on his passing.

Page H1506

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, February 12th.

Page H1508

Suspension—Procedings Postponed: The House debated the following measure under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.


Pages H1500–02
United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members on the part of the House to the United States Group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly: Representatives Sanchez, Larsen (WA), Davis (CA), Meeks, Brendan F. Boyle (PA), and Costa.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate


Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine managing pain during the opioid crisis, 10 a.m., SD–430.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Management of Housing Contracts During the Shutdown”, 4 p.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Underpaid Teachers and Crumbling Schools:
How Underfunding Public Education Shortchanges America’s Students”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.


Subcommittee on Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled “The Impacts of Climate Change on Tribal Communities”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Cost of Rising Prescription Drug Prices”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of February 12 through February 15, 2019

Senate Chamber

On Tuesday, Senate will continue consideration of S. 47, Natural Resources Management Act, post-cloture, and vote on or in relation to amendments to the bill and on final passage at 4:30 p.m.

Following disposition of S. 47, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)


February 13, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on cyber operations to defend the midterm elections, 9:30 a.m., SVC–217.

February 13, Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, with the Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold a joint hearing to examine the current condition of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, 2 p.m., SD–G50.


Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: February 14, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bimal Patel, of Georgia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Todd M. Harper, of Virginia, and Rodney Hood, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, and Mark Anthony Calabria, of Virginia, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: February 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Janice Miriam Hellreich, of Hawaii, Robert A. Mandell, of Florida, Don Munce, of Florida, and Bruce M. Ramer, of California, each to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and a routine list in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: February 14, to hold hearings to examine the status and outlook for cybersecurity efforts in the energy industry, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: February 13, to hold hearings to examine the invasive species threat, focusing on protecting wildlife, public health, and infrastructure, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: February 13, business meeting to consider S. 380, to increase access to agency guidance documents, S. 396, to amend section 1202 of title 5, United States Code, to modify the continuation of service provision for members of the Merit Systems Protection Board, S. 394, to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions, S. 195, to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a website accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, S. 196, to save taxpayer money and improve the efficiency and speed of intragovernmental correspondence, S. 395, 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, S. 406, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, S. 375, to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, S. 315, to authorize cyber hunt and incident response teams at the Department of Homeland Security, S. 333, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, S. 74, to prohibit paying Members of Congress during periods during which a Government shutdown is in effect, S. 387, 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, H.R. 504, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security to develop an engagement strategy with fusion centers, and the nominations of Dennis Dean Kirk, of Virginia, to be Chairman, and Julia Akins Clark, of Maryland, and Andrew F. Maunz, of Ohio, both to be a Member, all of the Merit Systems Protection Board, and Ronald D. Vitiello, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD–342.
Committee on the Judiciary: February 13, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, Time to be announced, SD–226.

Committee on Rules and Administration: February 13, business meeting to consider S. Res. 50, improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate, an original resolution authorizing expenditures by committees for the 116th Congress, and committee rules, 10:30 a.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: February 13, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: February 14, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees


February 13, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, budget hearing on the Library of Congress, 10 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

February 13, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “U.S. Military Service Academies Overview”, 11 a.m., H–140 Capitol.


Committee on Armed Services, February 13, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing entitled “Military Service Academies’ Action Plans to Address the Results of Sexual Assault and Violence Report at the Military Service Academies”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, February 13, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services; and Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, joint hearing entitled “Paycheck Fairness Act (H.R. 7): Equal Pay for Equal Work”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, February 13, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Protecting Consumers and Competition: An Examination of the T-Mobil and Sprint Merger”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

February 13, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Strengthening Our Health Care System: Legislation to Reverse ACA Sabotage and Ensure Pre-Existing Conditions Protections”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

February 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Committee Tributes to the Late Honorable John D. Dingell, Jr.”, 9:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, February 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Homeless in America: Examining the Crisis and Solutions to End Homelessness”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.


February 14, Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled “The Affordable Housing Crisis in Rural America: Assessing the Federal Response”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, February 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Venezuela at a Crossroads”, 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.


Committee on House Administration, February 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled “For the People: Our American Democracy”, 10 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, February 13, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 8, the “Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019”; and H.R. 1112, the “Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.


Committee on Natural Resources, February 13, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing entitled “Climate Change and Public Lands: Examining Impacts and Considering Adaptation Opportunities”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, February 14, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “Effects of Vacancies at the Merit Systems Protection Board”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, February 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The State of Climate Science and Why it Matters”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, February 13, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Small Business Priorities for the 116th Congress”, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, February 13, Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing entitled “Putting U.S. Aviation at Risk: The Impact of the Shutdown”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, February 13, Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Ways and Means, February 13, Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures, hearing entitled “How Middle Class Families are Faring in Today’s Economy”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: February 13, to receive a briefing on asset recovery in Eurasia, 10 a.m., SD–562.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
10 a.m., Tuesday, February 12

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 47, Natural Resources Management Act, post-cloture, and vote on or in relation to amendments to the bill and on final passage at 4:30 p.m.

Following disposition of S. 47, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Pelham Barr, of Virginia, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.

(Senate will recess from 12 noon until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Tuesday, February 12

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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