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No. 39

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TED LIEU of California).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 5, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED LIEU to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

### 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.

### RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

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

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, it has been sad to read that a judicial nominee, Brian Buescher from Nebraska, has been targeted for his membership in the

Knights of Columbus as a part of his Senate Judiciary Committee's review of qualifications.

The assertion that being a Catholic and being a member of the Knights of Columbus would prevent Mr. Buescher from properly and effectively serving our Nation is preposterous.

Religion should not be a factor when measuring someone's ability to serve their country.

I remind Senators that our Constitution, in Article VI, states that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

The Knights of Columbus was originally founded over 120 years ago. It is a society for working-class and immigrant Catholics and is still true to its founding principles of charity, unity, and fraternity.

As a Catholic, my faith plays a significant role in every aspect of life and fosters a respect for the religious rights and freedoms of others.

I was encouraged to see last month that the Senate unanimously passed a resolution confirming that membership in a religious organization does not make a person unfit for public office.

Fundamental American values, among which are commitments to religious freedom and human rights, will always be the cornerstones of U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

I will continue to advocate for the rights of individuals to express their feelings without living in fear of violence and persecution.

### RECOGNIZING MATTHEW ZAJAC

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Matthew Zajac, a double amputee Army vet, for his remarkable service to our country and welcome him to his new home in Little Rock, Arkansas.

In 2007, during a deployment to Iraq, Matt and members of his unit encountered an IED, which exploded under their Humvee.

Matt lost both of his legs; shrapnel tore through his wrist; and severe burns covered the right side of his body. He received the Purple Heart for his injuries and was medically retired.

Mr. Speaker, 2013 marked the start of a downward spiral for Matt after losing his grandmother and his dad, a man who had stood by his side throughout the entire recovery process.

Matt came to Arkansas seeking more than just help. He needed a community. Today, central Arkansas community groups, veterans support organizations, and our VA hospital are helping Matt restart his life.

He is seeking proper treatment for his PTSD and acts as a spokesman for our Second Congressional District veterans group, We Are the 22, which offers assurance and hope for veterans who are considering suicide.

Matt's sacrifice for Arkansas and America will never be forgotten, and I join all Arkansans in offering Matt a heartfelt welcome to his new house in North Little Rock.

### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VENEZUELA

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and the ineffective, inhumane, and irresponsible actions of the Maduro government.

For years, Venezuela's United Socialist Party has pushed a once-prosperous nation towards desperate poverty and open tyranny.

Today in Venezuela, Maduro celebrates while his people eat garbage.

For too long, the authoritarian regime has acted without accountability. Water sanitation is nonexistent, and hospitals stand without power or medicine, the results, Mr. Speaker, of 20 years of irresponsible socialism under the Chavez and Maduro regimes—all this while 200 tons of U.S. food and medical assistance sit unused at the Venezuela-Colombia border, blocked by Maduro from entering the country.

I stand with the Organization of American States and over 50 countries

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

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



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with interim President Juan Guaido and call on Maduro to step down so that humanitarian aid can flow to the Venezuelan people, who are sick, starving, and scared.

All Americans stand with Venezuelans, who want their republic back; they want their rights back; they want their freedom back.

#### CLOSE THE LOBBYIST LOOPHOLE

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

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act.

This bill will close a loophole that lobbyists on both sides of the aisle—and they are lobbyists—have been taking advantage of for far too long. They have been using it to skirt disclosure under the guise of just providing strategic guidance for billion-dollar corporations.

You know, when I go back to Staten Island and south Brooklyn, they see right through this. They see it for what it is, people getting over on the system on the backs of hardworking Americans. And they are tired of it.

It is time that we do our job here in the Halls of Congress to end this. This is the way our jobs should work, because for far too long we have been allowing lobbyists on both sides of the aisle to undermine this process and keep our constituents in the dark.

Just look at this—both sides of the aisle. We have seen this in my own party with former Senate majority leader Tom Daschle:

He laid the blueprint for the shadow lobbying industry. He did work that looks, smells, and tastes a lot like lobbying, but the public was in the dark. He earned millions advising healthcare clients and others about how to navigate Congress without registering as a lobbyist.

And on the Republican side, the President's former lawyer, the infamous Michael Cohen, getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for providing strategic guidance to corporations when, in truth, it was providing access to the President without ever registering as a lobbyist. Again:

Used his ties to the President to land consulting agreements; secretly hired to work on the same issues their lobbyists were already registered to work on; was paid millions of dollars to help influence administration policy without once registering as a lobbyist.

Folks, this is corruption. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake, this is corruption.

And no matter if you are a Democrat, if you are a Republican, or if you are an independent, we all see it for what it is.

Now, this is why H.R. 1 is such an essential step. I applaud my Democratic colleagues for putting a bold anticorruption bill on the floor of the House this week, of which the Lobbyist Loophole Closure Act will be a part.

We have got to take this opportunity and push the ball forward because, for the last 4 years, the American people have been voting for change. The Republicans called it draining the swamp. The Democrats called it anticorruption.

The American people are united against the American political class. They are united against the D.C. political class.

We have got to do something about it, because, if it looks like a lobbyist, if it talks like a lobbyist, if it acts like a lobbyist, then, Mr. Speaker, let's call it a lobbyist. Let's disclose it and regulate it as such.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 157TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMESTEAD ACT

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 commemorate the 157th anniversary of the Homestead Act passing the House of Representatives.

The Homestead Act was instrumental in bringing settlers to the Midwest and forming the State of Nebraska, as it allowed any qualified person to claim up to 160 acres of Federally owned land in exchange for 5 years of living on and improving the property.

Homestead National Monument, which is located in Nebraska's Third Congressional District, commemorates this law.

Unfortunately, the name of this facility does not represent its cultural and historical value, as many tourists show up looking for a physical monument rather than a park, which would more accurately describe it.

For this reason, and at the request of the local community, I introduced a bill on Thursday, February 28, the law's anniversary, to reclassify Homestead National Monument as a national historical park.

I ask my colleagues to support this bill in order to maximize its value in terms of education, tourism, and economic development for the surrounding community as it commemorates an important event in our Nation's history.

#### REMEMBERING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER JONES

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to remember my good friend and our late colleague Representative Walter Jones.

Walter Jones was someone who deeply cared about this institution and the constitutional principles that undergird our service. He was a respected member of the Armed Services Committee, where he was a passionate advocate for military families and against endless, senseless wars that seem, too often, to have a small per-

centage of Americans bear a disproportionate burden for the decisions that are made by this body and others.

Walter was a deeply caring individual. He was an encourager. When he saw Members on the floor, regardless of your seniority or your status within the institution, he referred to everyone as "chairman." He thought that was a distinction that should be shared and one he used to reverberate those with whom he served in this body.

He had friends on the right, on the left, and in the middle, because Walter treated everyone with respect and was the ultimate southern gentleman.

I will miss his friendship, his guidance, his mentorship, and this institution and this country will miss the principle with which Walter Jones served our great Nation.

#### 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 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TED LIEU of California) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

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

Bless the Members of this assembly, and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans, to nurture and guarantee democratic freedoms to all who dwell in our great Nation. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

Give each Member the wisdom, patience, and perseverance to attend to the pressing issues of these days.

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

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

Mr. FERGUSON. 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, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BRINDISI 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.

#### DEMOCRACY REFORM

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I started in this business as a college student. Inspired by what was happening with the civil rights movement, I worked on the campaign to lower the voting age to 18 in my home State of Oregon and on the national campaign.

After that, I had the privilege to work on a series of nonpartisan efforts to expand the franchise, to improve voting rights, to streamline access—bipartisan, not particularly controversial.

It has been one of the biggest disappointments of my life to find that the issues that I worked on as a college student continue to vex us. But I am pleased today that we are in the process of advancing H.R. 1, the most significant democratic reform package in a generation.

H.R. 1 will make it easier to vote, regardless of income, ability, geography, or race. It fights to end the dominance of big money in our politics and enacts tougher ethics standards to ensure public officials actually work for the public.

I am particularly proud of three provisions that I helped incorporate into the bill from our Oregon experience.

Oregon is a pioneer of vote by mail, and bringing that model nationwide paves the way for all States to be able to offer vote by mail and early voting that is secure and verifiable. It even saves money for State and local governments.

We have a provision that has automatic voter registration for individuals interacting with State agencies. They are automatically registered to vote.

And it mandates that paper ballots ensure election integrity and the ability to audit.

I look forward to our moving forward, Mr. Speaker, to be able to deal

with this significant conversation to make sure that we meet our responsibility for the democratic process to function.

#### HERITAGE MISSION FOR SOUTHEASTERN KANSAS

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

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to encourage the President to sign into law S. 47, the bipartisan lands package, which includes my legislation protecting the Fort Scott National Historic Site in Kansas.

My first piece of legislation, the Fort Scott National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act preserves the legacy of the fort's role in the American frontier. This legislation solidifies the community's contribution to supporting the Union during the Civil War.

Known locally as Lunette Blair, this antique structure is the sole remaining blockhouse that helped repel the Confederate invasion into eastern Kansas. It is only through the stewardship of the Fort Scott community that this blockhouse still stands.

I thank my colleagues in the Kansas delegation for joining me in this heritage mission for southeast Kansas.

#### BETTER OVERSIGHT OF CABLE AND INTERNET PROVIDERS

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

Mr. BRINDISI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the need for better oversight of cable and internet providers.

Between price increases, slow internet speeds, and baffling fees, customers in all regions of the country, and in my district in New York State, are overcharged by their cable company and don't always get what they have paid for.

For customers on fixed incomes, a sudden jump in the cable bill can put a painful squeeze on other parts of the family budget. Customers in rural areas often find their broadband speeds are not nearly as fast as advertised, if they are lucky enough to have broadband at all. That is why I am introducing the Transparency for Cable Consumers Act.

Under this bill, if a cable or internet company is fined by the State public service commission, the company would be required to report to the FCC what they are charging customers and what they are delivering in return.

By bringing more transparency into the market, we can help increase competition and improve services for consumers across the country.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 5, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 5, 2019, at 9:31 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 252.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

#### CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-19)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela, is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2019.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 5, 2019.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

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

## STREAMLINING ENERGY EFFICIENCY FOR SCHOOLS ACT OF 2019

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 762) to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 762

*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 "Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2019".

### SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.

Section 392 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6371a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) COORDINATION OF ENERGY RETROFITTING ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS.—

"(1) DEFINITION OF SCHOOL.—Notwithstanding section 391(6), for the purposes of this subsection, the term 'school' means—

"(A) an elementary school or secondary school (as defined in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801));

"(B) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 102(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)));

"(C) a school of the defense dependents' education system under the Defense Dependents' Education Act of 1978 (20 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) or established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code;

"(D) a school operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

"(E) a tribally controlled school (as defined in section 5212 of the Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988 (25 U.S.C. 2511)); and

"(F) a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b))).

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, shall establish a clearinghouse to disseminate information regarding available Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to help initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

"(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

"(A) consult with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a list of Federal programs and financing mechanisms that are, or may be, used for the purposes described in paragraph (2); and

"(B) coordinate with appropriate Federal agencies to develop a collaborative edu-

cation and outreach effort to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs and financing mechanisms described in subparagraph (A), which may include the development and maintenance of a single online resource that includes contact information for relevant technical assistance in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy that States, local education agencies, and schools may use to effectively access and use such Federal programs and financing mechanisms.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. 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 H.R. 762.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to voice my strong support for H.R. 762 introduced by my good friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT).

This legislation will provide a coordinating structure for our Nation's schools to help them better navigate available Federal programs and financing options.

Across our great country, K–12 school districts spend literally billions of dollars on their energy bills each year, while an estimated 14 million American children attend deteriorating public schools. By upgrading these systems, we can increase efficiency and focus school funding to achieve better educational outcomes.

We have a huge opportunity this Congress to make major investments in our Nation's infrastructure—including our most essential institutions, such as schools.

I believe efficiency has to be our fuel of first choice. We can save local taxpayers money while upgrading and modernizing these facilities.

This legislation has passed the House in each of the last two Congresses with broad bipartisan support, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this year's iteration.

I commend Representative CARTWRIGHT and the bill's bipartisan cosponsors for their efforts, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the bill.

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

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I want to consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, H.R. 762, was introduced by Representative CARTWRIGHT on January 24. I would note that it is identical to bills that passed the House in prior Congresses by a voice vote, unanimous and bipartisan.

This legislation would require that the Secretary of Energy establish a clearinghouse to share information regarding available Federal programs to help schools initiate, develop, and finance energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects. These types of energy upgrades will help schools stretch their budgets and reduce their impact on the environment at the same time.

This is a good, bipartisan bill. It is going to help schools take advantage of existing programs to cut down on their energy use. As I have said before, we should continue to encourage these innovations in energy efficiencies to help address climate change, and this bill is a good step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, when I was a student, I never had a legislator come visit my class. As part of my district operation, I visit a school literally every week.

So we all have districts that look pretty much the same. I have probably 100-some school districts, close to 500, 600 school buildings for sure, and as I have visited these classrooms in the years that I have served, every school is different. Many of these schools are 40, 50, 60 years old.

This legislation is needed. We want to make sure that the money for education not only goes to help our students move forward, but, in fact, that they are in a safe environment. Energy conservation is something that is needed at almost every one of our schools.

This is a good piece of legislation. I hope that we can pass it again today by a strong, bipartisan—perhaps, unanimous—vote, and I urge that the Senate take it up as quickly as they can.

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT). Representative CARTWRIGHT is from Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the leadership for bringing this bill up under suspension today, and to Representative TONKO for yielding time, also, to Republican Leader UPTON for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the entire Energy and Commerce Committee for their long-term support for this bill. And I say "long-term" because this bill has passed the House under suspension under each of the past three Congresses.

Unfortunately, our friends in the Senate—and I use that word loosely—have yet to bring it to the floor. I am glad the House is considering this bill early in the session with plenty of time for the Senate to act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Congressman WELCH of Vermont, particularly, for his leadership on this bill. It is no secret that he is one of the great energy efficiency gurus in the House, and it has been a pleasure for me to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, across the country, school districts spend billions of dollars on their energy every year. These

are schools in need of upgrades and improvements to their facilities.

In its most recent Infrastructure Report Card, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave the condition of our Nation's schools a grade of D-plus.

Now, what this bill proposes are enhancements that improve the state of our schools, our economy, and our environment by implementing economically and environmentally sustainable changes so school administrators can address short-term and long-term needs. In reducing their energy bills, schools can put the savings toward other educational priorities.

Now, according to the EPA and the Department of Energy, K-12 school districts, nationwide, spend approximately \$8 billion on their energy every year, second only to personnel costs. \$8 billion exceeds the costs of textbooks and supplies. An estimated \$2 billion of that cost could be saved by improving energy efficiency, an amount that can pay for 40 million textbooks.

Moreover, 43 percent of schools, according to a Department of Education survey, indicated that the poor condition of their facilities interferes with the delivery of instruction. In fact, high-performance schools can lower a school district's operating costs by up to 30 percent.

Now, there are numerous Federal initiatives already available to schools to help them become more energy efficient, but these programs are spread across the Federal Government, making it challenging, time consuming, difficult, and costly for schools to identify and take full advantage of these programs. We are talking about harried, busy school administrators that don't have the time to dive in to do that kind of research.

These programs exist for schools to utilize them. We should make every effort to assist schools in enacting sensible upgrades that help our students learn and help our schools run smoothly and efficiently.

This bipartisan Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act aims to provide a coordinating structure for schools to help schools better navigate available Federal programs and financing options. Now, this legislation does not spend any additional money, and it keeps decisionmaking authority with the States, the school boards, and the local officials.

The bill establishes a clearinghouse through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The clearinghouse will disseminate information on Federal programs and financing mechanisms that may be used to develop energy efficiency, distributed generation, and energy retrofitting projects for schools.

The bill also directs the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy to coordinate with Federal agencies and develop an outreach program to streamline communications and promote available Federal programs. For example, outreach may provide a sin-

gle website where school officials can learn, with one-stop shopping, about the relevant programs.

This is commonsense legislation that will ensure that schools can more easily take advantage of energy efficiency programs. It is a strategic and cost-saving investment to relieve the fiscal pressure felt by school districts across the Nation while bringing us closer to energy security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on our side that I am aware of, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), my colleague and friend.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member; the chairman; and the sponsor of this bill, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, in persistent advocacy.

What Mr. CARTWRIGHT said really makes sense. It is pretty bad, the condition of many of our schools throughout the country. About 43 percent are in substandard condition. It has a real impact on learning, but it also has an impact on expense. It means that kids are in cold and drafty schools or it is too hot; it is one or the other.

Energy efficiency programs can make a huge difference, and there are some that are available.

As Mr. CARTWRIGHT said, the teachers and the principals want to focus on instruction and taking care of the kids. They don't have time to manage and investigate what are all of the programs out there that may allow them to rehab their schools.

This allows the Secretary to essentially provide a blueprint so that, whether you are in a small town like Norwich, Vermont, where I am from, where we have got a population of about 3,000, or you are in an urban district in the middle of Chicago, you are going to be able to get the information you need without absorbing a lot of staff time.

And then, by the way, kids are getting involved in this question of climate change. This is a big deal because, at our schools and our high schools, there is a lot of leadership that is saying we have got an obligation to protect our planet. What is going to happen when we embrace energy efficiency on a large scale but start locally is that it is going to reduce carbon emissions.

In fact, when we passed the Waxman-Markey bill in the House—it didn't get through the Senate—where the goal was 80 percent carbon reductions by 2050, 40 percent of those carbon reductions were coming from energy efficiency.

It is what Mr. TONKO says. It is our fuel of choice. It is the cheapest way to reduce carbon emissions.

The other thing is, every time you are doing energy efficiency, it means local tradesmen and -women are doing

the work. So it is those kids who are going to have a warmer or a cooler school, and it is their moms and dads who are going to be doing the work to make that happen. So this really makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this legislation and leadership on the committee for their work in bringing it forward.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our colleagues to support this measure. Obviously, H.R. 762 enables us to make certain that we target wastefulness and energy efficiency. It is a good way to make certain that resources that can be committed to education are not wasted through inefficient use of energy—a good, strong message for the development of our children.

So it is a great bill. I applaud Representative CARTWRIGHT and his co-sponsors for moving us forward and ask that our colleagues support this measure.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 762.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1615

#### RESPONSIBLE DISPOSAL REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 347) to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 347

*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 "Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act of 2019".

#### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION.

Section 112(a)(1)(B) of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. 7922(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "September 30, 2023" and inserting "September 30, 2031".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. 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 H.R. 347.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, last September the House approved an identical bill, H.R. 2278, in the 115th Congress by a voice vote. Unfortunately, that bill did not move in the Senate, so we are back to reconsider H.R. 347, introduced by Mr. TIPTON and cosponsored by my Energy and Commerce colleague, Ms. DEGETTE.

The Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act established a process for remediating inactive uranium-ore processing sites, such as the one in Grand Junction, Colorado.

To protect public health and safety from potential risks, uranium mill tailings must be disposed at a site that is licensed and that meets standards established by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The continued operation of the Cheney Disposal Cell is critical. Last year, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment provided the following for the RECORD: "Given that this is the only DOE uranium mill tailings disposal site left in the country, it is critical that this facility remains open to receive and dispose of the uranium mill tailings that are discovered in our communities. This action will ensure the continued protection of human health and the environment."

The cell receives approximately 2,700 cubic yards of additional waste per year, and has sufficient space to receive an estimated 235,000 cubic yards, which represents 86 more years of operation at current rates.

H.R. 347 would authorize the Department of Energy to continue to operate the Cheney Disposal Cell through September 2048 or until it is filled to capacity. Currently, DOE is authorized to operate this cell through September 2023.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan bill, and I hope we can move it forward today.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) will control the time for the minority.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, first, with apologies to our official reporter, and directed at you, "let the good times roll," "laissez les bons temps rouler."

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 347, the Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act of 2019, was introduced by our Colorado colleague, SCOTT TIPTON, and cosponsored by my Energy and Commerce

Committee colleague from Colorado, DIANA DEGETTE.

H.R. 347 extends the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 site in Mesa County, Colorado. The legislation was passed by the House last September, and the bill today is identical to what we passed last year, save a change in dates.

The legislation was considered by the Subcommittee on Environment and marked up through regular order. It was reported by the full committee with a bipartisan amendment by a voice vote.

Mining and processing of uranium generates a byproduct known as uranium mill tailings. Congress passed the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act 4 years ago to establish the framework for DOE to dispose of mill tailings, which are left over from nuclear defense activities and the development of our commercial nuclear industry.

The act also authorized the Grand Junction, Colorado, site to serve as a disposal location. This is the only DOE uranium mill tailings disposal site remaining open in the Nation, so it is necessary for the final disposition of mill tailings discovered in communities.

H.R. 347 extends the site's current authorization until 2031. The extension will enable the site to plan long-term operations to protect public health and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers on my side, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TIPTON), the author of the legislation.

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Illinois for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Energy's Cheney Disposal Cell in Mesa County, Colorado, is a critical component of the DOE legacy management mission to protect public health and the environment.

The cell receives radioactive waste materials that were produced decades ago during the uranium milling process. The waste materials continue to be uncovered during road construction, bridge replacement, home foundation excavation, and other construction activities in several towns in western Colorado. Once the waste materials are discovered, they must be properly disposed of at the Cheney Disposal Cell.

The authorization for the Cheney Disposal Cell expires at the end of 2023, or when the site is filled to capacity. Currently, the remaining capacity in the cell is approximately 234,000 cubic yards, therefore, an extended authorization is required. H.R. 347 would extend the authorization until 2031.

As my colleague from Illinois noted, we passed this legislation in the last

Congress, but this bill is now coming up at a critically important time. According to the Department of Energy, if the disposal cell is not reauthorized this year, DOE will have to take steps to begin to decommission the site. This means no more materials will be accepted in 2019 and we will lose a critical component of the DOE's legacy management program.

I thank my colleague from Colorado, Ms. DIANA DEGETTE, for her support on this bill, and for her leadership on the Energy and Commerce Committee for recognizing the need to bring this bill up now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 347.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I, too, for the reasons that this legislation would allow for the only disposal site of its kind in the country, it is important that we pass this important infrastructure concept, and I encourage our colleagues to support the bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 347.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### REAUTHORIZING WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1138) to reauthorize the West Valley demonstration project, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1138

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 3(a) of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act (Public Law 96-368; 42 U.S.C. 2021a note) is amended by striking "\$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1981" and inserting "\$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2026".

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) the volumes, origins, and types of radioactive waste at the Western New York Service Center in West Valley, New York;

(2) what options have been identified for disposal of each such type of radioactive waste;

(3) what is known about the costs of, and timeframes for, each such option;



(4) the benefits and challenges of each such option, according to the State of New York and the Department of Energy; and

(5) as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) how much has been spent on the disposal of radioactive waste associated with the demonstration project prescribed by section 2(a) of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act; and

(B) what volumes and types of radioactive waste have been disposed of from the Western New York Service Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. 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 H.R. 1138.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, last September, the House approved an identical bill, H.R. 2389, in the 115th Congress, by a voice vote.

Unfortunately, that bill did not move in the Senate. Today, we will reconsider H.R. 1138, which has been reintroduced by my New York colleague and friend, Mr. REED.

The Western New York Nuclear Service Center in West Valley, New York, has been the center of disputes and legislative actions since the 1980s. This site is a difficult reminder that we are still dealing with the consequences of our Nation's entry into the atomic age.

While the site is owned by New York State, between 1966 and 1972 it was operated by a private business to reprocess spent nuclear fuel primarily provided by the Federal Government. Those reprocessing activities ended decades ago, but high-level waste and transuranic waste continue to be stored at the site.

A cost-sharing agreement for the site's remediation has been resolved, but disposal of the waste remains a point of contention.

Since 1986, DOE has classified the waste as commercial rather than waste deriving from atomic energy defense activities.

Under this classification, DOE believes that the cost for disposal of the wastes should be borne by the State of New York. New York State believes that since 60 percent of the material sent to West Valley was from facilities that conducted defense activities, and 80 percent of the reprocessed plutonium shipped out of West Valley was sent to defense facilities, it should be categorized as defense-related waste.

This classification disagreement has major consequences for how the waste can be disposed of and who will be re-

sponsible for covering the costs. While I would prefer more certainty in clarifying the wastes' classification, this legislation puts us on a path towards solving this issue by requiring a GAO report on the origins of and disposal pathways, including cost estimates.

In addition, the bill reauthorizes the West Valley Demonstration Project at \$75 million annually for 7 years. This funding level is in line with historic appropriations levels and will ensure the cleanup will continue on schedule.

This bill may not resolve the decades-old dispute between New York and the Department of Energy. It does address funding for the remediation of the site and attempts to move the ball forward to ensure that wastes are disposed of properly and, most importantly, fairly.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1138, a bill to reauthorize the West Valley Demonstration Project, was introduced recently by our New York colleague, TOM REED. I also see my good friend, BRIAN HIGGINS on the floor, and I know the chairman has been personally involved with this for many, many, many years.

The House passed an essentially identical version of this bill this past September on suspension. Prior to that vote, the bipartisan legislation had moved through the Energy and Commerce Committee by regular order, including a legislative hearing and mark-ups as part of our broader nuclear waste management agenda. It was reported by the full committee with a bipartisan amendment by a voice vote.

H.R. 1138 authorizes appropriations to support the Department of Energy's environmental remediation at its West Valley cleanup site in New York through 2026. It also directs a study to help Congress determine the final disposition of radioactive waste that DOE is cleaning up at the site.

H.R. 1138 continues the work of Congress to address the Federal Government's obligations for treatment and disposal of the legacy waste produced during the Cold War, and through the Federal Government's early efforts to develop a civilian nuclear energy industry.

The Department of Energy has successfully remediated 92 sites of this waste, but the most technologically challenging projects remain in process at 17 locations, one of which is the West Valley site.

In 1980, Congress passed the West Valley Demonstration Project Act to direct DOE to address legacy environmental issues and authorized appropriations only through fiscal year 1981. The project has not been reauthorized since that time, despite Congress funding DOE's work at the site for the past 37 years.

H.R. 1138 corrects this situation, provides a path to answering important questions concerning the waste disposi-

tion, and ensures spending at the site is subject to an active authorization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1138, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), my colleague and friend from the 26th Congressional District.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congressman TOM REED's bill, H.R. 1138, which authorizes funding for the cleanup of the West Valley demonstration project, the nuclear waste remediation site in western New York.

Mr. Speaker, advocates are in Washington this week to remind Congress of the importance of the Great Lakes as a source of clean water for millions of Americans. The long-term cleanup at West Valley, which sits 30 miles from Lake Erie and at the foot of a tributary stream, will prevent harmful contamination to the region.

The Department of Energy has an obligation to ensure that 600,000 gallons of high-level radioactive waste are solidified and disposed of safely and expeditiously. The funding in this bill will allow us to do just that.

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. REED), the author of the legislation.

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for yielding me the time and his leadership on this issue, as well as my good friends PAUL TONKO and BRIAN HIGGINS for joining me in the effort today in regards to the West Valley Reauthorization Act before us.

Obviously, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. This legislation deals with the project located in our district in western New York and the great community of West Valley.

West Valley, New York, is the home of radioactive waste that has been distributed there and deposited there over the years way back when. But I will tell you, over the last 15 years, this site has led the Nation, in my humble opinion, in coming up with techniques and technologies that are deployed across other nuclear waste facilities and sites in order to handle that high-level radioactive waste from those facilities as well as those in West Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is only right to bring further clarity and certainty to our area of the district at West Valley in regards to this bill, giving 7 years' worth of reauthorization legislation, to send the signal that not only do we stand and support the appropriations that go to this facility in order to clean it up in the most efficient and effective manner, but, also, we stand as authorizers to say that this type of facility and this type of program needs

to be renewed for at least 7 years because, Mr. Speaker, it is going to take many more years to clean this site up.

Giving this site 7 years of that additional certainty is the only right thing to do in order to have these folks who are doing the hard work be given the indications from Congress that we stand with them as they engage in this effort.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the entire Energy and Commerce Committee and Mr. SHIMKUS for his tireless work on the issue of nuclear waste cleanup and standing with us on this piece of legislation.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the local officials: the town of Ashford supervisor, Charles Davis; the West Valley deputy general manager, Scott Anderson; and the other local leaders who have stood in a community effort in order to bring this West Valley demonstration site to a complete closure, hopefully, in the near future with the legislation that we have before us.

So I ask my colleagues to join in support of this legislation, and I truly appreciate their efforts to join us today.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1138, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, West Valley, as an issue, has been there for a long time. It is good to know that we are moving the ball forward.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1138.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## BURN PIT REGISTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1381.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1381) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1381

*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 “Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act”.

### SEC. 2. BURN PIT REGISTRY UPDATES.

#### (a) INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE TO UPDATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall take actions necessary to ensure that the burn pit registry may be updated with the cause of death of a deceased registered individual by—

(A) an individual designated by such deceased registered individual; or

(B) if no such individual is designated, an immediate family member of such deceased registered individual.

(2) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary shall provide, with respect to the burn pit registry, a process by which a registered individual may make a designation for purposes of paragraph (1)(A).

#### (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “burn pit registry” means the registry established under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Veterans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

(2) The term “immediate family member”, with respect to a deceased individual, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child of the individual;

(B) an adult person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis; or

(C) any other adult person—

(i) living in the household of the individual at the time of the death of the individual; and

(ii) related to the individual by blood or marriage.

(3) The term “registered individual” means an individual registered with the burn pit registry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, I, too, in celebration of today say “laissez les bons temps rouler.”

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1381.

During Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and in other parts of the world where American servicemembers were deployed, the Department of Defense exposed brave Americans to toxic fumes and dangerous chemicals by burning waste in open-air burn pits. Some of the waste burned in these open-air pits were human waste, Styrofoam, lithium batteries, tires, medical waste, and other toxic substances. Servicemembers had no way to avoid inhaling the smoke from these burn pits that were located on their bases, sometimes right next to their barracks.

When this committee held a hearing last year on burn pits, we heard from Leroy Torres, the founder of Burn Pits

360, who breathed in burn pit smoke while stationed in Balad Air Base in Iraq in 2007. When he returned home in 2008, he needed immediate hospitalization for lung disease.

Mr. Torres and other veterans suffering from medical conditions believed to be caused by exposure to burn pits are still fighting to receive healthcare and benefits because illnesses potentially caused by burn pit exposure still aren’t recognized by the VA.

Research to understand the harmful effects these toxic substances may have had on military servicemembers is now underway. However, the totality of harmful health effects this dangerous practice may have had on servicemembers is yet to be fully known and understood, and it may take years for clinicians and scientists to understand the health effects or discover effective treatments for those who were exposed.

In an effort to better track the health effects these exposures had on deployed troops, Congress required the VA to create the open burn pit registry in 2012 to compile self-reported data on veterans who believed they were exposed to open-air burn pits while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This registry allows VA to easily communicate with this population of veterans, as well as track trends within the population that may indicate a need for further research into certain health concerns. However, the registry failed to provide, in it, the ability to report cause of death for veterans who are registered and then subsequently pass away.

Congressman RUIZ’s bill, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act, would allow an individual designated by the veteran during the registry process or an immediate family member to update the veteran’s file on the registry with a cause of death.

These additional data will allow researchers and the VA to identify trends, similarities, and correlations in this population that will better inform our research efforts on the impact these open-air burn pits have on the servicemembers who served in combat zones.

With the addition of more data to the burn pits registry, we hope this will help VA conduct groundbreaking research that will lead to prevention and treatments for toxic exposures, including exposure to toxic substances inescapably connected to military service.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1381, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act.

This bill is sponsored by Dr. RAUL RUIZ of California and Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP of Ohio. Dr. RUIZ and Dr. WENSTRUP are medical professionals, former members of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, and co-chairs of the



House Burn Pits Caucus. I am grateful to them both for their efforts with respect to this legislation and for their continued dedication to serving our Nation's veterans on a bipartisan basis.

In response to growing fears about the long-term health effects of burn pit exposure, Congress required the Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, to create the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry, the registry, in 2013.

The registry was intended to provide a forum for servicemembers and veterans to document the toxic exposures they experienced in service to our country and report health issues they believe may be connected to those exposures to VA to assist in research regarding toxic exposure impacts and treatments.

While the registry continues to be an important tool for those worried about burn pits and other toxic environmental exposures, advocates have expressed concern over the years that the registry is not being used to its greatest potential.

During a hearing before the Subcommittee on Health last June, two important stakeholder groups, Burn Pit 360 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, or VFW, recommended that the registry be improved by allowing family members to update the registry in the event of a death of a servicemember or veteran listed on it.

Accordingly, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act would, on the death of a servicemember or a veteran listed in the registry, allow an immediate family member or other designated individual to report that servicemember's or veteran's death to the registry and list his or her cause of death in the registry.

According to Burn Pits 360, without tracking the mortality rate through methods such as allowing a surviving family member to report deaths and the cause of death, the registry's ability to establish mortality rates related to conditions and diseases associated with toxic exposure will be precluded.

Mr. Speaker, I agree, which is why I am pleased to support this bill today. That said, I do regret that it did not move through regular order. Had it been subject to a committee hearing and markup, it surely would have benefited from a robust debate and discussion by committee members, by VA, and by veteran service organizations and other interested parties and perhaps made even stronger. I look forward to continued committee work on this important subject.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments from my colleague, the ranking member, about regular order. I can assure you we will discuss this subject further, and I appreciate and take to heart his comments.

At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ),

my good friend and the author of this bill.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman TAKANO and his staff for all their work on this. They have done a great job. I thank them for fighting for this bill and for their tireless work in support of our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the ranking member, Dr. Phil Roe, for his support of veterans who have been exposed to burn pits, and a special shout-out to my good friend Congressman Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, who is the colead on this bill. We have worked together on this and numerous bills, and we are also leading the efforts in the bipartisan Burn Pits Caucus to really give answers to our veterans who have been exposed.

My bill, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act, will help our government better understand the health effects of toxic burn pits on our men and women in uniform.

As a nation, we have a responsibility to provide our veterans with the benefits that they have earned and deserve and to keep them safe to the best of our ability when they are in the field.

We bear that responsibility even more heavily when the actions of our own government—in this case, its use of toxic burn pits—are causing veterans to develop severe pulmonary illnesses, cancers, autoimmune diseases, and chronic conditions that are making young, otherwise very healthy veterans, extremely ill, permanently oxygen-dependent, and totally disabled—and, in some cases, leading to their death.

This is what happened to Jennifer Kepner, a constituent of mine, a mother of two young children, and a veteran of the United States Air Force. Despite being only 39 years of age, living an active lifestyle, very healthy, not having any other risk factors, Jennifer developed a very aggressive pancreatic cancer that ultimately took her life.

□ 1645

Jennifer's oncologist conducted an extensive genetic and environmental risk assessment and found that the only probable and most probable cause of her cancer was her exposure to burn pits. These are acres, sometimes 10 acres big, of open burn pits where they burn everything and anything, like that garbage open burn pit with jet fuel, that exposes our servicemembers to hundreds of toxic chemicals and carcinogens, with huge clouds of black smoke that traverse long distances.

So while Jennifer was fighting bravely against her cancer, she also had to fight tooth and nail to get the healthcare and benefits that she had earned. Even then, the VA did not recognize her cancer's connection to burn pit exposures.

I was there in her final days, and she wanted us to do something. She called it our generation's Agent Orange. She wanted us to do something to prevent this and to help other veterans.

There is a principle I use as a doctor and a public health expert, and that is, when there is a high enough suspicion of an agent that can cause a severe enough health consequence, then we have to act on that suspicion. In this case, we do have enough suspicion, given the information that is out there, that burn pits are essentially toxic and causing health problems and even death, so it is definitely severe enough.

We need to do something. There are four prongs that we need to pursue, four pillars of a framework.

One is stop the use of burn pits.

Two is outreach to veterans and providers to educate them about their risks.

Three is to make sure that we take care of our veterans by providing healthcare and some of the benefits that they have earned.

Also, do more research so that we can fully understand the full health effects of being exposed to these burn pits.

This bill and the burn pit registry will help with two of those prongs. One is that it is a vehicle for the VA, DOD, and our government to communicate with veterans who have been exposed to burn pits, and their family members, about any recent health topics, research, or policy change that they may be interested in.

It also helps them grab samples of veterans for future research so that we can better understand with more robust scientific research the full effects of burn pits in their lives, which could lead to a better understanding, better healthcare, better outreach, and more benefits for our permanently disabled veterans.

It is very important that veterans who have been exposed to burn pits register in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry and build this communication vehicle with the VA, our government, and those of us who are strong advocates for our veterans.

My bill will allow an entry with the cause of death in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry after a veteran passes away. For example, right now, if a veteran passes away, there is no way to update this burn pit registry with their cause of death. This allows a spouse or a designee to enter that cause of death.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, those causes of death could be brain cancer, esophageal cancer, pancreatic cancer, autoimmune diseases, lymphomas, leukemias, constricted bronchiolitis, COPD, and others.

Mr. Speaker, I urge each Member of this Chamber to support this bipartisan bill, which will help our Nation uphold its commitment to serving our veterans. Together, we are taking a crucial first step toward honoring Jennifer Kepner and improving and saving

the lives of countless veterans. I thank the chairman for his support.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), a very active member and Marine Corps veteran on the committee.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1381, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act. As the ranking member said, I am a marine. As member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, caring for those veterans who have served our Nation, and protecting them, is a top priority for me. They should have the peace of mind in knowing that they will be cared for by a grateful Nation after having that time that they served.

I have had veterans come into my office with health problems, health problems that they shouldn't be having. They are young, and they don't have a family history. Sometimes, they just can't pinpoint the cause.

All too often, it can be from the use of burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is equally frustrating that the VA doesn't have enough data to fully understand the effects of burn pits.

We have seen this movie before. We saw it with people who were exposed to Agent Orange, people who were serving offshore, and the problems we have dealing with blue water Navy Vietnam veterans. They, too, faced the consequences of unknown exposure risks.

We must do better. This bill seeks to do that. This is a step forward. It is not a fix all, but at least we are trying to move in the direction that we need to move and not be trapped in the same situation we were with Agent Orange. Today's legislation is a bipartisan effort, and it puts our veterans first.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CUNNINGHAM), my good friend and a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 1381, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representative RAUL RUIZ and Representative BRAD WENSTRUP, for all their hard work on this bill and for their leadership as co-chairs of the Bipartisan Congressional Burn Pits Caucus.

As the Members of this body are aware, one of the many perils our men and women in uniform face overseas is the threat of toxic exposure from burn pits. To dispose of their waste, servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan tossed every variety of waste into massive pits to be set on fire, not knowing the harmful chemicals they were likely breathing in as a result.

Even today, we still do not fully understand all the risks associated with exposure to burn pits. That is why Congress established a voluntary registry for veterans who served in the vicinity of burn pits to document their experi-

ence and to learn more about ongoing studies.

The data from this registry further enables doctors and the VA to better study the health impacts of burn pit exposure and to develop lifesaving treatments.

H.R. 1381 would strengthen this registry by allowing the families of deceased veterans to update the registry with the veterans' causes of death. This added data will give medical researchers a more complete picture of the effects of toxic burn pit exposures and bring us closer to giving veterans the answers and the treatment that they deserve.

As a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I am pleased to support H.R. 1381, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass this commonsense and pragmatic bipartisan bill.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), a Congressman, colonel, doctor, former member of the committee, and incredible veterans advocate.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the former chairman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation that I sponsored with Dr. RUIZ, the Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act. I am pleased to have Dr. RUIZ' medical expertise engaged on this issue.

Our Nation's servicemembers experience a variety of threats to their health and well-being, many of which extend well beyond combat. The theater of war can present many health challenges that do not show up until later in life. We are learning that burn pit exposure can be one such condition.

I occasionally smelled that type of smoke that can arise from burn pits when I served in Iraq. I support increased research into the range of health impacts that can arise from burn pit exposure. In order to effectively help our Nation's veterans, we need an accurate registry of servicemembers and veterans who were exposed to burn pits, as well as detailed records of health impacts from that exposure.

Currently, the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry monitors the health records of veterans exposed to burn pits. This registry helps the VA identify health conditions possibly related to burn pit exposure or other airborne hazards that can arise during military service.

It also keeps exposed veterans informed about studies and treatments, and it helps improve programs to help veterans who are concerned that they may have been exposed to toxic chemicals while they were deployed.

The Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act will allow a veteran's family member or other selected individual to update the burn pits registry with the veteran's cause of death. This will improve the reported data available for

studies related to burn pits and help researchers examine the full range of diseases, health conditions, and outcomes that may result from exposure to burn pits.

Dr. RUIZ did an excellent job when he spoke to many of those types of things that we need to be concerned about.

We still have a lot to understand about the impacts of burn pit exposure, no doubt about it. This is one small, but important, step toward that full understanding.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that we have three doctors who are either now or were associated with the Veterans' Affairs Committee and that they have supported this legislation.

I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close, so I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank Dr. RUIZ, who was a very active member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I really hated to see him leave our committee. He was a tremendous asset to the committee and, as you can see, continues to be that asset.

I think one of the things, Mr. Speaker, that this registry does is it also shows us on the committee how important it is to get our electronic health records done, so that an Active Duty military recruit can go in at 18 years of age and have a virtual lifetime record so that we will have a treasure trove of data there 30 or 40 years later, as we are doing right now in trying to figure out what to do with Agent Orange.

If we do this correctly, we will be able to not make these mistakes in the future. We will be able to go ahead and rapidly make these claims, adjudicate these claims, so that veterans are treated properly and get the medical care they need.

I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I fully associate myself with the remarks of the minority member of the committee. Again, I want to express my gratitude to the professionally trained physicians who have weighed in on this legislation and further commented about the importance of the electronic health records and the important oversight that was begun in the last Congress, which will continue in this Congress under my leadership.

I agree it is really important that we get those records to work properly and that the communication between the Department of Defense and the VA is functional.

I also think it is very important to make sure that we get those legacy records from the DOD wrapped into this whole package, because the service history, where our military servicemembers have served and what they

were exposed to, will provide a very important piece of information that will help us understand how toxic exposures have affected our veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1381, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1381.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1700

## VETERANS-SPECIFIC EDUCATION FOR TOMORROW'S HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ACT

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on H.R. 1271.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1271) to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1271

*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 "Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Health Professionals Act" or the "Vet HP Act".

### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program described in section 3(a) should be designed to—

(1) increase the awareness, knowledge, and empathy of future health professionals toward the health conditions common to veterans;

(2) increase the diversity of the recruitment pool of future physicians of the Department; and

(3) expand clinical observation opportunities for all students by encouraging students of all backgrounds to consider a career in the health professions.

### SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program

for a one-year period, beginning not later than August 15, 2021, to provide certain students described in subsection (d) a clinical observation experience at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) MEDICAL CENTER SELECTION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under this section at not fewer than five medical centers of the Department. In selecting such medical centers, the Secretary shall ensure regional diversity among such selected medical centers.

(c) CLINICAL OBSERVATION SESSIONS.—

(1) FREQUENCY AND DURATION.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide at least one and not more than three clinical observation sessions at each medical center selected during each calendar year;

(B) ensure that each clinical observation session—

(i) lasts between four and six months; and

(ii) to the extent practicable, begins and ends concurrently with one or more academic terms of an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(C) ensure that the clinical observation sessions provided at a medical center have minimal overlap.

(2) SESSIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that the pilot program consists of clinical observation sessions as follows:

(A) Each session shall allow for not fewer than five students nor greater than 15 students to participate in the session.

(B) Each session shall consist of not fewer than 20 observational hours nor greater than 40 observational hours.

(C) A majority of the observational hours shall be spent observing a health professional. The other observational hours shall be spent in a manner that ensures a robust, well rounded experience that exposes the students to a variety of aspects of medical care and health care administration.

(D) Each session shall provide a diverse clinical observation experience.

(d) STUDENTS.—

(1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select to participate in the pilot program under subsection (a) students who are—

(A) nationals of the United States;

(B) enrolled in an accredited program of study at an institution of higher education; and

(C) referred by their institution of higher education following an internal application process.

(2) PRIORITY.—In making such selection, the Secretary shall give priority to each of the following five categories of students:

(A) Students who, at the time of the completion of their secondary education, resided in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e)).

(B) First generation college students (as defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(C) Students who have been referred by minority-serving institutions (as defined in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(D) Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).

(E) Students who indicate an intention to specialize in a health professional occupation identified by the Inspector General of the Department under section 7412 of title 38, United States Code, as having a staffing shortage.

(3) ASSIGNMENT TO MEDICAL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall assign students selected under paragraph (1) to medical centers selected under subsection (b) without regard for whether such medical centers have staffing shortages in any health professional oc-

cupation pursuant to section 7412 of title 38, United States Code.

(e) OTHER MATTERS.—In carrying out the pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a formal status to facilitate the access to medical centers of the Department by student observers participating in the pilot program;

(2) establish standardized legal, privacy, and ethical requirements for the student observers, including with respect to—

(A) ensuring that no student observer provides any care to patients while participating as an observer; and

(B) ensuring the suitability of a student to participate in the pilot program to ensure that the student poses no risk to patients;

(3) develop and implement a partnership strategy with minority-serving institutions to encourage referrals;

(4) create standardized procedures for student observers;

(5) create an online information page about the pilot program on the internet website of the Department;

(6) publish on the online information page created under paragraph (5) the locations of such centers, and other information on the pilot program, not later than 180 days before the date on which applications are required to be submitted by potential student observers;

(7) identify medical centers and specific health professionals participating in the pilot program; and

(8) notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the medical centers selected under subsection (c) within 30 days of selection, to facilitate program awareness.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the results of the pilot program, including—

(1) the number and demographics of all applicants, those accepted to participate in the pilot program, and those who completed the pilot program; and

(2) if participating institutions of higher education choose to administer satisfaction surveys that assess the experience of those who completed the pilot program, the results of any such satisfaction surveys, provided at the discretion of the institution of higher education.

### SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1271, the Vet HP Act. The Department of Veterans Affairs reported last month that it has 48,985 vacancies. That means about 10 percent of the positions at VA are unfilled.

Sadly, a majority of these vacancies are Veterans Health Administration vacancies. VA does not have enough doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other medical

providers and support staff to make sure veterans have timely access to the high quality healthcare delivered by VA. With shortages in areas like mental health and primary care, it can become increasingly difficult to maintain a facility's efficiency and quality. That is why it is so important that VA does everything it can to fill every last vacancy.

The committee is not blind to the challenge of meeting this laudable goal. Hospital systems throughout the country also face health provider shortages. Rural areas and some urban areas are often the most in need of providers. However, that should not be an excuse for inaction, and relying solely on community providers who also face shortages and lack the expertise and cultural competency to provide for veterans' specific healthcare needs is an incomplete, problematic, and high-cost solution.

The VA must work to recruit and retain talented and mission-driven clinicians and employees who are guided by one goal: to provide the best possible care to veterans when they need it.

The bill offered by Congresswoman KAPTUR from Ohio is a creative and necessary step towards ensuring VA is able to fill each vacant position. The Vet HP Act seeks to expose undergraduate students considering careers in medicine to experience the VA healthcare environment directly. By allowing undergraduates to observe the work of staff at VA medical centers firsthand, the department can begin recruiting early—by sowing interest in students about the VA's mission and the healthcare, research, academic, and professional opportunities available to clinicians at VA medical centers. As an educator of 70 percent of the Nation's healthcare providers, VA can create an early familiarity with VA among students thinking about or preparing for careers in medicine.

Our Nation's future healthcare providers may be more likely to choose residencies at academic affiliates of VA medical centers and careers at VA if they are more familiar with VA's mission and are able to observe the improvements VA clinicians are able to make in the lives of those who have served our Nation.

Moreover, as the veteran population becomes increasingly more diverse, VA should strive to recruit students from backgrounds as diverse as the military and veteran population so that VA staff and clinicians reflect that growing diversity and are better equipped and able to understand the needs of the veterans they serve.

In an effort to create a pipeline of diverse, mission-focused students, this bill focuses specifically on students who graduated from high schools in health professional shortage areas, students who attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other institutions of higher education that serve minorities, and first-generation college students.

Giving students this exposure to VA's mission will help address the VA's 48,985 vacancies so that it can continue to provide the healthcare veterans need.

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

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1271, the Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Health Professionals—or Vet HP—Act. The bill would create a pilot program to provide undergraduate students with a clinical observation experience at Department of Veterans Affairs' medical centers.

This bill is sponsored by Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio. I appreciate her efforts to support aspiring medical students by giving them a window into the healthcare profession. This bill would further VA's mission to educate the Nation's future clinicians by giving those who have expressed interest in the medical field an early introduction to the VA healthcare system.

It is my sincere hope that, if enacted, this pilot program would inspire the students it serves to pursue careers serving veteran patients. While this bill did not move through regular order in the committee this Congress, it did move through regular order last Congress where it was supported by various veteran service organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to work with my Democratic colleagues to get this bill passed through the House last year, and I am pleased to do so again here today. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is my good friend and the author of this bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman TAKANO for his staunch leadership for veterans in so many arenas and for moving this bill through his committee. I also want to thank Ranking Member PHIL ROE for his continued bipartisan support and encouragement.

H.R. 1271, the Vet Health Professionals Act, Vet HP Act for short, also called the Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Health Professionals Act; I am honored to speak on its behalf this evening.

By expanding opportunities for future physicians interested in serving our Nation's veterans, this legislation will lay the groundwork to help fill, as was mentioned earlier, the Department of Veterans Affairs' nearly 50,000 medical vacancies by creating a viable pipeline for future physicians.

The Vet HP Act creates a 3-year pilot program that will operate in at least five VA medical centers for premed students to gain clinical observation experience, allowing them to gain a deeper understanding of veterans' spe-

cific health needs and experiences. We have heard about some of those this evening.

Several years ago, three premed students—and I will put their names into the RECORD—Andrew Frank, Seamus Caragher, and Michael McNamara—highlighted to my team that included Andrea Kaman, Nora Sarsour, Carrie Swope, and more recently Margaret McGuinness, our legislative assistants, the struggles that disadvantaged minority and other young people who lack personal connections face as they apply for medical school.

Health schools recommend or require clinical observation hours, but there is no formal process to apply for these hours. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, in the field of neuropsychiatry it is particularly difficult. Opportunities to shadow are limited and are often based on where you go to school or whom you know.

Students who attend schools outside major cities as well as those whose families lack connections to the medical community find it harder to shadow and are disadvantaged in medical school admissions. This places an unfair burden on otherwise qualified students who come from less affluent communities or even rural areas.

Through their own struggle to access clinical observation experience, the students realized an immense opportunity. This bill prioritizes students in medically underserved areas, first-generation college students, students referred by minority-serving institutions, and veterans themselves.

It also prioritizes training for students who specialize in health professions where there is an identified staffing shortage. This important bill will help narrow the professional gap and ensure we are training premed students in careers that are in demand and necessary. For example, the three VA medical centers that service our constituents in Ohio are located in Cleveland, Ohio; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and the city of Detroit. They currently have—this is an amazing number—542 medical and dental staff vacancies.

How are we to serve veterans when we don't have enough doctors and medical professionals to do it?

This bill creates an important shadowing opportunity for health students and will help strengthen the workforce with a pathway going into the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Importantly, premed students in this pilot program will gain a deeper understanding of veterans' specific health needs and experiences, which is critical for health professionals who treat veterans.

One of our top responsibilities as a Congress is to ensure that America's veterans receive top quality and timely healthcare from highly trained professionals. This bill furthers that effort, and I am pleased it will get a vote this evening.

I would like to thank, again, Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member ROE for bringing this bill to the floor.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the bill's passage to strengthen medical care inside our veterans' healthcare system and help the future be built through our work here tonight.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I strongly support this bill. I have spent much of my time over the years mentoring students both in high school, college, and in medical school. I have taught on the clinical faculty at East Tennessee State University College of Medicine.

I tell the students: Look, you really need to think about going into medicine if you like to work nights, weekends, and holidays.

That is not usually how I start the conversation. But I look back as a young man when I started, and I ask myself, having now been serving in the U.S. Congress, what would I do if I had those choices all over again?

Unequivocally, I would go back to the examining room and back to the operating room and take care of patients. It is a phenomenal way to help people. I think we have to share that.

I am a first-generation college graduate in my family, as many of us are who serve in this body, and I want to thank both the chairman for his tremendous support for medical education in the Choice bill that we passed—it is hard to believe—5 years ago, Mr. Speaker, when the scandal in Phoenix occurred. We put in that bill 1,500 residency slots at VAs in primary care so that we would encourage those young doctors to stay where they are training. Many of us will do that; we will stay where we have done our training.

So I want to thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her interest in this. I thank the students she brought up. Those are the future doctors who are going to be caring for all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill, I urge my colleagues to, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of my colleague, the ranking member, about our effort to insert 1,500 medical residencies into the Choice bill. That was one of the great accomplishments of that particular Congress.

I would point out that we still face shortages nationally of physicians and specialists, and we face a great challenge with our medical workforce and our healthcare workforce, and that impacts the VA's ability to fill these positions.

I particularly want to highlight the gentlewoman from Ohio's comments about young people who do not have the connections to medical professionals, or they are not necessarily connected to the professional segments of our society where they might be exposed to what it means to be a medical professional and what it means to serve the VA's mission. I think that her in-

sights and her experience and what she brings to this bill is a tremendous understanding of the need for those of our young people who come from lower incomes or who come from segments of society that could be left behind. We have Americans of great ability whom we need to recruit and expose to the opportunities that await them in organizations like the VA.

Let me just say that filling these vacancies is going to be a high priority of the committee and to poke, prod, cajole, and urge the VA to do what it needs to do to reform itself in order to make sure that these positions are filled. Let me emphasize that these positions are funded, that these are funded positions. They are empty, and that, to me, also indicates that we have a workforce training challenge before us.

□ 1715

H.R. 1271, offered by my colleague, Ms. KAPTUR, is one of the necessary steps that we need to take in order to fill those vacancies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 1271, the Vet HP Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1271.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MAJOR BRENT TAYLOR VET CENTER OUTSTATION

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 49.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 49) to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 49

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Major Brent Taylor began his military service following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He joined the Army National Guard in 2003, three days after his engagement to his wife, Jennie. Five of his brothers would eventually serve in the Armed Forces following the deadly attacks.

(2) During his time in the Army National Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself in

service to the United States and the State of Utah. He received a commission as a second lieutenant from the Brigham Young University Reserve Officer Training Corps in 2006, while graduating as a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

(3) During his impressive career with the Utah National Guard, Major Taylor distinguished himself in multiple specialties, including Intelligence and Military Police. One of his earliest assignments included analyzing foreign language documents in support of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He also led document exploitation efforts in multiple European and South American languages for a variety of intelligence community customers. Major Taylor also managed a team that assessed security vulnerabilities at high-profile facilities across the United States, all while maintaining a successful private sector career in Utah.

(4) Major Taylor was continuously ready to take up a call to arms from the United States and deployed four times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. His deployed duties varied from Platoon Leader and Combat Advisor to Chief of Staff to the Special Operations Advisory Group, responsible for leading a joint task force advising and assisting an elite Afghan special operations unit.

(5) Throughout his deployments, Major Taylor distinguished himself on several occasions, earning a multitude of awards including the Bronze Star. The citation credits the ability of Major Taylor to think calmly and decisively to keep his subordinates safe while traversing 600,000 miles of roads in Iraq, laden with improvised explosive devices (commonly referred to as "IED") and ripe for ambush.

(6) During one particularly harrowing mission, Major Taylor's vehicle was struck by an IED. Although he survived the attack, the wounds he received earned him the Purple Heart.

(7) Major Taylor's amazing record of service was not limited to the battlefield. In 2010, he served as a member of the North Ogden City Council and, in 2013, Major Taylor was elected mayor. His steadfast leadership led to the city being recognized as "Business Friendly" by the Governor of Utah, and as one of the safest, freest cities in the United States by several organizations. His initiatives included improvements to public works and infrastructure, attracting businesses to the area, developing a local community center, and increasing transparency. His action led his constituents to reelect Major Taylor in 2017.

(8) In 2018, Major Taylor placed himself on a leave of absence from his mayoral duties in order to deploy to Afghanistan, explaining to his constituents, "Service is what leadership is all about."

(9) While serving in Afghanistan, a dear colleague, Afghani Lieutenant Kefayatullah, was killed shortly before the Afghan elections. Major Taylor wrote, "The strong turnout at that election, despite the attacks and challenges, was a success for the long-suffering people of Afghanistan, and for the cause of human freedom. I am proud of the brave Afghan and U.S. soldiers I serve with. Many American, NATO and Afghan troops have died to make moments like this election possible." He also extolled the American public to embrace its civic duty, stating, "I hope everyone back home exercises their precious right to vote. And that whether the Republicans or Democrats win, that we all remember that we have far more as Americans that unites us than divides us."

(10) Tragically, on Saturday, November 3, 2018, Major Taylor was killed in an attack in Afghanistan. He was survived by his wife,

Jennie, and his seven children, Megan, Lincoln, Alex, Jacob, Ellie, Jonathan, and Caroline.

(11) The impression that Major Taylor left was indelible. An Afghan officer who had served with Major Taylor penned a letter to his wife, stating, “Your husband taught me to love my wife Hamida as an equal and treat my children as treasured gifts, to be a better father, to be a better husband, and to be a better man.”. That officer further commented that, “He died on our soil but he died for the success of freedom and democracy in both of our countries.”.

(12) It is only well and fitting that, as a tribute to the amazing life of Major Taylor, Congress name a facility in honor of Major Taylor’s shining example of service and sacrifice.

**SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MAJOR BRENT TAYLOR VET CENTER OUTSTATION IN NORTH OGDEN, UTAH.**

(a) **DESIGNATION.**—The outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs located at 2357 North 400 East Washington Boulevard, North Ogden, Utah, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation”.

(b) **REFERENCE.**—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. **TAKANO**) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. **DAVID P. ROE**) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the life of Major Brent Russell Taylor, who was killed in Afghanistan on November 3, 2018.

I thank my colleague, Mr. **BISHOP** of Utah, for bringing this bill before us so that we all may be able to pay tribute to a selfless public servant.

Brent was born on July 6, 1979, in Ogden, Utah, the second of eight children of Stephen and Tamara Jones Taylor. Five of his brothers joined him in his military service in the Army National Guard.

At an early age, Brent showed his passion for business and politics. During his senior year at Chandler High School, he earned his Eagle Scout award and was elected student body president. He graduated in 1997.

Brent was a man of faith. He was a lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and he spent 2 years serving as a missionary for the church in the Brazil Maceio Mission from 1998 to the year 2000. This time of full-time service largely impacted the course of the rest of his life.

After his mission, Brent attended Brigham Young University, where he met Jennie Kristin Ashworth on a blind date less than a month after she returned from her own full-time service as a church missionary in the Chile Santiago North Mission.

They enjoyed a sweet courtship and were engaged on a Saturday in June of 2003. Brent enlisted as a soldier in the

Utah National Guard the following Tuesday, with Jennie proudly by his side. They married on September 18, 2003.

In 2006, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant from Brigham Young University. He went on to work for the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Ground Intelligence Center, and the Department of Homeland Security. Over the course of 15 years, he served in the Utah Army National Guard, deploying four times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2009, he was elected to further serve his community by sitting on the North Ogden City Council, and in 2013, he was elected mayor of North Ogden, Utah.

In 2018, Major Taylor, a Purple Heart recipient, left on his fourth deployment, acting as an adviser to the Afghan Border Police. He was the first known sitting mayor in Utah history to deploy for wartime service.

Tragically, on November 3, 39-year-old Major Taylor was killed in an insider attack by an Afghan trainee he was trying to help.

In addition to his wife, Jennie, Major Taylor is survived by seven children: Megan, Lincoln, Alex, Jacob, Ellie, Jonathan, and Caroline. He is also survived by his parents and several siblings.

In letters to his wife, Jennie, and his children, his comrade, Afghan Air Force Major Abdul Rahman, said of Major Taylor: “He died on our soil, but he died for the success of freedom and democracy in both of our countries.

“Your father was a loving, caring, and compassionate man whose life just wasn’t meaningful; it was inspirational.”

In his last message to his community on October 28, 2018, Major Taylor wrote: “It was beautiful to see over 4 million Afghan men and women brave threats and deadly attacks to vote in Afghanistan’s first parliamentary elections in 8 years. . . . Many American, NATO allies, and Afghan troops have died to make moments like this possible.

“As the USA gets ready to vote in our own election next week, I hope everyone back home exercises their precious right to vote,” he wrote, “and that whether the Republicans or the Democrats win, that we all remember that we have far more as Americans that unites us than divides us.”

As lawmakers, the least we can do to honor Major Taylor is to come together to pass S. 49 into law. His legacy of fighting to protect democracy and freedom and working to unite his community and all Americans must never be forgotten.

We can all learn from Major Taylor’s example to serve, as he would say, “whenever and however I can.”

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I owe a debt of gratitude to Major Brent Russell Taylor and the entire Taylor family for their service and sacrifice to our Nation.

I fully support this bill naming the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. **DAVID P. ROE** of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 49, a bill to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Center in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

This bill is sponsored by Senator **MIKE LEE** of Utah and is a companion bill to H.R. 54, which is sponsored by Congressman **ROB BISHOP**, also of Utah. I thank both of them for working to honor Major Taylor in this way.

Having lost friends and classmates in Vietnam, I know the loss that this family is suffering is incalculable. Family, friends, community, State, and Nation mourn his loss.

Major Taylor’s life was characterized by service both in and out of uniform, and I am pleased to strongly support this bill in his memory. Major Taylor represents all that is right and good in America.

My colleague, Congressman **CHRIS STEWART** of Utah, is here today to speak in support of this bill as well, as he has a personal connection to the Taylor family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. **STEWART**) to detail the incredible life that Major Taylor led and the legacy that he leaves behind.

Mr. **STEWART**. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to, as these other gentlemen have before me, honor a man who gave everything he had to his God, his family, and his country. These three great loyalties guided the life of Major Brent Taylor and the lives of his devoted wife and children.

As has been indicated, I come from generations of military service. Some of my family had the great honor of serving with Major Taylor. We know from personal experience the great leader and the great man that he was.

Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago, Brent Taylor, hand in hand with his new fiancée, Jennie, walked into a recruiting office to enlist in the Army. Since then, this man and his family—and it is so important that we remember his family and the many other families of military members who sacrifice and serve as well—have lived a life of patriotic exemplary service.

He deployed twice to Iraq—in 2006 and again in 2007—and served in Afghanistan in 2012.

For his outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq, Major Taylor was awarded the Bronze Star. This citation credited the ability of Major Taylor to think calmly and decisively to keep his subordinates safe while traversing more than 600,000



miles throughout Iraq, areas riddled with improvised explosive devices and ripe for ambush.

This award recognized Major Taylor's tendency to do more than just carry out the assigned task. He was a man who went above and beyond to make a positive difference in the world, believing his actions to be a small sacrifice compared to what so many in our Nation's history have given up to keep this the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Such exemplary service is equally evident in his life outside of the military. After serving as a city councilman, his community and neighbors so entrusted him to lead that they elected him to be the mayor of North Ogden City.

In this role, Major Taylor's initiatives included improvements to public works and infrastructure, attracting businesses to the area, and developing a local community center.

The citizens of the community loved his snowplow updates—in Utah, we get a lot of snow—and his ability to see potential and possibility in everything around him.

Serving as mayor was one of the greatest honors of Major Taylor's life and the highlight of his civilian professional career. He believed that service is really what leadership is about.

On January 8, 2018, Major Taylor announced that he would temporarily step down as mayor to continue his service as a member of the Army National Guard on what would be his fourth and final deployment.

He didn't deploy just once, not twice, not three times, but four times he answered the call to serve. And once again, remembering his family, they answered the call to allow their husband and their father to serve.

This man recognized that there was an immediate need for his experience and skills and gracefully rose to accept the call to serve in our Nation's longest war in Afghanistan.

In his final months of deployment, Major Taylor was killed by an apparent inside attack on November 3, 2018, while training Afghan security forces.

A loving husband and devoted father, Major Taylor is survived by his wife, Jennie, and, as you see here, his seven beautiful children: Megan, Lincoln, Alex, Jacob, Ellie, Jonathan, and Caroline.

One thing I am certain Major Taylor would say: His family was far and away the most important thing in his life. Nothing made him more proud or meant more to him than his wife and his children.

The impression that Major Taylor left was profound. He called on each of us to find some way to brighten someone else's day, to lift another's burden, to make our city, our State, our country, our Nation a better place.

This man and his family paid the ultimate sacrifice to fulfill this call, so it is only well and fitting that, as a tribute to this amazing life, Congress name

a facility in honor of his shining example of service and sacrifice.

As has been mentioned, the Department of Veterans Affairs Outstation in North Ogden City will provide a range of services to help guide veterans and their families as they transition from the military to civilian life.

Major Taylor recognized that military service involves the entire family. As such, I am proud to support the designation of this facility, located in a city he loved and where he served and called home, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation.

The naming of the building will never repay the debt the Nation owes to Major Taylor and his family, but it can stand as a humble reminder of the faithful man who lived and died in the service of his God, his family, and his country.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Utah, that our hearts go out to the families.

When I read the names of the seven children, it was a very difficult moment for me, and we certainly are paying tribute today to his family, his children, and his community of North Ogden, where he served as mayor. It is our tribute to him.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD three letters—a letter from Frank Maughan, Commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Department of Utah; a letter from G. Hayes Stromness, Commander of the American Legion, Department of Utah; and a letter from Nick Flake, Commander of the VFW, Department of Utah—all in support of S. 49.

NOVEMBER 9, 2018.

Chairman PHIL ROE, M.D.,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. TIM WALZ,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE AND RANKING MEMBER WALZ: Please accept this letter as demonstrating the total support of the Utah Department of the Disabled American Veterans, in recognition of the ongoing initiative to change the name of the Veterans' Center in Ogden, Utah to the Major Brent Taylor Veterans' Center, in memory of Army National Guard major and North Ogden mayor, Brent Taylor.

Major Taylor's model of selflessness in the areas of military service and civic responsibility should be a shining example for all Americans to follow.

Major Taylor began his military service in 2003, and later received a commission as a second lieutenant from Brigham Young University in 2006. He served in the Utah Army National Guard for 15 years, during which he deployed four times in support of US operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. His life of service, however, was not limited to the armed forces, and in 2013 he was elected mayor of North Ogden, Utah. His devotion to duty as a citizen soldier, in the tradition of George Washington, Ulysses Grant and Dwight Eisenhower. In 2018, Major Taylor left on his fourth deployment, acting as an advisor to the Afghan Border Police. Tragically, on Saturday, November 3rd, Major

Taylor was killed in an apparent insider attack. He leaves behind his wife and seven children.

Today, the state of Utah, and the nation, grieve for Major Taylor. We would like to honor his amazing legacy. To that end we offer our full support, and encourage the committee to support legislation renaming the Ogden facility as the Major Brent Taylor Veterans' Center.

Sincerely,

FRANK MAUGHAN,  
*Commander, Disabled American Veterans,*  
*Department of Utah.*

NOVEMBER 9, 2018.

Chairman PHIL ROE, M.D.,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. TIM WALZ,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE AND RANKING MEMBER WALZ: Please accept this letter as demonstrating the total support of the American Legion, Department of Utah, in recognition of the ongoing initiative to change the name of the Veterans' Center in Ogden, Utah to the Major Brent Taylor Veterans' Center, in memory of Army National Guard major and North Ogden mayor, Brent Taylor.

Major Taylor's model of selflessness in the areas of military service and civic responsibility is a shining example for all Americans to follow. Major Taylor began his military service in 2003, and later received a commission as a second lieutenant from Brigham Young University in 2006. He served in the Utah Army National Guard for 15 years, while deploying four times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. His life of service, however, was not limited to the armed forces, and in 2013 he was elected as mayor of North Ogden, Utah. His devotion to duty as a citizen soldier stands in the tradition of George Washington, Ulysses Grant and Dwight Eisenhower. In 2018, Major Taylor left on his fourth deployment, acting as an advisor to the Afghan Border Police. Tragically, on Saturday, November 3rd, Major Taylor was killed in an apparent insider attack. He leaves behind his wife and seven children.

Today, the state of Utah, and the nation, grieve for Major Taylor. In an effort to honor his amazing legacy, we offer our full support, and encourage the committee to support legislation renaming the Ogden facility to the Major Brent Taylor Veterans' Center.

Sincerely,

G. HAYES STROMNESS,  
*Commander,*  
*American Legion, Department of Utah.*

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,  
DEPARTMENT OF UTAH,  
November 9, 2018.

Chairman PHIL ROE, M.D.,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. TIM WALZ,  
*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROE AND RANKING MEMBER WALZ: Please accept this letter as demonstrating the total support of the Utah Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in recognition of the ongoing initiative to change the name of the Veterans' Center in North Ogden, Utah to the Major Brent Taylor Veterans' Center, in memory of Army National Guard major and North Ogden mayor, Brent Taylor.

Major Taylor's model of selflessness in the areas of military service and civic responsibility is a shining example for all Americans to follow. Major Taylor began his military service in 2003, and later received a commission as a second lieutenant from Brigham

Young University in 2006. He served in the Utah Army National Guard for 15 years, while deploying four times in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. His life of service, however, was not limited to the armed forces, and in 2013 he was elected as mayor of North Ogden, Utah. His devotion to duty as a citizen soldier stand in the tradition of George Washington, Ulysses Grant and Dwight Eisenhower. In 2018, Major Taylor left on his fourth deployment, acting as an advisor to the Afghan Border Police. Tragically, on Saturday, November 3rd, Major Taylor was killed in an apparent insider attack. He leaves behind his wife and seven children. Major Taylor was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Today, the state of Utah, and the nation, grieve for Major Taylor. In an effort to honor his amazing legacy, we offer our full support, and encourage the committee to support legislation renaming the Ogden facility to the Major Brent Taylor Veteran Center.

Sincerely,

NICK FLAKE,  
*Commander.*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the more difficult things that we do. Obviously, to see a beautiful family like this, whose dad and whose husband has made the ultimate sacrifice, it is difficult for me to stand here and understand the pain that they have. I sometimes read Revelation 21:4; that may help just a little bit.

I thank that family for their service and wish them nothing but Godspeed going forward. They will have some tough days, I know, ahead of them, but this is a grateful Nation. We very much appreciate his service to our great country. Our country is not better for this loss.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

I echo the comments of my colleague from Tennessee. We are a grateful Nation. I am privileged to take part in this tribute to Major Brent Russell Taylor, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 49.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RICHMOND) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## 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. 1381, by the yeas and nays;

S. 49, by the yeas and nays; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

## BURN PIT REGISTRY ENHANCEMENT ACT

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. 1381) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 104]

YEAS—416

Abraham  
Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Allen  
Allred  
Amash  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Axne  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr

Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brady  
Brindisi

Brooks (AL)  
Brooks (IN)  
Brown (MD)  
Brownley (CA)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burgess  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson (IN)  
Carter (GA)  
Cartwright

Case  
Casten (IL)  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chabot  
Cheney  
Chu, Judy  
Cicilline  
Cisneros  
Clarke (NY)  
Clay  
Cleaever  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins (GA)  
Collins (NY)  
Comer  
Conaway  
Connolly  
Cook  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Cox (CA)  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crist  
Crow  
Cuellar  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Curtis  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson (OH)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Davis, Rodney  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Delgado  
Demings  
DeSaulnier  
DesJarlais  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Duffy  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Emmer  
Engel  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españillat  
Estes  
Evans  
Ferguson  
Finkenauer  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flores  
Fortenberry  
Foster  
Foxx (NC)  
Frankel  
Fudge  
Fulcher  
Gabbard  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gianforte  
Gibbs  
Gohmert  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gonzalez (TX)  
Gooden  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (GA)  
Graves (LA)

Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Green (TX)  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Haaland  
Hagedorn  
Harder (CA)  
Harris  
Hartzler  
Hastings  
Hayes  
Heck  
Hern, Kevin  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill (AR)  
Hill (CA)  
Himes  
Holding  
Hollingsworth  
Horn, Kendra S.  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunter  
Hurd (TX)  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kennedy  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim  
Kind  
King (IA)  
King (NY)  
Kinzinger  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster (NH)  
Kustoff (TN)  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latta  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lewis  
Lieu, Ted  
Lipinski  
Loebach  
Lofgren  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lowenthal  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Lujan  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Maloney  
Maloney, Sean  
Marchant

Marshall  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McAdams  
McBath  
McCarthy  
McCauley  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McKinley  
McNerney  
Meadows  
Meeks  
Meng  
Meuser  
Miller  
Mitchell  
Moolenaar  
Mooney (WV)  
Moore  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mucarsel-Powell  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norman  
Nunes  
O'Halleran  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Olson  
Omar  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascarella  
Pence  
Perlmutter  
Perry  
Peters  
Peterson  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Ratcliffe  
Reed  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rice (SC)  
Richmond  
Riggleman  
Roby  
Rodgers (WA)  
Roe, David P.  
Rogers (KY)  
Rooney (FL)  
Rose (NY)  
Rose, John W.  
Rouda  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schraeder  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Sewell (AL)  
Shalala

Sherman Thompson (CA) Walorski  
 Sherrill Thompson (MS) Waltz  
 Shimkus Thompson (PA) Wasserman  
 Simpson Thornberry  
 Sires Timmons  
 Slotkin Tipton  
 Smith (MO) Titus  
 Smith (NE) Tlaib  
 Smith (NJ) Tonko  
 Smith (WA) Torres (CA)  
 Smucker Torres Small  
 Soto (NM)  
 Spanberger Trahan  
 Speier Trone  
 Stanton Turner  
 Stauber Underwood  
 Stefanik Upton  
 Steil Van Drew  
 Steube Veasey  
 Stevens Vela  
 Stewart Velázquez  
 Stivers Visclosky  
 Suozzi Wagner  
 Takano Walberg  
 Taylor Walker

## NOT VOTING—15

Bishop (UT) McHenry Swallow (CA)  
 Burchett Payne Vargas  
 Byrne Posey Walden  
 Carter (TX) Rogers (AL) Wilson (FL)  
 Clark (MA) Spano Wilson (SC)

□ 1856

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## MAJOR BRENT TAYLOR VET CENTER OUTSTATION

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 (S. 49) to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation, 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 gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 105]

YEAS—417

Abraham Biggs Carbajal  
 Adams Bilirakis Cardenas  
 Aderholt Bishop (GA) Carson (IN)  
 Aguilar Blumenauer Carter (GA)  
 Allen Blunt Rochester Cartwright  
 Allred Bonamici Case  
 Amash Bost Casten (IL)  
 Amodei Boyle, Brendan Castor (FL)  
 Armstrong F. Castro (TX)  
 Arrington Brady Chabot  
 Axne Brindisi Cheney  
 Babin Brooks (AL) Chu, Judy  
 Bacon Brooks (IN) Cicilline  
 Baird Brown (MD) Cisneros  
 Balderson Brownley (CA) Clarke (NY)  
 Banks Buchanan Clay  
 Barr Buck Cleaver  
 Barragán Bucshon Cline  
 Bass Budd Cloud  
 Beatty Burgess Clyburn  
 Bera Bustos Cohen  
 Bergman Butterfield Cole  
 Beyer Calvert Collins (GA)

Collins (NY) Comer  
 Conaway Conaway  
 Connolly Cook  
 Cooper Cooper  
 Correa Correa  
 Costa Costa  
 Courtney Courtney  
 Cox (CA) Cox (CA)  
 Craig Craig  
 Crawford Crawford  
 Crenshaw Crenshaw  
 Crist Crist  
 Crow Crow  
 Cuellar Cuellar  
 Cummings Cummings  
 Cunningham Cunningham  
 Curtis Curtis  
 Davids (KS) Davids (KS)  
 Davidson (OH) Davidson (OH)  
 Davis (CA) Davis (CA)  
 Davis, Danny K. Davis, Danny K.  
 Davis, Rodney Davis, Rodney  
 Dean Dean  
 DeFazio DeFazio  
 DeGette DeGette  
 DeLauro DeLauro  
 DelBene DelBene  
 Delgado Delgado  
 Demings Demings  
 DeSaulnier DeSaulnier  
 DesJarlais DesJarlais  
 Deutch Deutch  
 Diaz-Balart Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell Dingell  
 Doggett Doggett  
 Doyle, Michael Doyle, Michael  
 F. F.  
 Duffy Duffy  
 Duncan Duncan  
 Dunn Dunn  
 Emmer Emmer  
 Engel Engel  
 Escobar Escobar  
 Eshoo Eshoo  
 Espallat Espallat  
 Estes Estes  
 Evans Evans  
 Ferguson Ferguson  
 Finkenauer Finkenauer  
 Fitzpatrick Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann Fleischmann  
 Fletcher Fletcher  
 Flores Flores  
 Fortenberry Fortenberry  
 Foster Foster  
 Foxx (NC) Foxx (NC)  
 Frankel Frankel  
 Fudge Fudge  
 Fulcher Fulcher  
 Gabbard Gabbard  
 Gaetz Gaetz  
 Gallagher Gallagher  
 Gallego Gallego  
 Garamendi Garamendi  
 Garcia (IL) Garcia (IL)  
 Garcia (TX) Garcia (TX)  
 Gianforte Gianforte  
 Gibbs Gibbs  
 Gohmert Gohmert  
 Golden Golden  
 Gomez Gomez  
 Gonzalez (OH) Gonzalez (OH)  
 Gonzalez (TX) Gonzalez (TX)  
 Gooden Gooden  
 Gosar Gosar  
 Gottheimer Gottheimer  
 Granger Granger  
 Graves (GA) Graves (GA)  
 Graves (LA) Graves (LA)  
 Graves (MO) Graves (MO)  
 Green (TN) Green (TN)  
 Green (TX) Green (TX)  
 Griffith Griffith  
 Grijalva Grijalva  
 Grothman Grothman  
 Guest Guest  
 Guthrie Guthrie  
 Haaland Haaland  
 Hagedorn Hagedorn  
 Harder (CA) Harder (CA)  
 Harris Harris  
 Hartzler Hartzler  
 Hayes Hayes  
 Heck Heck  
 Hern, Kevin Hern, Kevin  
 Herrera Beutler Herrera Beutler  
 Hice (GA) Hice (GA)

Higgins (LA) Higgins (LA)  
 Higgins (NY) Higgins (NY)  
 Hill (AR) Hill (AR)  
 Hill (CA) Hill (CA)  
 Himes Himes  
 Holding Holding  
 Hollingsworth Hollingsworth  
 Horn, Kendra S. Horn, Kendra S.  
 Horsford Horsford  
 Houlihan Houlihan  
 Hoyer Hoyer  
 Hudson Hudson  
 Huffman Huffman  
 Huizenga Huizenga  
 Hunter Hunter  
 Hurd (TX) Hurd (TX)  
 Jackson Lee Jackson Lee  
 Jayapal Jayapal  
 Jeffries Jeffries  
 Johnson (GA) Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson (LA) Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (OH) Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson (SD) Johnson (SD)  
 Johnson (TX) Johnson (TX)  
 Jordan Jordan  
 Joyce (OH) Joyce (OH)  
 Joyce (PA) Joyce (PA)  
 Kaptur Kaptur  
 Katko Katko  
 Keating Keating  
 Kelly (IL) Kelly (IL)  
 Kelly (MS) Kelly (MS)  
 Kelly (PA) Kelly (PA)  
 Kennedy Kennedy  
 Khanna Khanna  
 Kildee Kildee  
 Kilmer Kilmer  
 Kim Kim  
 Kind Kind  
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 Lowey Lowey  
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 Luetkemeyer Luetkemeyer  
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## NOT VOTING—14

Bishop (UT) Hastings Swallow (CA)  
 Burchett McHenry Vargas  
 Byrne Posey Walden  
 Carter (TX) Rogers (AL) Wilson (FL)  
 Clark (MA) Spano

□ 1907

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, due to my attendance at memorial services in Oregon following the untimely passing of Dennis Richardson, Oregon's 26th Secretary of State, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 104 and "yea" on rollcall No. 105.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1155

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Mr. ANTHONY GONZALEZ of Ohio be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1155.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 the guidelines consistently issued by

successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I do urge the Speaker, respectfully, and the majority leader to bring the bill up quickly.

#### MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP OF HUDSON COUNTY

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the launch of a wonderful new group in my district, the Multiple Sclerosis Support Group of Hudson County.

Multiple sclerosis is a progressive immune disorder. For people with MS, the internal systems designed to keep their bodies healthy wind up attacking other parts of their body. Their immune system eats away at the protective covering of their nerves.

Severe cases of MS result in paralysis, vision loss, and diminished brain function. Nearly a million people in the United States are living with multiple sclerosis.

The MS Support Group of Hudson County aims to bring people together to help support, encourage, and uplift people who are diagnosed with MS, as well as their caregivers, friends, and families.

I am proud of my constituents' work on behalf of the people in their community. Groups like this serve an important role in society, and I am honored by their commitment to helping one another.

□ 1915

#### READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Saturday kicked off Read Across America Day and officially began National Reading Month.

The National Education Association celebrates readers, authors, and stories annually during March. For the past 20 years, NEA's Read Across America Day is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2, which is Dr. Seuss' birthday.

Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books to celebrate reading with young people. The message is clear: Through the magic and wonder of books, you can be anything and go anywhere. This month helps make students excited and engaged in reading.

Children across the country have celebrated Read Across America Day,

and I hope they keep it going for 365 more days because, as the beloved Dr. Seuss said: "The more that you read, the more things that you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

#### FAIRNESS FOR HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, we often hear about the immunotherapy revolution, medicine's next frontier, which is right now, for extending or even saving lives. Dr. Sadhak Sengupta and his wife, Sudarshana, two talented scientists from Rhode Island, are on the cutting edge of this research.

Dr. Sengupta is the director of brain tumor immunotherapy research at Rhode Island Hospital and an assistant professor at Brown University. He has been working as a scientist in the United States since 2002, and he holds numerous patents.

Despite these achievements, Dr. Sengupta has been unable to get a green card simply due to the country of his birth, India. For years, we have reached the per-country cap on employment-based green cards for India, and the current backlog is, right now, measured in decades.

Sadhak and Sudarshana dream of launching a startup, but 17 years after moving to this country, they still live in uncertainty. Madam Speaker, that is why I support the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act, a bill to remove per-country green card caps and treat all immigrants equally.

It is the right thing to do for the Senguptas and for all Americans and their families who will benefit from their research and their greatness of spirit.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FAITH CHRISTINE BARCROFT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, Jack Barcroft's wife, Faith Christine Barcroft.

Mrs. Barcroft resided in Gatesville, in the 25th District of Texas that I represent. At the young age of 39, she passed away on February 20, 2019, from glioblastoma.

Glioblastoma is a very aggressive cancer that can occur in the brain or spinal cord. It is the most common type of brain cancer, and almost 200,000 people die of it each year. Madam Speaker, this number is far too high, and it breaks my heart that my dear friend fell victim to it.

Before and after her diagnosis, Faith was a loving wife, mother, and daughter. She was often described as adven-

turous, welcoming, and she always put her family's well-being above her own. This family has experienced an immeasurable loss, and the entire Gatesville community and I are praying for them.

While we cannot bring Faith back, we can continue to raise awareness for glioblastoma and the pain it causes families like the Barcrofts. Unfortunately, there is no known way to prevent this type of cancer, but we must not give up. We must bring attention to this unforgiving diagnosis and pray that one day, research will uncover a cure.

Please keep this loving family in your prayers.

May God bless the Barcrofts.

In God we trust.

#### OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM IS RIGGED

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

Ms. WILD. Madam Speaker, constituents, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike, have told me that they feel that our political system is rigged against working, middle-class, and low-income Americans. And in many ways, they are right.

It is rigged by politicians who make it harder to vote, and it is rigged by massive corporations that fund candidates who will give them tax breaks and access to Washington.

H.R. 1 will move our country forward. It will ensure every American can cast a ballot, end partisan gerrymandering, and reduce the influence of the ultrawealthy, corporations, and special interests. And it will allow us to finally get to work on the issues that matter most to my constituents: creating an economy that works for all, providing healthcare to all, and combating climate change.

As part of this effort, I am proud to introduce a bill that will help working Americans make it to the voting booth. By requiring every State to hold at least 15 days of early voting, this measure will raise turnout and make our elections fairer and more representative of our people.

Let's return government to the people. Let's pass H.R. 1 right away.

#### HONORING THE FIRST RESPONDERS TO THE RECENT FLOODING IN TENNESSEE

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the first responders who have been working around the clock tirelessly since the recent flooding in Tennessee.

Last week, I visited a few counties to see the damage and hear from the local officials firsthand. The damage to our infrastructure, homes, and businesses

was substantial. The flooding stranded many Tennesseans, who had to be rescued by boat.

It breaks the heart to see so many lose everything they own.

First responders and local leaders are out every day and have been since the flooding started. In many communities, mayors—in fact, in one community, Mayor Carroll was out in a boat delivering food and water to residents of Perry County.

We are working hard to help these Tennesseans return to normalcy, and I hope you will join me in keeping everyone affected by the floods in your prayers.

#### LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST OLEG DERIPASKA

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Trump administration's very curious lifting of sanctions against Russian energy magnate Oleg Deripaska.

The President and our allies must strengthen sanctions against Russia, not weaken them.

Russia illegally invaded the sovereign nation of Ukraine and has killed more than 10,000 people, including civilians. She has seized 24 Ukrainian sailors and not released them. Russia cyberhacks our firms and even our democratic election process.

That is why Congress passed significant sanctions in 2017 by an overwhelming majority to raise the costs on Putin's sinister aims. Yet the Trump administration caved to foreign influence and, astoundingly, announced it would lift sanctions on Deripaska.

Madam Speaker, America's first job is to protect liberty. It should not sell off our liberty to billionaires, especially mob bosses who enable cold-blooded murder in Ukraine. It does make you wonder what forces pull the strings of the Trump administration.

The free world must not be soft on the Russian command structure, and I look forward to hearing what additional sanctions our President proposes to replace his ill-advised removal on sanctions.

Stand fast, liberty lovers. Pay attention.

#### CONGRATULATING KAREN MILLER ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karen Miller from Richland, Washington, on her retirement and to honor her 20 years of service to the ratepayers of the Benton Public Utility District in Washington State's Fourth Congressional District.

Karen has been a tireless advocate for the Tri-Cities community and for

the reliable, affordable power generated by central Washington's hydroelectric dams. She has been at the forefront of the community's efforts to "Save Our Dams," spearheading rallies and events like RiverFest, to celebrate the countless benefits of the Columbia and the Snake River dams.

While I know the team at Benton PUD will sorely miss Karen's enthusiasm and friendship, I am confident her service to the community will continue.

I wish Karen and her husband, Ken, the best as they spend more time enjoying golfing, traveling Europe, and enjoying time with their beloved grandchildren.

Congratulations, Karen.

#### CELEBRATING GINNY WALKER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to wish Mrs. Ginny Walker a happy 100th birthday. It has been a delight getting to know Mrs. Walker and her family since they began splitting their time between homes in Greensboro and Land Harbor in North Carolina's Fifth District.

Mrs. Walker is a mother of two, grandmother of three, great-grandmother of six, and beloved by all of them. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, her husband, Delmer, started Delta Electronic Plating Company, and she went back to school to learn how to keep books and even helped in the plant and driving trucks.

Mrs. Walker remains an engaged citizen to this day, especially in bridge circles and First Baptist Church, where everyone enjoys her pies.

At 100, I hope to be as full of life as Mrs. Walker, and I wish her a wonderful birthday and many, many more to come.

#### CALIFORNIA'S HIGH-SPEED RAIL SYSTEM

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight some new legislation I am introducing this week, H.R. 1515, the High-Speed Refund Act.

Simply put, California's proposed high-speed rail system has been a total disaster. It will not meet the legal requirements of true high-speed rail from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The total projected cost has now ballooned to \$100 billion, tripling what the voters were told back in 2008.

The Trump administration has already canceled a \$929 million grant, but I think they should take the entire \$3.5 billion in Federal dollars that California is wasting under the Stimulus Act of 2009, 10 years ago. That is why my bill, the High-Speed Refund Act,

would require California to refund all Federal funding for high-speed rail and repurpose it to highway and transportation projects that would actually benefit people and be economically viable.

Madam Speaker, \$5 billion has already been wasted. Let's not make it \$100 billion. Undertaking the project was a huge mistake. I think Californians and the other 49 States deserve a refund and to have this money channeled into something that would be more useful for all Americans.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CLASSIC CHEVROLET

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

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago, March 2, 2009, big changes happened back home in Sugar Land, Texas. Bill Heard Chevrolet went to the dustbin of history. It was replaced by Classic Chevrolet. It opened on the same lot at Southeast U.S. 59 and U.S. 90A. Don Kerstetter got it rolling. Jeff and Tiffany Sebastian kept it rolling stronger.

In 10 years, Classic has made Sugar Land and Fort Bend County better. In fact, they have been fully engaged in our community. A few examples:

They participate every year in an annual Classic Chevy Chili Cook-Off, raising tens of thousands of dollars for first responders;

They support local schools, the Fort Bend Education Foundation, last Saturday, with Ray Aguilar of Classic emceeding the event;

They support the Boy Scouts, Child Advocates of Fort Bend boys choir, Impact A Hero for combat-wounded veterans, and on and on and on.

For 10 years, Classic Chevrolet has had no need to find new roads. All roads lead to Classic Chevrolet.

□ 1930

#### HONORING REPRESENTATIVE WALTER B. JONES, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we are here tonight to honor our colleague, Walter B. Jones.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PRICE for the effort he has put in to making this evening a time for us to honor Walter, our esteemed colleague.

Madam Speaker, Walter Jones will always be remembered for his dedication to North Carolina's Third District and his steadfast support for all of our Nation's men and women in uniform. I know that many of the speakers will

talk much more about that this evening, as will I.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), for his comments.

Then, Madam Speaker, we will be recognizing our colleagues from both sides of the aisle, which is extremely appropriate, particularly in the case of Congressman Jones.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding and for calling this Special Order to pay tribute to our departed friend and colleague, Walter Jones, Jr.

Walter died on February 10, his 76th birthday. He lived a full life of service: four years in the National Guard, ten years in the North Carolina General Assembly, and nearly a quarter century in this U.S. House of Representatives.

Walter and I met long before either of us served in the House. We worked together on the Jimmy Carter Presidential campaign of 1976. I have a photo on my desk of a very youthful-looking group of campaign workers to prove that.

Walter, of course, went on to chart a different course politically, a course that was uniquely his own. In fact, he found himself frequently at odds with, if not one party, then the other, but by the same token, he sometimes found possibilities for alliances and cooperation in unexpected places, and he didn't hesitate to take those opportunities.

Madam Speaker, tonight we are going to hear from a wide range of colleagues, an amazingly diverse group of colleagues that reflects the friendships that Walter had in this Chamber. That was also reflected in the delegation that went to Greenville for Walter's funeral service on February 14. He was an independent man and he just had friends all over the place.

Now, that independence was rooted in Walter's strong convictions and his personal sincerity. He actually, I think we would all agree, stood out. In an age in which sincerity is sometimes in short supply in our Nation's politics, he earned respect and admiration on both sides of the aisle.

The outpouring of tributes and remembrances that we have seen and will see tonight is a testament to that fact.

Much has been said about the personal encounters Walter had with veterans of the Iraq war and the families of those who never returned and how those encounters led him to reassess his past and present policy circumstances.

Walter sent over 10,000 letters to families of fallen troops and he memorialized those who died from North Carolina's Camp Lejeune with photos outside his office.

Walter's determined and effective voice for the military and especially his beloved Marines and his deep love for his home State of North Carolina are going to be missed in these Halls and in the coastal farming and military communities in the Third Congressional District.

So we express heartfelt condolences to Walter's wife Joe Anne, daughter Ashley, his loyal staff who are joining us in the Chamber here tonight, his countless friends, neighbors and community members, the lives he touched along the way.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a tribute from one from his longtime staff members, Ray Celeste, Jr.

A TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

(By Colonel Ray Celeste Jr., U.S. Marine Corps (Retired))

I had the pleasure and good fortune to have served with Congressman Walter B. Jones for almost eight years in his D.C. office as his Military Legislative Assistant. He was an American icon of virtue and American values. He loved America and his constituents deeply. He worked tirelessly on their behalf for many decades. He stood up against injustices that many of them faced.

He had an iron-will to do what was best for his constituents. His will was strong and unflinching. We, as part of his staff, worked to ensure we represented the congressman as best as possible and to be as helpful as possible to him and our constituents of the 3rd District. His constituents' services were renowned.

Congressman Jones was the epitome of a public servant. He was always working for the betterment of his people. He was their divine servant. He greatly appreciated the sacrifices our military veterans have made for our great Nation.

He also appreciated the sacrifices their families make. The general public sometimes overlooks these sacrifices. He did a lot of work in promoting the proper education of military children who are autistic through the use of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA).

Congressman Jones worked tirelessly to help treat service members and Veterans who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and those that suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). He promoted the use of Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT). He did not think this was a cure-all for PTSD or TBI, but as one of treatment methods that that should be available to service members and Veterans. He authored a legislative provision that was adopted in the Fiscal Year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (FY 2017 NDAA). This provision allows for the use of HBOT to be used as a treatment method for PTSD/TBI by the Department of Defense (DoD).

He was shocked at the overuse of drugs to treat PTSD/TBI where there was no conclusive clinical trial done that proved a certain regime of drugs could cure or alleviate the horrible mental and physical impacts of PTSD/TBI. In some, if not many cases, it made matters worse. He was shocked at the over reliance on the use of drugs.

Congressman Jones looked for holistic methods to treat PTSD/TBI such as the use of service dogs. He also admired the positive influence influences of yoga and combat acupuncture.

Congressman Jones was the Republican lead on the legislation to honor Purple Heart recipients and other American heroes by giving them access to Department of Defense commissaries and recreation facilities. The Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018 extends access to commissaries and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facilities to Purple Heart recipients, all veterans with a service-connected disability, Medal of Honor recipients, former prisoners of war, and veteran care-

givers. Commissaries are grocery/department stores on military installations that sell food and some household items. MWR facilities offer a range of services on bases including libraries, outdoor recreation, dining, golf courses, and sports and fitness centers. It was adopted in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Two words sum up Congressman Walter B. Jones. He was highly principled and he was a statesman. He thought we, as a Nation, must look at what is best in the U.S.'s interests first. He was not an isolationist, but he did think the U.S. was allowing itself to be taken advantage of by our allies.

Congressman Walter B. Jones was a once in a lifetime member of Congress. God bless him, his wife Joe Anne, and their daughter, Ashley. Semper Fidelis.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. PRICE for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. AMASH) for his tribute to our good friend, Walter Jones.

Mr. AMASH. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I can't begin to tell you how saddened I was at the passing last month of my dear friend and colleague, Walter Jones.

What a great man Walter was and what a great loss to this institution.

Walter was one of my closest friends in Congress. I wish I had been able to spend more time with him, but I will be forever grateful for the time that I did spend with him.

I am glad I was able to attend his funeral in North Carolina to say goodbye and celebrate his life with his family and friends. I am pleased to join with my colleagues here today to do the same.

Even though Walter was one of my best friends, he would always refer to me as "Chairman." I used to think that was because I was the chairman of the House Liberty Caucus. Then one day I realized that he would call all sorts of people "Chairman," so I asked him about it, and he told me, "Everyone is chairman of something."

Well, Walter, you were the chairman of kindness, humility, dignity, courage, integrity and honor.

Walter was one of the best men I knew, a kind, humble, dignified man dedicated to his faith, his family, and the people he represented.

Walter had a courage and integrity you rarely see in this chamber or anywhere. He never gave up fighting for what he believed in. He wasn't in Washington for money, power, or fame. He cared about honor and doing the right thing, and he was brave enough to admit when he was wrong.

You were a good man, Walter, no matter what you may have thought about your mistakes. You were a good man, chairman, and I will miss you.

May your memory be eternal.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative AMASH for his comments tonight.



Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. GABBARD).

Ms. GABBARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend, Congressman Walter Jones, Jr., a man who was known by all of us throughout his many years serving in this chamber for his kindness, his southern charm, and his big heart, his fierce independence, and his pursuit of peace.

Walter left us on February 10, his 76th birthday. He lived a long life of service: four years in the North Carolina National Guard, ten years in the North Carolina General Assembly, and nearly 25 years serving in these halls.

Walter stayed true to himself throughout this time, following his heart. He was never afraid to challenge the status quo, often to the chagrin of his party leaders.

We found a common bond and friendship around shared ideals, of putting people before politics, putting service above self. He knew that when we see each other as people, as public servants, not just as Republicans and Democrats that this is when we have the opportunity to find common ground and work toward our common goal of serving the people of this country.

Now, in 2002, Walter voted for the Iraq war, the war that I served in, the war that took the lives of my brothers and sisters in uniform, the war that took the lives of over 4,000 U.S. servicemembers and over 100,000 Iraqis.

Walter shared with me, as he shared with many others, that this vote that he took was the biggest regret of his time in public service.

He shared how when he attended a funeral at Camp Lejeune for a 31-year-old marine that was killed in Iraq in March of 2003 while evacuating wounded troops, everything changed for Walter, because he sat there and he heard this marine's widow, in front of their three children, read the final letter that this marine sergeant sent home, and he saw those three kids, knowing that they would never see their father again.

This impacted him so deeply, and maybe for the first time caused him to realize the cost of war and who pays the price. So Walter started writing. He wrote over 12,000 letters to families who lost their loved ones in both Iraq and Afghanistan and shared how he begged God to forgive him for his mistake.

He memorialized those who died from North Carolina's Camp Lejeune, as you see here, with photos that he displayed for all to see before they could come inside his office here in Washington.

He became a leading voice not just in his party, but in Congress, pushing for additional oversight over matters of war and peace. He called for ending illegal regime-change wars that put our troops' lives on the line, leaving their families behind. He pointed out that our taxpayer dollars should not be used to be the policeman of the world.

Walter and I didn't agree on many things, but we also found many opportunities to work together on things that we strongly believed in.

We cosponsored and co-led the No More Presidential Wars Act, which rightly put the responsibility back in Congress' hands to declare war, as the Constitution provides.

He cosponsored my bill, the Stop Arming Terrorists Act, to make sure that taxpayer dollars are not being used to directly and indirectly fund terrorist groups, as we have seen done in both Syria and Yemen.

We cosponsored the Weekend Voting Act to strengthen voting rights.

We worked together to strengthen civil liberties and privacy, upholding our Fourth Amendment rights.

Walter was courageous. He didn't care about party politics, and as a result, he suffered the consequences in tough primary elections, but he didn't care. He never hesitated to stand up for what he believed in.

So while Walter and I were two very different people coming from two very different places, Walter was my dear friend, fellow servicemember, and my brother. He will be deeply missed.

My heart and prayers go out to his family, his friends, and his loved ones.

We all know that Walter's legacy of service and his principles and values will continue to live on in Washington, in the Halls of Congress, and in the lives of the many people who he touched.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD), another one of our colleagues.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with my colleagues, to remember and honor a great, great public servant, a great North Carolinian, devoted husband and father, a man of great faith, and my personal friend for over 40 years, Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr.

And, Madam Speaker, I emphasize the word "junior," because I knew Walter's father and knew him very well, for he was the Congressman for eastern North Carolina for many years. And though Walter did not use "Junior" in his official name, he was indeed a junior.

Walter Jones passed away on Sunday, February 10, 2019, on his 76th birthday.

He was a lifelong public servant, serving in the North Carolina National Guard for four years, the General Assembly of our State for ten years, and the U.S. House of Representatives for 24 long years, where he served North Carolina's Third Congressional District.

□ 1945

Since coming to Congress, I watched Walter cast difficult votes with conviction, standing firm in what he believed was right for his constituents and for the American people. That is why the people of North Carolina's Third District sent him back to Congress again

and again and again, electing him 13 times since 1994.

Even as Walter gained seniority in the Congress, he maintained his strong conscience and principles. As a senior member of the House Committee on Armed Services, Walter was an outspoken and effective voice for our military.

Anyone in eastern North Carolina who knew Walter Jones, or knew of him, would know of his love for the military. He was committed to safeguarding the well-being of our Nation's veterans and active servicemembers. In fact, Congressman Jones sponsored and cosponsored more veterans legislation in the last three congressional terms than any other sitting Member of Congress.

Madam Speaker, it was one of the greatest honors of my life for my friend, Congressman Walter Jones, to ask me to administer his oath of office, which I performed at his Farmville home on January 4, 2019. And I might say that his home in Farmville is 20 minutes from my home in Wilson.

I am equally proud to say that a 30-Member delegation traveled to Greenville, North Carolina, for the homegoing service for Congressman Jones. That 30-Member delegation was led by the dean of our delegation, Congressman DAVID PRICE, and the ranking Republican among our delegation, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX.

I will miss Walter Jones in these halls and in our beloved State. Walter would drive home each week. We would sit right here on the House floor each Friday and talk about our weekends. He would tell me how he was preparing to drive home and how he dreaded the traffic, but that he would offset the dread of the traffic by listening to audiotapes in his car while he would drive.

Madam Speaker, we may have stood on opposite sides of the aisle here in the House, but there was always a mutual respect and friendship between us. I would say to the gentlewoman from Hawaii who spoke a few moments ago that he, too, called me Mr. Chairman. I never understood exactly why he would do that, but that was his vocabulary, and I found it very honorable that he would do that.

Although our friend is no longer here, he has left an indelible mark on eastern North Carolina, on the House, and on the Nation. May our friend, Congressman Walter B. Jones, Jr., rest in peace and have eternal life with our Father in Heaven.

To Joe Anne, Ashley, and all the family and friends of Walter Jones, we wish you God's blessings in the years to come.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from eastern North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), my colleague.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, many in North Carolina and around the country are mourning the passing of our friend and colleague, Congressman

Walter B. Jones, just as much as we are. Our dear friend humbly served the great people of eastern North Carolina in the State legislature and in Congress for more than 30 years. Having known Walter for more than 23 years, I can attest to his great faith in our creator and his servant's heart.

Congressman Jones was elected to Congress with the 1994 class, and it was in his first term that I met him. I was brand new to the Hill myself, working for U.S. Senator Jesse Helms at the time. Senator Helms and his wife, Dot, quickly became great fans of Walter, so much so—and many may not know this—that even after Senator Helms passed, Dot Helms would cut radio ads for him up until her passing just a few years ago.

What Dot and Jesse Helms admired about Walter was no different than what everyone else across the State of North Carolina and throughout the country who knew him admired: his character, his adherence to his convictions, and his commitment to serving others.

He was a staunch advocate, of course, for those who made the greatest sacrifice of all while serving our country. He constantly worked on behalf of our troops and veterans every single day, especially those who were based in his district at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville and Cherry Point in Havelock.

Congressman Jones dedicated his life to serving others. He stood strong for his beliefs and even stronger for his faith, always choosing to do what he believed to be best for his constituency, our State, and our Nation.

The citizens of this State and country have lost a great friend whose life made a real difference for so many. His honesty, faith, and integrity will not be forgotten.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding, and I thank the dean of the North Carolina delegation for putting together this Special Order on behalf of someone who truly epitomized the word "gentleman," indeed, "Southern gentleman," though not what you may immediately conjure up if you are from the North when you think about that gentle Southern person and plantation owner.

His father, who served in this body, was a factory worker. Walter grew up with great admiration for his dad, who I was able to talk with him about on several occasions on this floor.

What a special and unique place this Chamber we serve in is, and throughout history, how many people have graced these hallowed halls and served with distinction. Walter served not only with distinction but with an acute humility for what that service meant and for the people he represented, most notably, those at Camp Lejeune and, has been alluded to already, the

thought process that Walter went through in coming to the conclusion that he must speak out and oppose a war he had voted for. The very troops that he nurtured, cared for, and felt so much a part of, he felt honor bound that he must speak on their behalf. He could not withstand and was tortured by the memory of looking at the little boy who lost his father, knowing that he would never know his daddy, as Walter would say.

I came in with Virginia in 1998. I served on the Armed Services Committee with Walter. I was introduced to him by a man from Mississippi named Gene Taylor, who said that there is more integrity in this man than any Member of the United States Congress. How right he was.

Walter would frequently come over to the corner, as we referred to it, and confer with Jack Murtha, my mentor and arguably one of the most knowledgeable people in this Chamber and in this body on matters of defense, on matters of the military, as he had served as a colonel with distinction in Vietnam. Walter would often probe Mr. Murtha about the war in Iraq and how bothered he was by that vote.

Jack would counsel him. When Walter would walk away, Jack Murtha would add to the chorus of people who would say: What honor, what integrity, what thoughtfulness, what a genuine human being Walter Jones is. He cares so deeply about the people he represents and the feeling that he had not done the right thing with his vote for Iraq.

There are a number of reasons why Jack Murtha came out to, ultimately, oppose the war in Iraq. But I will always believe that Walter's regular pilgrimages over there to talk about the rank-and-file soldier, about the person on the frontline and their families behind at home, and the fact that people felt they were lied to, played an enormous part in Mr. Murtha's decision, two profound figures that I had the honor to serve with in this body, both who have passed, both whose opposition to the war in Iraq changed the course of events here in this country.

Walter, ever the gentleman, always sincere, always humble, his friendship and his acts of kindness are legendary.

I thank the dean of the North Carolina delegation, who I hold in profound regard, because I know he, and everybody here tonight, cares deeply about this institution. What makes this institution what it is, it is not the splendid hall, but it is the humanity of people like Walter Jones who have graced us with his service and his presence, indeed, the people who bring honor and dignity and integrity to the United States Congress.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

□ 2000

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Ms. FOXX and Mr.

PRICE, both from North Carolina, who have made this opportunity fittingly available for all of us here tonight in order to honor our friend, Walter Jones.

I would always encounter him as a low key but kind, gentle, sweet soul that he is, around the building; and just in his own way, just thumbs up, keep going, encouraging in what we do around here.

There were a lot of very kind remarks made about him here tonight from people that got to serve with him a lot longer than I did, but indeed, we hear about how he was a very independent voice. I think marching to his own higher standard to what he felt his own integrity required, not only as a representative, as a person in this political business, but one who is answering to a higher power—the importance of God in his life made abundantly clear.

Indeed, at his service in North Carolina, it really, really hit home for me how much that was a part for him.

As we know, he was very, very unhappy with the Gulf war. And after that started, he really—I believe, and the results show—he spent the rest of his career trying to find and make and provide comfort for the members of the military—and even more so—the Gold Star families, who he knows—and we all realize—bear the loss the most when one of theirs has fallen.

I heard that he would write to every single Gold Star family when he would learn of one of their loved ones having fallen in conflict, that were killed in action.

He would take his time in that position as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, using his name, using that title and whatever that carried, to provide comfort and show those families that there are people in this place that really, really do recognize—we all do—but he went that extra mile for people all over the country, not just in his district, to take that care, to take that time. And I thought that was pretty amazing.

Another way that he tried to help was supporting the various programs that were out there, to provide those working dogs, a program I have encountered, to soldiers that have come home that suffer with PTSD or similar-type afflictions, that those comfort dogs could provide something unique to them that maybe no human contact can reach for some of them.

He spent a lot of time, a lot of effort in helping with that because he did want to make as much of a positive mark on those soldiers as possible.

Most importantly, though, his higher calling he felt, it wasn't here to put treasures in this place or in his title. It was the treasures he wanted to store in Heaven, as he wanted to do what he could to please God and walk with his Savior Jesus Christ. And that is the most important thing about Walter Jones and his life and his devotion.

God bless him and his family and the memory of him to this place.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), and I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's courtesy and my friend, Congressman PRICE, in bringing us together.

I am standing in front of the chair here on the floor that I routinely occupied, and Walter sat next to me hundreds of hours. It was fascinating watching the dynamic on the aisle. I think some people like to be on the aisle because it is a place where people come together.

I watched a parade of people in both parties who would stop, greet him, and talk about issues large and small, radiating a sort of humanity that at times is in short supply around here.

Walter epitomized what I think politics should be.

We talked often about how he was creating problems for himself at home. There is probably not a district in the United States that is more oriented towards the United States military, as we have heard already.

He comes from a district that is intensely patriotic and more than a little Republican. Yet, he charted a path—once he had determined that he had made a mistake—he charted a path to try and make it right, not just to the Gold Star families, but to having that interaction here on the House floor, not in an accusatory fashion for people who may have disagreed with him, but just humbly focused on the human consequences on the political foibles of Congress.

He willingly took that burden on; even though he knew that it could have cost him his position in Congress. And this is family tradition, as is mentioned, I mean his father before him. It mattered a great deal to Walter to carry that banner, to serve his constituents and his State, but he walked into that storm willingly because he thought it was the right thing to do.

We don't see a lot of that around here, people who can face up to mistakes—which we all make. How many of us have as graciously and publicly acknowledged our mistakes, attempted to make them right, and accept the consequences?

Walter was a singular human being, and I feel privileged to have sat next to him all those hours.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for his comments. And I now yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT).

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thought it was appropriate, FOX News had this headline: "Farewell to Representative Walter Jones—a man who lived his life putting people above politics."

Another headline from W. James Antle: "Walter Jones and the Road Not Taken."

Another from CBN News, Crystal Woodall: "A Man of Faith, Honesty and Integrity."

He was all of those. He, I guess, manifested a bit of what Robert Frost talked about when he said:

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

That was Walter Jones.

He was not going to take the easy way. He was going to—and did—have great integrity, great conscience, and fulfilled his commitment to the people in his district in North Carolina.

Those attributes, he would say, go back to his Christian commitment. He said on one occasion, There are some documents you can't rewrite, and truthfully, one of them is the Bible.

He said, For over 15 years, I have led the charge to return freedom of speech to our churches and houses of worship. During that time, I have spoken with countless legal experts, and we believe the clearest avenue to rectifying those First Amendment rights is a full repeal of the Johnson amendment.

He also said, America was built on Judeo-Christian values, and these values should be protected. During my years in Congress, I have been a steadfast supporter of traditional marriage, the unborn, and the free exercise of religion.

Some people think that Christians must hate everybody that disagrees with them. And I think Walter Jones was a living example of what a Christian should be.

With that conscience, with love, even for those who hate, Walter had that love. And I saw that that last day that THOMAS MASSIE and I were with him.

God blessed America with Walter Jones.

God blessed this body with Walter Jones.

And God blessed me for having a friend like Walter.

We miss you, Walter.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for his extremely eloquent remarks.

Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for helping to organize this evening, as well as the dean of the North Carolina delegation, DAVID PRICE.

Truly, so many of us miss Walter Jones among us already. And we thank them for this Special Order, this order to celebrate the honorable life and service of the late Congressman Walter B. Jones of North Carolina, a man of deep conscience and integrity. His word was his bond.

Madam Speaker, it is with a sense of true sadness, but abiding gratitude, that I rise tonight to join all of you as we pay tribute to our cherished friend

and colleague, Walter, and offer sincerest condolences to his beloved wife, Joe Anne and daughter Ashley, to their friends, to their family, to his constituents in North Carolina, and friends across the country.

I also rise this evening in memory of his father, Walter Jones, Sr., with whom I had the privilege to serve when I was first elected to the Congress.

We both shared a great interest in maritime commerce. And so when Walter arrived in Congress, it was my great privilege to serve with his son.

So I was able to serve with Walter during his entire quarter century of exemplary service here in the House. And, yes, he was a man of deep conscience in an era of utter distraction. He exemplified exceptional honor, kindness, and a steady conviction that always stayed true.

I brought with me today a book Walter gave me entitled, "Extortion" by Peter Schweizer. And in it Walter inscribed the following message:

Marcy, may those of us who serve in the U.S. House work together to return the House to the people and not let "special interests" continue to influence policy. Thank you for your friendship. God bless America.

Walter Jones.

At the time Walter wrote these words, he and I had been talking about a bipartisan effort to clean up Congress using our joint efforts, traveling to appropriate venues along the way to advance reform of our democracy, and get big money out of politics.

But as the months went by, it became clear that Walter would not be able to make this journey, and he bore his wounds with great dignity and in silence.

What a man of courage.

Walter, as others have said, had a deep passion for the people he represented—surely, the Marines of Camp Lejeune and their families and colleagues, as these photos attest.

He would always take to this House floor to compassionately recall their patriotic service. He never, ever forgot them.

The war in Iraq weighed so heavily on him, and his integrity required him to speak out. And he did, often.

His constituents knew the measure of this committed, modest man of sterling conviction.

□ 2015

Walter is held in highest esteem by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and he will be sorely missed.

A grateful nation thanks the people of the Third Congressional District of North Carolina, and I know all of his constituents join us in thanking Walter for his decades of public service and his family for all of their sacrifices because he so conscientiously and selflessly dedicated himself to our Nation.

He was true; he was reflective; he was faithful; and he was a patriot. His spirit lives right here. I can feel it myself as a beacon across this Congress and as a shining star for all to come with integrity and moral conviction.

May God bring comfort to his family, and may his strength shower them to move through this period of deep mourning and come into the sunlight again.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO).

Mr. YOHO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

As I look at Walter here, it reminds me when I came to Congress in 2013, my first term here. Walter was one of the first people who befriended me.

We had, over the course of several Congresses, many, many good laughs. He was always quick to laugh. He was always gentle, strong in his conviction, and he wouldn't hesitate to hold you accountable.

Every time I went on a codel, he would scold me for spending the taxpayers' money. When the codel went to go to his funeral, I said, if I went on that codel, Walter would roll over in his grave and yell at me, and so I chose not to go just to honor him on that.

He would give you the shirt off of his back and help you in any way he could. There was a Christmas ball, and I had to have a date for my daughter because she came up here. I took my wife, and I called Walter. He said: "I don't want to do that, but for you, I will do that." That is the kind of friend he was. And he walked my daughter in there so that she got to go.

He cared about God, country, his family, the people who serve this great Nation, and the people in his district.

He was held in high esteem, as was evidenced the day when THOMAS MASSIE and LOUIE GOHMERT gave the eulogy here in the talk about Walter. That was the quietest this Chamber had ever been without the Speaker having to interrupt.

He was always fun to have a joke with or laugh, and we had many. His team is back here, faithfully to the end. Next time we are at a reception, we will have a red wine and a cigar in Walter's favor.

I thank the gentlewoman for doing this, and I thank you, buddy, Walter Jones, for the things you did for us.

God bless.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a long-serving Member and another respected Member of this body.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, to VIRGINIA FOXX and to DAVID PRICE, I would expect you two to be here. I really would.

To the gentleman and the gentlewoman and to the staff, I sat quietly in the back, but I know what you felt about Walter Jones. I say thank you to you for serving him as he served you and all of us.

In a moment when our Nation cries out for principled leadership, the loss

of Walter Jones is especially difficult. The challenges we face right now really demand the wisdom of men and women like Walter Jones. The absence of his voice in our Chamber is devastating.

Walter Jones was a real patriot. He was gentle but persistent. He was fervent but not self-indulged. He was a real winner.

Our tenures in this place overlapped almost completely, so I had the pleasure of working closely with Walter many, many times.

There is no Member I have served with, man or woman, Democrat or Republican, old or young, who was more forthright or was more courteous or kind. He was revered for his generosity because that is exactly who he was.

Walter was my friend, and I was his friend. We had been leading an effort, both of us, to get Congress to reassert its prerogatives and apply oversight of the executive branch of government. Walter stood up by himself for this.

If operating in the minority was a lonely crusade for us, imagine how it was for Walter to cast those votes all by himself. He understood the song we sing many times on Sunday, "Be Not Afraid." He was not afraid, but for Walter Jones, it was just another day at the office.

Walter made a career standing up by himself, guided solely by what he thought was the right thing, and he was often punished for it. He was stripped of political clout and prestige for his independence.

He was a person of faith who respected all faiths. We were all equal in Walter's eyes and in Walter's heart. What a lesson. So it is important to understand what that really entails.

There may be nothing more difficult than standing alone. We see every day here how challenging it is for men and women to stand up when everyone else is lined up against them. So even when you know a position, a vote, an act is right, to do it alone takes immense confidence, courage, and unswaying principle.

Walter Jones embodied those qualities as much as anyone who has served in the people's House. There was only one Walter Jones, and we have lost him. We could use a lot more like Walter. He was not a photo op. He was the real thing.

Thank you. Thank you for your gracious friends who came tonight to speak about you, and it was from everyone's heart. I hope that Congress learns something.

Thank you, Walter.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his eloquent comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) for his comments.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I thank the dean, the gentleman from North Carolina, for bringing us together. The delegation

has done an awesome bit of tribute here to recognize Walter B. Jones, Jr., our colleague who has served so faithfully well. I will offer a few comments here. It has been a tremendous tribute.

I do, in my initial comments here, want to extend my condolences to his widow and his family and his many friends and colleagues and, in a particular way, to his staff.

To know Walter Jones is to love Walter Jones. I have to believe that the relationship that he had with so many and, in particular, his family and his extended family, his work family, had to be driven by that love, that compassion that was part of him. It was undeniable. It was so clearly presented by every step, every thought he shared.

He was a person of deeply rooted faith. His Christian faith, his Catholic faith guided him. He was a pious individual who was not self-righteous but spoke with such integrity and such deeply rooted beliefs that our goal in life is to connect inextricably with everyone and to serve everyone.

He understood the role of a legislator to be compassionate, to empathize, to be able to express to the many people who trusted in his leadership, to share what needed to be done here.

And so, tonight, we gather together to offer our thanks to this consummate gentleman who was every bit of the way, yes, an individual of greatness, but if we do not mention his heart, his kindness, we don't capture the individual.

His kindness worked in several ways. He wove that kindness into every bill that he addressed, every vote he undertook, every step that he made in his career of public service. He understood that these acts of kindness would accumulate to express an individual of greatness.

His integrity was impeccable. I cherish the many conversations we would have on the walk over to the House or in riding in the trolley about having a sense of guidance, a sense of how to conduct yourself, how to go forth and understand that the work you can address in this body affects individuals so greatly.

Obviously, he was a person who was humble and could acknowledge mistakes, as was indicated earlier, to do that publicly and graciously as he did when he suggested that the many thousands, the 12,000-plus letters that he had drafted to families of dead troops since 2003 was, in a sense, an act of penance, a sense of expression that he had erred and that he regretted that there were these consequences of war that were borne by these many families who lost their loved ones prematurely.

There was a sense of coming together that he would allow all of us to share in the efforts for peace. Walter carried himself in a peaceful way, a peaceful manner. He was a moral compass for this House, one who taught us, by his very actions, that it is essential for us to be bold, that our fight to be there for what is just and fair should guide us.

Tonight, I acknowledge his great work, his great friendship, his great lessons taught. He didn't use or need to use words to teach us. His actions spoke louder than any words he could utter. And tonight, we say thank you to an individual who is very much missed already in the weeks that have passed since his departure from this world.

Walter, we cherish your memory. It will live forever. You will be the measuring stick for Members who serve in this House, and you will be that constant reminder, as I look at that kind and loving smile that you have worn in this photograph that we have on display on the House floor. It has guided us. It will continue to speak to us.

Your actions are powerful. Your words were so carefully chosen and so heartfelt. Your drive to be a just and fair man has earned you an eternal reward. Good job, humble and faithful servant.

God bless you. May you rest in peace.

□ 2030

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. TONKO for those words.

Madam Speaker, as we sometimes say here to keep from using up time we shouldn't use, I want to associate myself with all the comments made by my colleagues.

Walter was all of the things that our colleagues have talked about. He had a fantastic Southern charm and a fantastic smile. He was humble; he exhibited acts of kindness; and he was pious, not self-righteous.

I regret, as others have said, that I didn't take more time to spend with him. But I think even in Walter's death, he has done something we talk about doing here and that is to bring the House together on an issue.

We are here to honor a very extraordinary man who did what his conscience told him to do, and he sometimes suffered the consequences. But I think tonight exhibits that doing the right things for the right reasons will be honored and has been honored tonight.

I thank, again, all the Members who came here tonight to speak on Walter's behalf. We all benefited from that.

I particularly thank the dean of our delegation, DAVID PRICE, who was a longtime friend of Walter B. Jones, Jr. I thank his assistant, Gloria Nlewedim, for her great assistance in this.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order, because I know there are Members who wish to insert their comments because they could not be here.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I would ask Mr. PRICE if he has any closing comments he would like to make.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for presiding over this remarkable series of tributes. It has been a memorable evening—more than I could have anticipated—in the array of colleagues who have paid tribute and in the kind of emotions stirred in all of us, I think, by the memory of a good friend and a good man, but also a sense of the values and the affection that binds us together here.

It is too bad, perhaps, that it took an occasion of this sort to bring this out. But I will never forget it, and we will never forget Walter Jones and what he meant to all of us, so I thank the gentlewoman so much.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I again thank Mr. PRICE for his contribution to this evening, and I agree with the gentleman. It is unfortunate sometimes that it takes a death to bring out these kinds of comments and this kind of camaraderie. We must remember tonight and practice it more often.

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to our colleague Walter Jones, who passed away last month. Walter was my friend. Ever collegial and kind, he saw this institution for the good it could do for his constituents and for our country.

I admired Walter for his candor and for his patriotism. Over the years, I watched him make very difficult decisions, take very difficult votes. He did so out of principle. He stood up for what he believed.

It's no surprise that Walter had so many friends on both sides of the aisle. And it's no surprise either why the people of North Carolina's coastal communities sent him back to Congress election after election. Those of us who served with him could also see the extraordinary love he had for his wife Joe Anne and for their daughter Ashley.

We will miss Walter Jones in this House. I will miss my friend. We all are better off for having served with him, and this House and this country are better off for his service.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and colleague, Walter Beaman Jones, Jr., who passed away on February 10, 2019 at the age of 76. His passing is a deep loss to this institution, and we miss him dearly in the House of Representatives. Walter was proud to represent North Carolina's 3rd congressional district, a geographically diverse district, for over 24 years and always found a way to address the concerns of his coastal constituency as well as his rural inland residents.

Those who knew Walter remember a tenacious, earnest and passionate Member of Congress, who tirelessly fought for what was right. Throughout his 24 years in Congress, Walter represented his district and constituents with a passion and intensity that I think we each strive to emulate. He followed a moral compass that rarely took him off course. In the rare event that it did, he did not let himself off the hook and dedicated his life and ca-

reer to right any wrong. Walter was known for saying: "I would rather do what I think is right than to sell my political soul."

Walter spent much of his career in Congress serving on the Armed Services Committee. In this capacity, he stood up for military families, investigated corruption within the Department of Defense, and was relentless in his pursuit to bring our troops home from Iraq. Walter sent over 12,000 letters to families who had lost loved ones overseas and gave over 150 floor speeches to clear the names of two Marine Corps pilots who were unfairly blamed for a deadly military accident. He was also passionate about renaming the Department of the Navy to the Department of the Navy and the Marine Corps to better reflect the service and sacrifice of our Marines. Walter was one of the most independent voices in Congress. He was never afraid to vote against his party or President if it was what he thought was best for his constituents, his district, and the nation.

I had the opportunity to work closely with Walter on several legislative initiatives. He was the lead Republican cosponsor of the Youth Promise Act, a comprehensive juvenile justice bill that I first introduced in 2007. We were proud to have core provisions of the Youth Promise Act included in the Juvenile Justice Reform Act passed by Congress and signed by President Trump late last year. We also worked together on legislation to protect the mid-Atlantic coast from offshore drilling.

Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives lost one of its most dedicated public servants last month. We were all lucky and privileged to know and work with Walter Jones. I join my colleagues in expressing our sympathy to Walter's wife Joe Anne, his family, many friends, and constituents for their loss.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend and former colleague, Congressman Walter B. Jones.

For nearly a quarter century, Walter Jones served his country and the people of North Carolina with steadfast dedication, conviction, and integrity.

A man of deep faith, Walter Jones' kindness and servants heart earned him the affection of all who knew him.

In Washington, Walter Jones was a rare breed who truly broke the mold. He was an independent-minded public servant who rose above the trappings of partisan politics and political parties to vote his conscience, no matter the consequences.

Lucy and I send our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences to his wife Joe Anne, his daughter Ashley, and the entire Jones family during this difficult time.

Our nation and the state of North Carolina are better off today because of Walter Jones' principled and steadfast public service. I will forever be honored to call Walter my friend and colleague.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of my colleague, Representative Walter Jones, Jr.

For 24 years, Congressman Jones represented the people of North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District with pride and integrity.

In his quarter century in service to our great country, Congressman Jones was a steadfast voice and advocate for North Carolina.

He was unafraid to put people before politics. He was a dedicated public servant.

And he was a principled leader.

He stood firmly for what he believed—and wasn't afraid to admit when he made a mistake.

2 Corinthians 5:8 reminds us that 'to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.'

I pray that my friend has now found the peace he sought.

To his wife, Joe Anne, and his daughter, Ashley—please know that Walter left an indelible mark upon our state and nation.

Let all Members of the estimable body learn and profit from the example of Congressman Walter Jones, Jr.

He will be missed.

## TWO WOMEN, TWO PLACES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, let me thank my colleagues, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX and Congressman DAVID PRICE, for their beautiful, moving tributes to our colleague, Walter Jones.

I wasn't an intimate friend of Walter's, but we did have a friendship. Each encounter that I had with him was special because he always had an eye toward that which was higher, noble, and good.

I heard some of the sentiments Members expressed, heartfelt sentiments of loss, but also a great tribute and honor to this extraordinary man who did try to rise above the difficulties and the tensions here. I think both his life and his death taught us invaluable lessons, and frankly, I think it is what the American people are longing for from this body as well. So I thank the gentlewoman very much for doing this.

Madam Speaker, tonight, I would like to talk about two women, two women from very different places, two women from very different cultures and different religions, two women with very different stories. Together, these two women, differently and separately, are reinterpreting in light of what was so that they can imagine what will be.

The first woman's name is Nadia Murad. Nadia won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018. I know Nadia. She is a Yazidi from northern Iraq. The Yazidis are a people bound by an ancient faith tradition, and they have sought to live in peace in very harsh surroundings through the centuries. Along with the Christians of the area, they have endured many persecutions for a very long time. But nothing could have prepared Nadia for what happened on August 15, 2014.

Nadia lived in a little village called Kawju in an area called Sinjar, again, in northern Iraq. The town's residents were mostly farmers and shepherds. At 21 years old, Nadia dreamed of owning her own hair salon and becoming a history teacher. But then the unthinkable happened.

The Islamic State, ISIS, invaded her village. ISIS rounded up everyone and forced them into the schoolyard. The men were then separated from women. As Nadia told us, she said that she never realized how small her village was until she saw all of them in that schoolyard.

They stood huddled on the dry grass. Some whispered to one another, wondering what was going on. Others were silent, in shock. No one understood what was happening, as Nadia said to us.

Nadia was then forced to watch as six of her brothers were massacred. Her mother was executed along with 80 other older women. The bodies of the men and women were then thrown into mass graves.

The rest of the women, including Nadia, were taken to Mosul, the largest city held by ISIS at that time, and they were sold. They were sold as sex slaves.

The depravity of ISIS further unfolded as they sought to carry out a genocide, a complete extermination of Christians, Yazidis, and other religious minority traditions in that area. The Yazidis were singled out for persecution by ISIS because they were part of a Kurdish-speaking religion without a holy book.

Using that background as justification, what was called the ISIS Research and Fatwa Department targeted women for sexual slavery in an effort to lure young men into joining their cause. ISIS' twisted bureaucracy of barbarity even prepared a document on this, and it was called "Questions and Answers on Taking Captives and Slaves."

True to the dictates of the ISIS document, Nadia was bought and sold several times, with Facebook used as one of the prime ISIS marketing tools. She was repeatedly raped, burned with cigarettes, and beaten. At one point, she attempted to escape, but she was caught. The vicious gang rape that then ensued left her unconscious. She decided not to try to escape again.

After months of unspeakable agony, one day, Nadia discovered that a door had been left unlocked, and she fled. She found refuge with a Muslim family who willingly helped her. In fact, the eldest son, at great personal risk, took her in his car and got her to the Kurdish lines where she was safe.

I was first introduced to Nadia by some friends in Lincoln's Yazidi community. Through an interesting convergence of things, Lincoln, Nebraska, which is my home, has the largest Yazidi population in America. Many of the young men had served as our translators during the height of the Iraq war.

Interestingly, one of the first pieces of legislation that I worked on was to give special visas accommodating people to come to America who had risked their lives alongside our troops, some of whom died, and they were given special status to come here. Many have

made their home in Nebraska, and I am very proud of that.

When Nadia came to see me, I could sense the trauma in her face and the wounds in her soul, so I tried to gently ask Nadia if she would be willing to share her full story with those of us there in my office. I told her that I thought it was important that we hear, in order to try to understand, but only if she wanted to. She again gently answered back that, yes, she would share her story.

She walked us through her nightmare. At one point, I looked over at her Yazidi translator. Tears streamed down his face. My own chief of staff sobbed. It was just too much to bear.

But in a real moment of pride for me, Madam Speaker, 1 month ago today, Nadia Murad was my guest right here in the House Chamber for the State of the Union. I was happy to see her again, and she gave me a copy of her book called "The Last Girl." Her fiancé was with her, Abid Shamdeen. What a gentle young man. He had served as well as a translator at the height of the Iraq war and had earned his citizenship to America.

Before the State of the Union event, Nadia and I spent about an hour with a reporter from The Washington Post. The beautiful gift of watching her interact with this reporter was this: She answered the questions clearly, with great grace and purposeful resolve, as Abid lovingly stood by her and translated her words and the full meaning of them.

She was in Washington to raise awareness of the Yazidi genocide and join us in the call for a new type of security settlement in northern Iraq that would protect the ancient mosaic, the ancient tapestry of religious pluralism that once existed there, including Christians and Yazidis, as well as certain Islamic minority traditions.

While that was her primary motive before that reporter and us, again, she gently and profoundly articulated the need to respect human dignity. She used that pain in her soul to project healing on our broken world.

Madam Speaker, when I first came to Congress, an older Member warned me about something. He called it the tyranny of the urgent. He said to be careful of the tyranny of the urgent, because what that will do is subsume you into emergency after emergency without leaving any time for reflection, for thought, for dialogue, for relationship.

We see that played out day after day, and, of course, the media begs this as issues switch and controversies arise, and we are all summoned to give various opinions on whatever negative thing just happened. The tyranny of the urgent, we have to be careful of that because it robs us of the chance to sit with a heroic woman like Nadia and listen carefully to what she has to say.

This hour-by-hour D.C. and 911 fire alarm is distracting us from this essential work of reflection and authentic governance. It is true now more than ever.



A lot of what goes on here is outside the glare of television. Recently, I had the chance to engage the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development who had come before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. I talked to him about a number of issues that were important to me: the country of Haiti, the prospects for reforestation around the world, conservation, the story of Nadia and so many Yazidis, and this need for the new security settlement in northern Iraq.

□ 2045

The American people are generously helping with economic aid, under the leadership of the Agency for International Development, to help potentially create the conditions in which Yazidis and Christians could return and once again flourish.

This was foremost in my mind as I spoke with the administrator in the committee hearing. But I told the administrator this, that the name—the name itself, the United States Agency for International Development—really does not capture the fullness of the mission of what we are trying to do.

Ultimately, this mission and our disposition, as reflected in policy, ought to be about one thing expressed in two words: human dignity—protecting human dignity and, in doing so, attacking the root causes of poverty and attempting to create for the 21st century an imaginative architecture for diplomatic relations, again, rooted in authentic service to America's humanitarian impulse, creating the conditions for international stability which are inextricably intertwined with our own national security.

This is a properly oriented foreign policy trajectory of our Nation, and, again, it is based on the idea that America's impulse is to be charitable, America's impulse is to help—yes, to demand responsibility but, also, to help create the conditions in which human life can flourish.

This has profound meaning, Madam Speaker, where I live, particularly in Nebraska, because one of the ways in which we express, in practical terms, that humanitarian impulse is through agricultural policy. We feed ourselves, and we feed the world.

Nebraska has a big role in doing just that, and this is true now more than ever in our modern age. The land has been the source of our vitality in America.

Particularly where I live but, really, across the country, agriculture is so essential to our economic well-being, our life, our way of life, our culture, to who we are as a people.

And again, where I live, production agriculture is so essential, in corn and soybeans and livestock that cover much of our landscape. They are an important part of America's export prowess.

The farm communities' and the ranch communities' efficiency, their

quality, their ingenuity allows us to provide food security for tens of millions of vulnerable people in America and abroad, while ensuring that Americans enjoy the lowest per capita grocery bills in all the world.

Now, the challenge and the opportunity is to grow America's farm family. And to look to the future, we should look to the past to see, again, in this new century, a new connection starting to occur between the urban and the rural.

This diversification of our farm family is happening rapidly, and so we, importantly, are no longer talking in the language of producers and consumers but, rather, in terms of connecting the farmer to the family.

You can now meet your farmer at the local farmers market. That is a level of intimacy not seen since the early days of agriculture in America.

What is at stake here, Madam Speaker, is this desire to bring people closer to their food and into an authentic relationship with those who grow that food.

Agriculture is creating an exciting new entrepreneurial space, and we have seen a real uptick in young people entering the ag field. Young people are being drawn to agriculture through exciting new niches, including artisanal foods and crops, organics, and the farm-to-fork movement.

Agricultural studies no longer sit off on the side in their own silo. They are inextricably intertwined, an intimate relationship with environmental science and conservation, as well as international development.

Restaurants that focus on locally sourced foods are also growing in popularity, and with that trend comes an increased interest in the food of indigenous peoples—all exciting new spaces.

Still, at the heart of Nebraska and at the heart of America is the traditional, large-scale American farm.

At the beginning of this, Madam Speaker, I talked about two women. And we have heard about Nadia Murad, who is living with a deep wound yet seeking ways to rebuild what once was a thriving tradition.

I want to talk about another woman I recently met now, though, a fascinating young woman who has merged the millennial sense of authentic connection with a traditional production ag operation.

Hannah Esch is an agricultural student at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and a Nebraska beef ambassador.

Hannah was surprised when she recently visited some young children in a classroom in one of our counties and, when asked a basic question about where food comes from, a third grader answered that eggs come from cows since they are next to the milk in the grocery store. This alarmed Hannah a bit, but it reinforced Hannah's desire to go deeper into ag education and outreach.

Hannah is a specialty livestock producer with a fascinating background as

an agriculture pioneer. She is a part of a growing movement of young agricultural entrepreneurs. She is a passionate advocate for production agriculture, while also seeking emerging niche opportunities.

In Nebraska, the average age of the farmer is 58 years old. I don't know exactly what it is across the country, Madam Speaker, but I assume it is somewhat similar.

What we have on our hands is, on the horizon, a generational transfer. But there is also an interesting convergence of amazing new opportunity on that same horizon.

Two dynamics are on the verge of breaking out: small-scale farm production and the nimble, innovative use of technology in agriculture.

I met Hannah at an ag pioneers event organized by the Agribusiness Entrepreneurship program at the University of Nebraska.

The businesses of these cutting-edge ag leaders range from organic popcorn production to ag tech in the Internet of Things. Others were leaders in the farm-to-table movement, boutique vegetable growers, and specialty livestock sellers. Some were large grain producers experimenting with cover crops that would enhance the soil and also advance their own innovation in the precision agriculture space.

Not everybody in this room was young. Not everybody came from farm families, interestingly. But what they shared was a passionate desire to add value to traditional production agriculture and create the space for a new food movement that is showing tremendous potential.

Of course, at that meeting, given this body recently passed a new farm bill, an important piece of legislation that does basically one thing—provides food security in two ways: The risk management policies that protect agriculture producers from the vagaries, the ups and downs, of weather, the supply problems as well as other difficulties that arise in ensuring that a timely, good harvest is delivered, that is the purpose of the farm bill, combined with its other purpose, to help those who are in food-vulnerable circumstances through our nutrition programs. We discussed the policies embedded in the farm bill, including the value-added grants section and the assistance that we give to beginning farmers and ranchers.

Another of the participants were the Brugger brothers. They were engaging young people who could honestly, Madam Speaker, star in a reality TV show.

They are adding enormous value to the farm commodities they produce. These twins not only distill corn and raise cattle; they create a sequence of value across multiple agricultural products, from hops to whiskey to finished meats. Their vertical integration puts the value in the value chain—in their pocket. That is an exciting entrepreneurial place to be.

These brothers, however, are about more than food. They also want to lure

members of their younger generation back to the small town. They want to build community around artisanal agriculture.

This connectivity around food is one of the value propositions that I wanted to highlight here that Hannah holds so dear. She has grown her own premium brand of beef through the power of story.

Using Instagram and photos and video, Hannah sells her livestock product directly via the Internet to a diverse range of customers from around the country who yearn to know the provenance of their food.

Hannah draws interest in her beef by showing the life cycle of her cattle, and, through compelling use of social media, she invites customers into the intimate process of livestock production. Her market, again, is to a world hungry for the authentic story behind what is for dinner.

Madam Speaker, with Hannah and other ag pioneers, we are experiencing a bit—or the front end, should I say?—of an emerging set of ideas that will help shape our social and economic well-being for this century. It is the entrepreneurial drive that these young people possess to be stewards of the land, to grow the ag family, and to create the space for genuine food relationship.

This millennial-driven movement signifies an embrace of the traditional human-scaled model of agriculture for which our society is yearning, while remaining firmly within and adding to the mainstream of production agriculture that feeds America and feeds the world.

So what do Hannah and Nadia hold in common? I think they are connected. They are from very different lands. They speak different languages. They have different cultural mores.

What they are driving for is meaning around human dignity. Whether it is Nadia, who has suffered the horrible loss of her family and her extraordinary tradition—she is being driven by a purpose to pull out of that tragedy deep meaning and projecting that on the world, speaking to our hearts clearly through her suffering about the need for human dignity.

It is our only way out, to express and rebuild our systems of governance, our foreign relations, and our economics around this idea of interconnectedness with respect for human dignity. It is a very important driver, even in the life of an entrepreneur like Hannah, who seeks, again, the authenticity of food relationship. I think there is an intimate connection here between two women from two very different, far-away places.

Madam Speaker, my wife was telling me recently—and I venture out here a little bit because I don't know the name of this art form. It is my understanding there is a type of porcelain that is very, very delicate and fragile; and, if it should break, it is actually repaired by gold so that, as beautiful as

the original piece was, it becomes more vibrant, more offering. Its brokenness shows more beauty.

In listening to Nadia and her deep woundedness and watching her young fiancé lovingly escort her through the storytelling of her wounds to the world, it is that porcelain being repaired by gold, and it shines all the more beautifully.

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

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2131

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McGOVERN) at 9 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1, FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2019, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 116-16) on the resolution (H. Res. 172) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, March 5, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I submit the Rules of the Committee on the Judiciary for the 116th Congress for publication in the Congressional Record. On January 24, 2019, the Committee met in open session and adopted these Rules by voice vote, a quorum being present.

Sincerely,

JERROLD NADLER,  
*Chairman.*

Rule I. The Rules of the House of Representatives are the rules of the Committee on the Judiciary and its Subcommittees with the following specific additions thereto.

### RULE II. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting day of the Committee on the Judiciary for the conduct of

its business shall be on Wednesday of each week while the House is in session.

(b) Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman and a regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with when, in the judgment of the Chairman, there is no need therefor.

(c) The Chairman shall furnish each Member of the Committee or Subcommittee with the date, place, and a list of bills and subjects to be considered at a Committee or Subcommittee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third day on which Members have notice thereof (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when the House is not in session).

(d) At least 48 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, the text of such legislation shall be made publicly available in electronic form.

(e) In an emergency that does not reasonably allow for the notice as requirements in (c) and (d), the Chairman may waive the notice requirements with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member.

(f) To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of both the Chairman and Ranking Member at least 24 hours prior to the consideration of the measure or matter. The Chairman may use his discretion to give priority to amendments submitted in advance.

(g) Committee and Subcommittee meetings for the transaction of business, i.e. meetings other than those held for the purpose of taking testimony, shall be open to the public except when the Committee or Subcommittee determines by majority vote to close the meeting because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House.

(h) Every motion made to the Committee and entertained by the Chairman shall be reduced to writing upon demand of any Member, and a copy made available to each Member present.

(i) For purposes of taking any action at a meeting of the full Committee or any Subcommittee thereof for which a majority is not required, a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of not less than one-third of the Members of the Committee or Subcommittee, respectively.

(j)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time.

(2) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (1), the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify Members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

(3) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(k) Transcripts of markups shall be recorded and may be published in the same manner as hearings before the Committee.

(l) Without further action of the Committee, the Chairman is directed to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

### RULE III. HEARINGS

(a) The Committee Chairman or any Subcommittee Chairman shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject

matter of any hearing to be conducted by it on any measure or matter at least one week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chairman of the Committee, or Subcommittee, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee or Subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman or Subcommittee Chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date.

(b) Committee and Subcommittee hearings shall be open to the public except when the Committee or Subcommittee determines by majority vote to close the hearing because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House.

(c) For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence before the Committee or any Subcommittee, a quorum shall be constituted by the presence of two Members.

(d) In the course of any hearing each Member shall be allowed five minutes for the interrogation of a witness until such time as each Member who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness.

(e) The transcripts of those hearings conducted by the Committee which are decided to be printed shall be published in verbatim form, with the material requested for the record inserted at that place requested, or at the end of the record, as appropriate. Individuals, including Members of Congress, whose comments are to be published as part of a Committee document shall be given the opportunity to verify the accuracy of the transcription in advance of publication. Any requests by those Members, staff or witnesses to correct any errors other than errors in the transcription, or disputed errors in transcription, shall be appended to the record, and the appropriate place where the change is requested will be footnoted.

(f) Prior to approval by the Chairman of hearings conducted jointly with another congressional Committee, a memorandum of understanding shall be prepared that specifies, to the extent possible, any deviation from Rule III of the Committee rules, and incorporates an agreement for the publication of the verbatim transcript. The Chairman shall provide this memorandum of understanding to the Ranking Member prior to the commencement of such hearing.

#### RULE IV. SUBPOENAS

(a) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Chairman, in accordance with clause 2(m) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the Committee, following consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) In addition, a subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee or its Subcommittees in accordance with clause 2(m) of rule XI of the House of Representatives, in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, when authorized by a majority of the Members voting, a majority of the Committee or Subcommittee being present. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or by any Member designated by the Committee.

(c) At least two calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays when the House is not in session) before issuing any subpoena pursuant to subsection (a), the Chair shall consult with the Ranking Member regarding the authorization and issuance of such subpoena and shall provide a full

copy of the proposed subpoena, including any proposed document schedule, at that time.

(d) The requirements of subsection (c) may be waived in the event of an emergency that does not reasonably allow for advance written notice.

#### RULE V. BROADCASTING

Whenever a hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio and still photography subject to the requirements of clause 4 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### RULE VI. STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) The full Committee shall have jurisdiction over: copyright, and other such matters as determined by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(b) There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee on the Judiciary, with jurisdictions as follows:

The Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: constitutional rights, constitutional amendments, Federal civil rights, claims against the United States, non-immigration private claims bills, ethics in government, tort liability, including medical malpractice and product liability, legal reform generally, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

The Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: administration of U.S. Courts, Legal Services Corporation, Federal Rules of Evidence, Civil and Appellate Procedure, judicial ethics, patent and trademark law, information technology, other appropriate matters as referred to by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

The Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: Federal Criminal Code, drug policy, sentencing, parole and pardons, internal and homeland security, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, prisons, criminal law enforcement, and other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

The Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: immigration and naturalization, border security, admission of refugees, treaties, conventions and international agreements, Federal charters of incorporation, private immigration bills, non-border immigration enforcement, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law shall have jurisdiction over the following subject matters: the antitrust laws and competition policy, bankruptcy and commercial law, bankruptcy judgeships, Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, administrative law, the Administrative Conference of the United States, state taxation affecting interstate commerce, interstate compacts, other appropriate matters as referred by the Chairman, and relevant oversight.

(c) The Chairman of the Committee and Ranking Minority Member thereof shall be ex officio Members, but not voting Members, of each Subcommittee to which such Chairman or Ranking Minority Member has not been assigned by resolution of the Committee. Ex officio Members shall not be counted as present for purposes of constituting a quorum at any hearing or meeting of such Subcommittee.

#### RULE VII. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report

to the full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective Subcommittees after consultation with the Chairman and other Subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and Subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

#### RULE VIII. NON-LEGISLATIVE REPORTS

No report of the Committee or Subcommittee which does not accompany a measure or matter for consideration by the House shall be published unless all Members of the Committee or Subcommittee issuing the report shall have been apprised of such report and given the opportunity to give notice of intention to file supplemental, additional, or dissenting views as part of the report. In no case shall the time in which to file such views be less than three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when the House is not in session).

#### RULE IX. COMMITTEE RECORDS

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use according to the Rules of the House. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

#### RULE X. OFFICIAL COMMITTEE WEBSITE

(a) The Chairman shall maintain an official website on behalf of the Committee for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

(b) The Chairman shall make the record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is demanded in the full Committee available on the Committee's official website not later than 48 hours after such vote is taken. Such record shall identify or describe the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition, the name of each Member voting for and each Member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of the Members voting present.

(c) Not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter considered by the Committee or its Subcommittees, the Chairman shall make the text of each such amendment publicly available in electronic form.

(d) Not later than 3 days after the conclusion of a Committee meeting, the transcript of such meeting and the text of all amendments offered shall be made available on the Committee website.

(e) The Ranking Member is authorized to maintain a similar official website on behalf of the Committee Minority for the same purpose, including communicating information about the activities of the Minority to Committee Members and other Members of the House.

### PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

#### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM, Washington, DC, March 4, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of House rule XI, the Committee on

Oversight and Reform adopted its rules for the 116th Congress on January 29, 2019, and I submit them now for publication in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,  
*Chairman.*

Enclosure.

#### RULE 1.—GENERAL

(a) Rules of the House. The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee on Oversight and Reform (“the Committee”) and its subcommittees so far as applicable.

(b) Application of the Rules. Except where the terms “the Committee” and “subcommittee” are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee and its subcommittees as well as to their respective chairs, ranking minority members, members, and staff.

#### RULE 2.—MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meetings. The regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., when the House is in session. The Chair of the Committee is authorized to dispense with a regular meeting or to change the date thereof when circumstances warrant.

(b) Additional and Special Meetings. The Chair of the Committee may call and convene additional meetings, when circumstances warrant. A special meeting of the Committee may be requested by members of the Committee pursuant to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 2(c)(2).

(c) Subcommittee Meetings. Each subcommittee shall meet at the call of its chair, subject to Rule 7.

(d) Presiding Member. The Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee shall preside over each meeting and hearing thereof (“the presiding member”). If the Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee is not present during a meeting or hearing thereof, the Vice Chair of the Committee or subcommittee, designated pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(d), shall serve as the presiding member during the absence of the Chair. If the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee are not present during a meeting or hearing thereof, the ranking member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee who is present shall serve as the presiding member during the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

(e) Notice. The Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee shall announce the date, place, and subject matter of a meeting or hearing pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(g)(3)(A).

(f) Agenda. Every member of the Committee, unless prevented by unusual circumstances, shall be provided with a memorandum at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before each meeting or hearing explaining: (1) the purpose of the meeting or hearing; and (2) the names, titles, background and reasons for appearance of any witnesses. The Ranking Minority Member shall be responsible for providing the same information on witnesses whom the minority may request.

(g) Availability of Text. To the maximum extent practicable, amendments to a measure or matter shall be submitted in writing or electronically to the designee of the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or a subcommittee at least 24 hours prior to its consideration of the measure or matter. The Chair may exercise discretion to give priority to amendments submitted pursuant to this process.

#### RULE 3.—QUORUMS

(a) Generally. A majority of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall

form a quorum for the Committee or subcommittee, respectively, except that two members shall constitute a quorum for taking testimony and receiving evidence, and one third of the members shall form a quorum for taking any action other than for which the presence of a majority of the Committee or subcommittee is otherwise required.

(b) Subcommittee Field Hearings. The Chair of the Committee may, at the request of a subcommittee chair, make a temporary assignment of any member of the Committee to such subcommittee for the purpose of constituting a quorum at and participating in any public hearing by such subcommittee to be held outside of Washington, DC. A member appointed to such temporary positions shall not be a voting member. The Chair of the Committee shall give reasonable notice of such temporary assignment to the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee and of the respective subcommittee.

#### RULE 4.—COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Bills and Resolutions. Each bill or resolution approved by the Committee shall be reported by the Chair of the Committee pursuant to House Rule XIII, clauses 2-4.

(b) Approval of Investigative and Oversight Reports. Only those investigative or oversight reports approved by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present may be ordered printed, unless otherwise required by the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(c) Notice of Investigative and Oversight Reports. A proposed investigative or oversight report shall not be considered in the Committee unless the proposed report has been available to the members of the Committee for at least three calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) before consideration of such proposed report in the Committee. If a hearing has been held on the matter reported upon, every reasonable effort shall be made to have such hearing printed and available to the members of the Committee before the consideration of the proposed report in the Committee.

(d) Additional Views. If at the time of approval of a report, a member of the Committee gives notice of intent to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views any member of the Committee shall be entitled to file such views following House Rule XI, clause 2(1) and Rule XIII, clause 3(a)(1).

#### RULE 5.—RECORD VOTES

(a) Request for Record Vote. A record vote of the members may be had upon the request of any member upon approval of a one-fifth vote of the members present.

(b) Postponement of a Record Vote. Pursuant to House Rule XI, clause 2(h)(4), the presiding member at a meeting is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment and to resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed. After consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, the Chair shall take reasonable steps to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

#### RULE 6.—SUBCOMMITTEES; REFERRALS

(a)(1) There shall be five subcommittees of the Committee, with appropriate party ratios, as follows:

(A) Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, which has oversight jurisdiction over: issues related to civil rights, civil liberties and the equal protection of laws, including voting rights, freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly; equal employment; nondisclosure agreements; and criminal justice reform policies; and legislative and oversight jurisdiction over the Census Bureau and the Census.

(B) Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, which shall have oversight jurisdiction over: income inequality and policies that affect the growth and prosperity of the middle class, including education, housing, labor, trade, small business, agriculture; securities regulation; consumer protection; private sector information technology security, policy, and management; intellectual property; telecommunications; and federal acquisition policy unrelated to national security and information technology.

(C) Subcommittee on Environment, which shall have oversight jurisdiction over: global climate change; environmental protection, public lands, endangered species, air and water quality; oceans; public health; conservation; international agreements; energy policy, research and development; and oversight and legislative jurisdiction over regulatory affairs and federal paperwork reduction.

(D) Subcommittee on Government Operations, which shall have legislative and oversight jurisdiction over: the federal civil service; whistleblower protections; the U.S. Postal Service; government management and accounting measures; the economy, efficiency, and management of government operations and activities; government reorganization; intergovernmental affairs, including with state and local governments; federal information technology security, acquisition policy, and management; and federal property.

(E) Subcommittee on National Security, which shall have oversight jurisdiction over: national security; homeland security; foreign operations, including the relationships of the United States with other nations; immigration; defense; issues affecting veterans; and oversight and legislative jurisdiction over federal acquisition policy related to national security.

(2) In addition, each subcommittee shall have specific responsibility for such other measures or matters as the Chair of the Committee refers to it.

(3) Each subcommittee with legislative jurisdiction shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within its general responsibility.

(b) Referrals. Bills, resolutions, and other matters may be expeditiously referred by the Chair of the Committee to subcommittees, as appropriate in the determination of the Chair of the Committee, for consideration or investigation in accordance with subcommittees' jurisdictions. Bills, resolutions, and other matters referred to subcommittees may be re-referred or discharged by the Chair of the Committee when, in the judgment of the Chair, the subcommittee is not able to complete its work or cannot reach agreement therein.

(c) Membership. The Chair of the Committee shall assign members to the subcommittees and shall designate the chair and vice-chair of each subcommittee. Minority party assignments, including designation of the ranking minority member of each subcommittee, shall be made only with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

(d) Ex Officio Membership. The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be ex officio

members of all subcommittees. They are authorized to vote on subcommittee matters; but, unless they are regular members of the subcommittee, they shall not be counted in determining a subcommittee quorum other than a quorum for taking testimony.

#### RULE 7—SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING AND MEETING PROCEDURE

(a) Generally. Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive testimony, markup legislation, and report to the Committee on any measure or matter referred to it.

(b) During Committee Meetings and Hearings. No subcommittee may meet or hold a hearing at the same time as a meeting or hearing of the Committee.

(c) Scheduling. Each subcommittee chair shall set hearing and meeting dates only with the approval of the Chair of the Committee with a view toward assuring the availability of meeting rooms and avoiding simultaneous scheduling of meetings or hearings.

#### RULE 8—STAFF

(a) Employment Authority. Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the Chair of the Committee shall have the authority to hire and discharge employees of the professional and clerical staff of the Committee and subcommittees.

(b) Duties. Except as otherwise provided by House Rule X, clauses 6, 7 and 9, the staff of the Committee and subcommittees shall be subject to the direction of the Chair of the Committee and shall perform such duties as the Chair of the Committee may assign.

#### RULE 9—HEARINGS

(a) Generally. Hearings shall be conducted according to the procedures in House Rule XI, clause 2(k). The Chair of the Committee or subcommittee shall make an opening statement as set forth in House Rule XI, clause 2(k)(1). In addition, the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee or subcommittee may make an opening statement. All questions put to witnesses before the Committee or a subcommittee shall be relevant to the subject matter before the Committee or subcommittee for consideration, and the presiding member shall rule on the relevance of any question put to a witness.

(b) Recognition and Order of Questioning. A member may question witnesses only when recognized by the presiding member for that purpose. In accordance with House Rule XI, clause 2(j)(2), the five-minute rule shall apply during the questioning of witnesses in a hearing. The presiding member shall, so far as practicable, recognize alternately based on seniority of those majority and minority members present at the conclusion of the members' opening statements as determined by the Chair for the majority members and the Ranking Minority Member for the minority members. Other members will be recognized based on their arrival at the hearing. Additional time may be extended at the direction of the presiding member.

(c) Extended Questioning. The presiding member, or the Committee or subcommittee by motion, may permit a specified number of majority and minority members to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(d) Staff Questioning. The presiding member, or the Committee or subcommittee by motion, may permit Committee or subcommittee staff of the majority and minority to question a witness for a specified, total period that is equal for each side and not longer than thirty minutes for each side.

(e) Time for Questioning. Nothing in paragraph (c) or (d) affects the rights of a member (other than a member designated under

paragraph (c)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with paragraph (b). In any extended questioning permitted under paragraph (c) or (d), the presiding member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by majority members or staff, and the Ranking Minority Member shall determine how to allocate the time permitted for extended questioning by minority members or staff.

(f) Witness Statements. Witnesses appearing before the Committee or a subcommittee shall, so far as practicable, submit written statements at least 24 hours before their appearance.

(g) Oaths. The presiding member may administer oaths to any witness before the Committee or subcommittee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the presiding member prior to receiving the testimony: "Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

#### RULE 10—COMMITTEE RECORDS, OPEN MEETINGS, TRANSPARENCY

(a) Generally. The Committee and subcommittee staff shall maintain in the Committee offices a complete record of Committee and subcommittee actions from the current Congress including a record of the roll call votes taken at business meetings. The original records, or true copies thereof, as appropriate, shall be available for public inspection whenever the Committee offices are open for public business. The staff shall assure that such original records are preserved with no unauthorized alteration, additions, or defacement.

(b) Transcripts of Proceedings. A stenographic record of all testimony shall be kept of public hearings and shall be made available on such conditions as the Chair of the Committee may prescribe.

(c) Open Meetings. Meetings and hearings shall be open to the public or closed in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(d) Committee Website. The Chair of the Committee shall maintain an official website on behalf of the Committee for the purpose of furthering the Committee's legislative and oversight responsibilities, including communicating information about the Committee's activities to Committee members and other members of the House. To the greatest extent practicable, the Chair of the Committee shall ensure that Committee records are made available on the Committee's official website in appropriate formats.

(e) Minority Website. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee is authorized to maintain an official website on behalf of the minority members of the Committee for the same purpose as in paragraph (d), including communicating information about the activities of the minority to Committee members and other members of the House.

(f) Archived Records. The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of the rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

#### RULE 11—AUDIO AND VISUAL COVERAGE OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

(a) Generally. An open meeting or hearing may be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, internet broadcast, and still photography, unless

closed subject to the provisions of House Rules. Any such coverage shall conform to the provisions of House Rule XI, clause 4.

(b) Committee Broadcast System. Use of the Committee Broadcast System shall be fair and nonpartisan, and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4(b), and all other applicable rules of the House and the Committee. Members of the Committee shall have prompt access to a copy of coverage by the Committee Broadcast System, to the extent that such coverage is maintained.

(c) Other Coverage. Personnel providing coverage of an open meeting or hearing of the Committee by internet broadcast, other than through the Committee Broadcast System shall be currently accredited to the Radio and Television Correspondents' Galleries. If the Committee Broadcast System is not available, the Chair of the Committee may, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, direct staff to provide coverage in a manner that is fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with House Rule XI, clause 4.

#### RULE 12—ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chair of the Committee shall:

(a) Make available to other committees the findings and recommendations resulting from the investigations of the Committee, as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(2);

(b) Direct such review and studies on—

(1) the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the Committee's jurisdiction, as required by House Rule X, clause 2(c);

(2) the operation of Government activities at all levels, including the Executive Office of the President, as required by House Rule X, clause 3(i);

(3) the effect of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the Government, as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(1)(B); and

(4) intergovernmental relationships between the United States and the States and municipalities and between the United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member, as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(1)(C);

(c) Submit to the Committee on House Administration the Committee's oversight plan as required by House Rule X, clause 2(d);

(d) Report to the House by April 15 in the first session of Congress, after consultation with the Speaker, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader, the oversight plans submitted by committees together with any recommendations that the Committee, or the House leadership group described above, may make to ensure the most effective coordination of oversight plans and otherwise achieve the objectives of House Rule X, clause 2;

(e) Submit to the House such recommendations as the Committee considers necessary or desirable in connection with the reports of the Comptroller General, as required by House Rule X, clause 4(c)(1)(A);

(f) Submit to the Committee on the Budget views and estimates required by House Rule X, clause 4(f), and to file reports with the House as required by the Congressional Budget Act;

(g) Authorize and issue subpoenas as provided in House Rule XI, clause 2(m), in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities within the jurisdiction of the Committee;

(h) Prepare, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, a budget for the Committee;

(i) Make any necessary technical and conforming changes to legislation reported by the Committee upon unanimous consent; and

(j) Offer motions under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House (motion to request or agree to a conference) whenever the

Chair of the Committee considers it appropriate.

#### RULE 13—CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

(a) Commemorative Stamps. The determination of the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues is properly for consideration by the Postmaster General, and the Committee will not give consideration to legislative proposals specifying the subject matter of commemorative stamps and new semi-postal issues. It is suggested that recommendations for the subject matter of stamps be submitted to the Postmaster General.

(b) Postal Naming Bills. The consideration of bills designating facilities of the United States Postal Service shall be conducted so as to minimize the time spent on such matters by the Committee and the House.

(c) Resolutions. The Chair of the Committee shall not request to have scheduled any resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules, which expresses appreciation, commends, congratulates, celebrates, recognizes the accomplishments of, or celebrates the anniversary of, an entity, event, group, individual, institution, team or government program; or acknowledges or recognizes a period of time for such purposes.

#### RULE 14—PANELS AND TASK FORCES

(a) Generally. The Chair of the Committee is authorized to appoint panels or task forces to carry out the duties and functions of the Committee.

(b) Ex Officio Membership. The Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio members of each panel or task force established under this Rule.

(c) Appointment of Leadership. The chair of any panel or task force shall be appointed by the Chair of the Committee. The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall select a ranking minority member for each panel or task force.

(d) Application of Rules. The House and Committee rules applicable to subcommittee meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports shall apply to the meetings, hearings, recommendations, and reports of panels and task forces.

(e) Termination. No panel or task force appointed under this Rule shall continue in existence for more than six months. A panel or task force appointed under this Rule may, upon the expiration of six months, be reappointed by the chair.

#### RULE 15—DEPOSITION AUTHORITY

(a) Generally. The Chair of the Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, may order the taking of depositions, under oath and pursuant to notice or subpoena.

(b) Notices. Notices for the taking of depositions shall specify the date, time, and place of examination. All members shall also receive three calendar days' written notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days) that a deposition has been scheduled, except in exigent circumstances. Depositions may continue from day to day.

(c) Oaths. Depositions shall be taken under oath administered by a member or a person otherwise authorized to administer oaths.

(d) Consultation. Consultation with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall include three calendar days' notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, unless the House is in session on such days), and a copy of a proposed deposition subpoena, if applicable, before any deposition is taken.

(e) Attendance. Witnesses may be accompanied at a deposition by counsel to advise

them of their rights. No one may be present at depositions except members, Committee staff designated by the Chair of the Committee or the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee, an official reporter, the witness, and the witness's counsel. Observers or counsel for other persons, or for agencies under investigation, may not attend.

(f) Joint Depositions. The Chair of the Committee may designate a deposition as part of a joint investigation between committees, and in that case, provide notice to members of both committees.

(g) Who May Question. A deposition shall be conducted by any member or counsel designated by the Chair of the Committee or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. When depositions are conducted by Committee counsel, there shall be no more than two Committee counsel permitted to question a witness per round. One of the Committee counsel shall be designated by the Chair of the Committee and the other by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee. Other Committee staff members designated by the Chair of the Committee or Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may attend, but may not pose questions to the witness.

(h) Order of Questions. Questions in the deposition shall be propounded in rounds, alternating between the majority and minority. A single round shall not exceed 60 minutes per side, unless the members or counsel conducting the deposition agree to a different length of questioning. In each round, the member(s) or Committee counsel designated by the Chair of the Committee shall ask questions first, and the member(s) or Committee counsel designated by the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall ask questions second.

(i) Objections. Any objection made during a deposition must be stated concisely and in a non-argumentative and non-suggestive manner. The witness may refuse to answer a question only to preserve a privilege. When the witness has refused to answer a question to preserve a privilege, members or staff may (i) proceed with the deposition, or (ii) either at that time or at a subsequent time, seek a ruling from the Chair either by telephone or otherwise. If the Chair of the Committee overrules any such objection during the deposition, the witness shall be ordered to answer. If following the deposition's recess, the Chair of the Committee overrules any such objection and thereby orders a witness to answer any question to which a privilege objection was lodged, such ruling shall be filed with the clerk of the Committee and shall be provided to the members and the witness no less than three days before the reconvened deposition. If a member of the Committee appeals in writing the ruling of the Chair, the appeal shall be preserved for Committee consideration. A deponent who refuses to answer a question after being directed by the Chair in writing, or orally during the proceeding as reflected in the record, may be subject to sanction, except that no sanctions may be imposed if the ruling of the Chair is reversed by the Committee on appeal.

(j) Record of Testimony. Committee staff shall ensure that the testimony is either transcribed or electronically recorded or both. If a witness's testimony is transcribed, the witness or the witness's counsel shall be afforded an opportunity to review a copy. No later than five days after the witness has been notified of the opportunity to review the transcript, the witness may submit suggested changes to the Chair of the Committee. Committee staff may make any typographical and technical changes. Substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments to the deposition tran-

script submitted by the witness must be accompanied by a letter signed by the witness requesting the changes and a statement of the witness's reasons for each proposed change. Any substantive changes, modifications, clarifications, or amendments shall be included as an appendix to the transcript conditioned upon the witness signing the transcript.

(k) Transcription Requirements. The individual administering the oath, if other than a member, shall certify on the transcript that the witness was duly sworn. The transcriber shall certify that the transcript is a true record of the testimony, and the transcript shall be filed, together with any electronic recording, with the clerk of the Committee in Washington, D.C. Depositions shall be considered to have been taken in Washington, D.C., as well as the location actually taken once filed there with the clerk of the Committee for the Committee's use. The Chair of the Committee and the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall be provided with a copy of the transcripts of the deposition at the same time.

(l) Release. The Chair of the Committee and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall consult in advance regarding the release of deposition testimony, transcripts, or recordings, and portions thereof. If either objects in writing to a proposed release of a deposition testimony, transcript or recording, or a portion thereof, the matter shall be promptly referred to the Committee for resolution.

(m) Provision of Rules to Witnesses. A witness shall not be required to testify unless the witness has been provided with a copy of the Committee's rules.

#### RULE 16—WITNESS AND PRIVILEGE PROCEDURE

(a) Witness Disclosures. Witnesses appearing at a hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee in a non-governmental capacity shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), as well as the amount and source of payments or contracts originating from foreign governments, insofar as they relate to the subject matter of the hearing, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years, by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness.

(b) Representation by Counsel. When representing a witness or entity before the Committee or a subcommittee in response to a request or subpoena from the Committee, or in connection with testimony before the Committee or a subcommittee, counsel for the witness or entity must promptly submit to the Committee a notice of appearance specifying the following: (1) counsel's name, firm or organization, bar membership, and contact information including email; and (2) each client or entity represented by the counsel in connection with the proceeding.

(c) Privileges. The Chair of the Committee has the authority to rule on assertions of privilege.

(1) For the Chair to consider assertions of privilege over testimony or statements, witnesses or entities must clearly state the specific privilege being asserted and the reason for the assertion on or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance, or upon a demand from the Chair of the Committee that provides for a subsequent due date.

(2) For the Chair to consider an assertion of privilege over a document, on or before the scheduled date of testimony or appearance, or upon a demand from the Chair of the Committee that provides for a subsequent due date, the assertion must be set forth in a privilege log that includes the following information for each document for which a



privilege is asserted: (a) every privilege asserted; (b) the type of document; (c) the general subject matter; (d) the date, author, addressee, and any other recipients; (e) the relationship of the author and addressee to each other; and (f) the basis for the privilege asserted.

(3) The only assertions of executive privilege that the Chair of the Committee will consider are those made in writing by an executive branch official authorized to assert the privilege.

(4) The Chair of the Committee may waive or modify any of the requirements of this rule in order to facilitate cooperation.

## PUBLICATION OF COMMITTEE RULES

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, March 5, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to Rule XI, Clause 2(a) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, I respectfully submit the rules of the 116th Congress for the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for publication in the Congressional Record. The Committee adopted these rules by voice vote, with a quorum being present, at our organizational meeting on Thursday, February 7, 2019.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DEFazio,  
*Chairman.*

### RULE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### (a) Applicability of House Rules.—

(1) In general.—The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee and its subcommittees so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day, and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution, if printed copies are available, are non-debatable privileged motions in the Committee and its subcommittees.

(2) Subcommittees.—Each subcommittee is part of the Committee, and is subject to the authority and direction of the Committee and its rules so far as applicable.

(3) Incorporation of house rule on committee procedure.—Rule XI of the Rules of the House, which pertains entirely to Committee procedure, is incorporated and made a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable. Pursuant to clause 2(a)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair of the Committee is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII of the Rules of the House whenever the Chair considers it appropriate.

(b) Publication of Rules.—Pursuant to clause 2(a) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee's rules shall be publicly available in electronic form and published in the Congressional Record not later than 60 days after the Chair is elected in each odd-numbered year.

(c) Vice Chair.—The Chair shall appoint a vice chair of the Committee and of each subcommittee. If the Chair of the Committee or subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or subcommittee, as the case may be, the vice chair shall preside. If the vice chair is not present, the ranking member of the majority party on the Committee or subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

### RULE II. REGULAR, ADDITIONAL, AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) Regular Meetings.—Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held on the last

Wednesday of every month to transact its business unless such day is a holiday, or the House is in recess or is adjourned, in which case the Chair shall determine the regular meeting day of the Committee for that month. A regular meeting of the Committee may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chair, there is no need for the meeting. This paragraph shall not apply to meetings of any subcommittee.

(b) Additional Meetings.—The Chair may call and convene, as he or she considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution pending before the Committee or for the conduct of other committee business. The Committee shall meet for such purpose pursuant to the call of the Chair.

(c) Special Meetings.—If at least three members of the Committee desire that a special meeting of the Committee be called by the Chair, those members may file in the offices of the Committee their written request to the Chair for that special meeting. Such request shall specify the measure or matter to be considered. Immediately upon the filing of the request, the clerk of the Committee shall notify the Chair of the filing of the request. If, within 3 calendar days after the filing of the request, the Chair does not call the requested special meeting to be held within 7 calendar days after the filing of the request, a majority of the members of the Committee may file in the offices of the Committee their written notice that a special meeting of the Committee will be held, specifying the date and hour thereof, and the measure or matter to be considered at that special meeting. The Committee shall meet on that date and hour. Immediately upon the filing of the notice, the clerk of the Committee shall notify all members of the Committee that such meeting will be held and inform them of its date and hour and the measure or matter to be considered; and only the measure or matter specified in that notice may be considered at that special meeting. Such notice shall also be made publicly available in electronic form and shall be deemed to satisfy paragraph (d)(1).

#### (d) Notice.—

(1) Minimum notice period.—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee or subcommittee meeting, which may not commence earlier than the third calendar day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays except when the House is in session on such a day) on which members have notice thereof.

(2) Changes in meeting times.—A meeting may commence sooner than announced if the Chair, with concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines there is good cause to begin the meeting sooner or the Committee or subcommittee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business. The Chair shall make a public announcement of the meeting time change at the earliest possible opportunity.

(3) Notification of daily digest clerk.—The clerk of the Committee shall notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after a public announcement of a time change for a Committee or subcommittee meeting is made under this paragraph.

(e) Prohibition on Sitting During Joint Session.—The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

### RULE III. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS GENERALLY

(a) Minimum Period For Availability of Committee Markup Text.—Pursuant to

clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make publicly available, in electronic form, the text of any legislation to be marked up at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of a meeting for the markup of legislation, or at the time of a meeting announcement under paragraph (d)(2) of Committee Rule II if made within 24 hours before such meeting.

(b) Open Meetings.—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing of the Committee or a subcommittee shall be open to the public, except as provided by clause 2(g) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(c) Meetings To Begin Promptly.—Each meeting or hearing of the Committee shall begin promptly at the time so stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(d) Addressing the Committee.—Except as provided under paragraph (e) of Committee Rule VI, a Committee member may address the Committee or a subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration—

(1) only when recognized by the Chair for that purpose; and

(2) only for 5 minutes, or for a period of time designated by the Chair with concurrence of the ranking minority member, until such time as each member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to address the Committee or subcommittee.

A member shall be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chair shall enforce this paragraph.

(e) Participation of Members in Subcommittee Meetings and Hearings.—All members of the Committee who are not members of a particular subcommittee may, by unanimous consent of the members of such subcommittee, participate in any subcommittee meeting or hearing. However, a member who is not a member of the subcommittee may not vote on any matter before the subcommittee, be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, or raise points of order.

(f) Member Day Hearing.—Pursuant to section 103(j) of House Resolution 6, the Committee shall hold a hearing at which it receives testimony from members, delegates, and the Resident Commissioner on proposed legislation within the Committee's jurisdiction.

(g) Broadcasting.—Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and non-partisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House. Further, pursuant to clause 2(e)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall provide audio and video coverage of each hearing or meeting for the transaction of business in a manner that allows the public to easily listen to and view the proceedings. The Committee shall also maintain the recordings of such coverage in a manner that is easily accessible to the public.

(h) Access to the Dais and Lounges.—Access to the hearing rooms' daises and to the lounges adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of Congress during a meeting or hearing of the Committee unless specifically permitted by the Chair or ranking minority member.

(i) Use of Cellular Telephones.—During a hearing, mark-up, or other meeting of the Committee, ringing or audible sounds or conversational use of cellular telephones or other electronic devices is prohibited in the Committee room.

(j) Availability of Text of Amendments in Electronic Form.—Pursuant to clause 2(e) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, not later than 24 hours after the adoption of any amendment to a measure or matter considered by the Committee, the Chair shall cause the text of the amendment to be made publicly available in electronic form.

#### RULE IV. POWER TO SIT AND ACT; POWER TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS; OATHS; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) Authority To Sit and Act.—For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee and each of its subcommittees, is authorized (subject to paragraph (d)(1))—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned and to hold such hearings; and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents, as it deems necessary.

(b) Authority To Conduct Investigations.—

(1) In general.—The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under Rule X of the Rules of the House and (subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by Rule X, clause 6 of the Rules of the House) to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(2) Major investigations by subcommittees.—A subcommittee may not begin a major investigation without approval of a majority of such subcommittee.

(c) Oaths.—The Chair, or any member designated by the Chair, may administer oaths to any witness.

(d) Issuance of Subpoenas.—

(1) In general.—A subpoena may be issued by the Committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. Such authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chair of the Committee or by any member designated by the Committee. If a specific request for a subpoena has not been previously rejected by either the Committee or subcommittee, the Chair of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee, may authorize and issue a subpoena under paragraph (a)(2) in the conduct of any investigation or activity or series of investigations or activities, and such subpoena shall for all purposes be deemed a subpoena issued by the Committee. As soon as practicable after a subpoena is issued under this rule, the Chair shall notify all members of the Committee of such action.

(2) Enforcement.—Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee or subcommittee under paragraph (a)(2) may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

(e) Expenses of Subpoenaed Witnesses.—Each witness who has been subpoenaed, upon the completion of his or her testimony before the Committee or any subcommittee, may report to the offices of the Committee, and there sign appropriate vouchers for travel allowances and attendance fees. If hearings are held in cities other than Wash-

ington, D.C., the witness may contact the counsel of the Committee, or his or her representative, before leaving the hearing room.

(f) Deposition Authority.—Pursuant to section 103(a) of House Resolution 6 and subject to the regulations issued by the Chair of the committee on Rules and printed in the Congressional Record, the Chair of the Committee, upon consultation with the ranking minority member, may order the taking of depositions, including pursuant to a subpoena, by a member or counsel of such committee subject to regulations issued by the Chair of the Committee on Rules.

#### RULE V. QUORUMS AND RECORD VOTES; POSTPONEMENT OF VOTES

(a) Working Quorum.—One-third of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for taking any action other than the closing of a meeting pursuant to clauses 2(g) and 2(k)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the authorizing of a subpoena pursuant to paragraph (d) of Committee Rule IV, the reporting of a measure or recommendation pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of Committee Rule VII, and the actions described in paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this rule.

(b) Quorum for Reporting.—A majority of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of a measure or recommendation.

(c) Approval of Certain Matters.—A majority of the members of the Committee or a subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for approval of a resolution concerning any of the following actions:

(1) A prospectus for construction, alteration, purchase or acquisition of a public building or the lease of space as required by section 3307 of title 40, United States Code.

(2) Survey investigation of a proposed project for navigation, flood control, and other purposes by the Corps of Engineers (section 4 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 4, 1913, 33 U.S.C. 542).

(3) Construction of a water resources development project by the Corps of Engineers with an estimated Federal cost not exceeding \$15,000,000 (section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965).

(4) Deletion of water quality storage in a Federal reservoir project where the benefits attributable to water quality are 15 percent or more but not greater than 25 percent of the total project benefits (section 65 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974).

(5) Authorization of a Natural Resources Conservation Service watershed project involving any single structure of more than 4,000 acre feet of total capacity (section 2 of P.L. 566, 83rd Congress).

(d) Quorum for Taking Testimony.—Two members of the Committee or subcommittee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence.

(e) Record Votes.—A record vote may be demanded by one-fifth of the members present.

(f) Postponement of Votes.—

(1) In general.—In accordance with clause 2(h)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee, after consultation with the ranking minority member of the Committee or subcommittee, may—

(A) postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or on adopting an amendment; and

(B) resume proceedings on a postponed question at any time after reasonable notice.

(2) Resumption of Proceedings.—When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate

or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(g) Availability of Record Votes in Electronic Form.—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(1)(B)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make the result of any record vote publicly available for inspection at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee and in electronic form within 48 hours of such record vote.

#### RULE VI. HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Announcement of Hearing.—

(1) Minimum notice period.—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(3) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Chair shall make a public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of a Committee or subcommittee hearing, which may not commence earlier than the one week after such notice.

(2) Changes in hearing times.—A hearing may commence sooner than announced if the Chair, with concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner or the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business. The Chair shall make a public announcement of the hearing time change at the earliest possible opportunity.

(3) Notification of daily digest clerk.—The clerk of the Committee shall notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after a public announcement of a time change for a Committee or subcommittee hearing is made under this paragraph.

(b) Written Statement; Oral Testimony.—

(1) Filing of statement.—So far as practicable, each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a subcommittee shall file with the clerk of the Committee or subcommittee, at least 2 working days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. The Chair, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, may take the following actions for failure to comply with this requirement: (A) exclude such witness' written testimony from the hearing record; (B) bar such witness' oral presentation of the testimony; or (C) both (A) and (B). Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of the written statement.

(2) Truth in testimony information.—Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, in the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include a curriculum vitae and a disclosure of the amount and source of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof), or the amount and country of origin of any contract or payment originating with a foreign government, received during the current calendar year or either of the two previous calendar years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness and related to the subject matter of the hearing.

(3) Availability of information in electronic form.—Statements filed under this paragraph, with appropriate redaction to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(c) Minority Witnesses.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee or subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chair by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearing thereon.

(d) Summary of Subject Matter.—Upon announcement of a hearing, to the extent practicable, the Committee shall make available immediately to all members of the Committee a concise summary of the subject matter (including legislative reports and other material) under consideration. In addition, upon announcement of a hearing and subsequently as they are received, the Chair shall make available to the members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on such matter.

(e) Opening Statements; Questioning of Witnesses.—

(1) Opening Statements.—

(A) Chair and Ranking Member.—At a hearing of the Full Committee, the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee shall each be entitled to present an oral opening statement of five minutes. At a hearing of a subcommittee, the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee and the Chair and ranking minority member of the subcommittee shall each be entitled to present an opening statement for five minutes.

(B) Other Members.—At a hearing of the Full Committee or a subcommittee, other members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, may submit written opening statements for the record. The Chair presiding over the hearing may permit oral opening statements by other members of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member.

(2) Questioning of Witnesses.—The questioning of witnesses in Committee and subcommittee hearings shall be initiated by the Chair, followed by the ranking minority member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority parties. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chair shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority nor the members of the minority. The Chair may accomplish this by recognizing two majority members for each minority member recognized.

(f) Procedures for Questions.—

(1) In general.—A Committee member may question a witness at a hearing—

(A) only when recognized by the Chair for that purpose; and

(B) subject to subparagraphs (2) and (3), only for 5 minutes until such time as each member of the Committee or subcommittee who so desires has had an opportunity to question the witness.

A member shall be limited in his or her remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chair shall enforce this subparagraph.

(2) Extended Questioning of Witnesses by Members.—The Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee or subcommittee by motion, may permit a specified number of its members to question a witness for longer than 5 minutes. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this subdivision shall be equal for the majority party and minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(3) Extended Questioning of Witnesses by Staff.—The Chair of the Committee or a subcommittee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, or the Committee or subcommittee by motion, may permit Committee staff for its majority and minority party members to question a witness for equal specified periods. The time for extended questioning of a witness under this subdivision shall be equal for the majority

party and minority party and may not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(4) Right to Question Witnesses Following Extended Questioning.—Nothing in subparagraph (2) or (3) affects the right of a member (other than a member designated under subparagraph (2)) to question a witness for 5 minutes in accordance with subparagraph (1)(B) after the questioning permitted under subparagraph (2) or (3).

(g) Additional Hearing Procedures.—Clause 2(k) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House (relating to additional rules for hearings) applies to hearings of the Committee and its subcommittees.

#### RULE VII. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND REPORTS

(a) Filing of Reports.—

(1) In general.—The Chair of the Committee shall report promptly to the House any measure or matter approved by the Committee and take necessary steps to bring the measure or matter to a vote.

(2) Requests for Reporting.—The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure or matter. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the Chair of the Committee notice of the filing of that request.

(b) Quorum; Record Votes.—

(1) Quorum.—No measure, matter, or recommendation shall be reported from the Committee unless a majority of the Committee was actually present.

(2) Record Votes.—With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) Required Matters.—The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall include the items required to be included by the rules and orders of the House applicable in the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

(d) Additional Views.—If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views, all members shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) in which to file such written and signed views in accordance with clause 2(l) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(e) Activities Report.—

(1) In general.—Not later than January 2 of each odd numbered year, the Committee shall submit to the House a report on the activities of the Committee.

(2) Contents.—The report shall include—

(A) separate sections summarizing the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House during the Congress;

(B) a summary of the oversight plan submitted by the Committee under clause 2(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House;

(C) a summary of the actions taken and recommendations made with respect to the oversight plan specified in subdivision (B);

(D) a summary of any additional oversight activities undertaken by the Committee and

any recommendations made or actions taken thereon; and

(E) a delineation of any hearings held pursuant to clauses 2(n), (o), or (p) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House.

(3) Filing.—After an adjournment sine die of the last regular session of a Congress, or after December 15 of an even numbered year, whichever occurs first, the Chair may file the report described in subparagraph (1) with the Clerk of the House at any time and without approval of the Committee, provided that—

(A) a copy of the report has been available to each member of the Committee for at least seven calendar days; and

(B) the report includes any supplemental, minority, additional, or dissenting views submitted by a member of the Committee.

(f) Other Committee Materials.—

(1) In general.—All Committee and subcommittee prints, reports, documents, or other materials, not otherwise provided for under this rule, that purport to express publicly the views of the Committee or any of its subcommittees or members of the Committee or its subcommittees shall be approved by the Committee or the subcommittee prior to printing and distribution and any member shall be given an opportunity to have views included as part of such material prior to printing, release, and distribution in accordance with paragraph (d) of this rule.

(2) Documents Containing Views Other Than Member Views.—A Committee or subcommittee document containing views other than those of members of the Committee or subcommittee shall not be published without approval of the Committee or subcommittee.

(3) Disclaimer.—All Committee or subcommittee reports printed pursuant to legislative study or investigation and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee or subcommittee, as appropriate, shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of such report: "This report has not been officially adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (or pertinent subcommittee thereof) and may not therefore necessarily reflect the views of its members."

(4) Compilations of Laws.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Committee shall publish a compilation of laws under the jurisdiction of each subcommittee.

(g) Availability of Publications.—Pursuant to clause 2(e)(4) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form to the maximum extent feasible.

#### RULE VIII. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES; SIZE AND PARTY RATIOS

(a) Establishment.—There shall be 6 standing subcommittees. These subcommittees, with the following sizes (including delegates) and majority/minority ratios, are:

(1) Subcommittee on Aviation (39 Members: 22 Majority and 17 Minority).

(2) Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation (16 Members: 9 Majority and 7 Minority).

(3) Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management (15 Members: 9 Majority and 6 Minority).

(4) Subcommittee on Highways and Transit (56 Members: 31 Majority and 25 Minority).

(5) Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials (34 Members: 19 Majority and 15 Minority).

(6) Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment (32 Members: 18 Majority and 14 Minority).

(b) Ex Officio Members.—The Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee shall serve as ex officio voting members on each subcommittee.

(c) Ratios.—On each subcommittee there shall be a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Full Committee. In calculating the ratio of majority party members to minority party members, there shall be included the ex officio members of the subcommittees.

#### RULE IX. POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Authority To Sit.—Each subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and report to the Full Committee on all matters referred to it or under its jurisdiction. Subcommittee chairmen shall set dates for hearings and meetings of their respective subcommittees after consultation with the Chair and other subcommittee chairmen with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Full Committee and subcommittee meetings or hearings whenever possible.

(b) Consideration by Committee.—Each bill, resolution, or other matter favorably reported by a subcommittee shall automatically be placed upon the agenda of the Committee. Any such matter reported by a subcommittee shall not be considered by the Committee unless it has been delivered to the offices of all members of the Committee at least 48 hours before the meeting, unless the Chair determines that the matter is of such urgency that it should be given early consideration. Where practicable, such matters shall be accompanied by a comparison with present law and a section-by-section analysis.

#### RULE X. REFERRAL OF LEGISLATION TO SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) General Requirement.—Except where the Chair of the Committee determines, in consultation with the majority members of the Committee, that consideration is to be by the Full Committee, each bill, resolution, investigation, or other matter which relates to a subject listed under the jurisdiction of any subcommittee established in Committee Rule VIII referred to or initiated by the Full Committee shall be referred by the Chair to all subcommittees of appropriate jurisdiction within two weeks. All bills shall be referred to the subcommittee of proper jurisdiction without regard to whether the author is or is not a member of the subcommittee.

(b) Recall From Subcommittee.—A bill, resolution, or other matter referred to a subcommittee in accordance with this rule may be recalled therefrom at any time by a vote of a majority of the members of the Committee voting, a quorum being present, for the Committee's direct consideration or for reference to another subcommittee.

(c) Multiple Referrals.—In carrying out this rule with respect to any matter, the Chair may refer the matter simultaneously to two or more subcommittees for concurrent consideration or for consideration in sequence (subject to appropriate time limitations in the case of any subcommittee after the first), or divide the matter into two or more parts (reflecting different subjects and jurisdictions) and refer each such part to a different subcommittee, or make such other provisions as he or she considers appropriate.

#### RULE XI. RECOMMENDATION OF CONFEREES

The Chair of the Committee shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees the names of those members (1) of the majority party selected by the Chair, and

(2) of the minority party selected by the ranking minority member of the Committee. Recommendations of conferees to the Speaker shall provide a ratio of majority party members to minority party members which

shall be no less favorable to the majority party than the ratio for the Committee.

#### RULE XII. OVERSIGHT

(a) Purpose.—The Committee shall carry out oversight responsibilities as provided in this rule in order to assist the House in—

(1) its analysis, appraisal, and evaluation of—

(A) the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the laws enacted by the Congress; or

(B) conditions and circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation; and

(2) its formulation, consideration, and enactment of such modifications or changes in those laws, and of such additional legislation, as may be necessary or appropriate.

(b) Oversight Plan.—Not later than March 1 of the first session of each Congress, the Chair shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Reform and the Committee on House Administration its oversight plan for that Congress in accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House.

(c) Review of Laws and Programs.—The Committee and the appropriate subcommittees shall cooperatively review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of those laws, or parts of laws, the subject matter of which is within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and the organization and operation of the Federal agencies and entities having responsibilities in or for the administration and execution thereof, in order to determine whether such laws and the programs thereunder are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the Congress and whether such programs should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated. In addition, the Committee and the appropriate subcommittees shall cooperatively review and study any conditions or circumstances which may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation within the jurisdiction of the Committee (whether or not any bill or resolution has been introduced with respect thereto), and shall on a continuing basis undertake future research and forecasting on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

(d) Review of Tax Policies.—The Committee and the appropriate subcommittees shall cooperatively review and study on a continuing basis the impact or probable impact of tax policies affecting subjects within the jurisdiction of the Committee.

#### RULE XIII. REVIEW OF CONTINUING PROGRAMS; BUDGET ACT PROVISIONS

(a) Ensuring Annual Appropriations.—The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, ensure that appropriations for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirements, and objectives of the programs and activities involved.

(b) Review of Multi-Year Appropriations.—The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdiction for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) Views and Estimates.—In accordance with clause 4(f)(1) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Committee shall submit to the Committee on the Budget—

(1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year which are within its jurisdiction or functions; and

(2) an estimate of the total amount of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction which it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) Budget Allocations.—As soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for any fiscal year is agreed to, the Committee (after consulting with the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocations made to it in the joint explanatory statement accompanying the conference report on such resolution, and promptly report such subdivisions to the House, in the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) Reconciliation.—Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process, it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

#### RULE XIV. RECORDS

(a) Keeping of Records.—The Committee shall keep a complete record of all Committee action which shall include—

(1) in the case of any meeting or hearing transcripts, a substantially verbatim account of remarks actually made during the proceedings, subject only to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections authorized by the person making the remarks involved; and

(2) a record of the votes on any question on which a record vote is taken.

(b) Public Inspection.—The result of each such record vote shall be made available by the Committee for inspection by the public at reasonable times in the offices of the Committee. Information so available for public inspection shall include a description of the amendment, motion, order, or other proposition and the name of each member voting for and each member voting against such amendment, motion, order, or proposition, and the names of those members present but not voting.

(c) Property of the House.—All Committee records (including hearings, data, charts, and files) shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the member serving as Chair of the Committee; and such records shall be the property of the House and all members of the House shall have access thereto.

(d) Availability of Archived Records.—The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House. The Chair shall notify the ranking minority member of the Committee of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of such rule, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on written request of any member of the Committee.

(e) Authority To Print.—The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid as provided in clause 1(c) of Rule XI of the House.

#### RULE XV. COMMITTEE BUDGETS

(a) Biennial Budget.—The Chair, in consultation with the chair of each subcommittee, the majority members of the

Committee, and the minority members of the Committee, shall, for each Congress, prepare a consolidated Committee budget. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, necessary travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee.

(b) **Additional Expenses.**—Authorization for the payment of additional or unforeseen Committee expenses may be procured by one or more additional expense resolutions processed in the same manner as set out herein.

(c) **Travel Requests.**—The Chair or any chair of a subcommittee may initiate necessary travel requests as provided in Committee Rule XVII within the limits of the consolidated budget as approved by the House and the Chair may execute necessary vouchers thereof.

(d) **Monthly Reports.**—Once monthly, the Chair shall submit to the Committee on House Administration, in writing, a full and detailed accounting of all expenditures made during the period since the last such accounting from the amount budgeted to the Committee. Such report shall show the amount and purpose of such expenditure and the budget to which such expenditure is attributed. A copy of such monthly report shall be available in the Committee office for review by members of the Committee.

#### RULE XVI. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) **Appointment by Chair.**—The Chair shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the employees of the Committee not assigned to the minority. The staff of the Committee not assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chair, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of such staff members and delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(b) **Appointment by Ranking Minority Member.**—The ranking minority member of the Committee shall appoint and determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the staff assigned to the minority within the budget approved for such purposes. The staff assigned to the minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the ranking minority member of the Committee who may delegate such authority as he or she determines appropriate.

(c) **Intention Regarding Staff.**—It is intended that the skills and experience of all members of the Committee staff shall be available to all members of the Committee.

#### RULE XVII. TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

(a) **Approval.**—Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the Committee for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chair. Travel shall be authorized by the Chair for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee or any subcommittee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chair in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the travel.
- (2) The dates during which the travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the travel is being made.
- (3) The location of the event for which the travel is to be made.
- (4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.
- (b) **Subcommittee Travel.**—In the case of travel of members and staff of a sub-

committee to hearings, meetings, conferences, and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of such subcommittee, prior authorization must be obtained from the subcommittee chair and the Chair. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chair only upon the representation by the chair of such subcommittee in writing setting forth those items enumerated in subparagraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) of paragraph (a) and that there has been a compliance where applicable with Committee Rule VI.

(c) **Travel Outside the United States.**—

(1) **In general.**—In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee or of a subcommittee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the Committee or pertinent subcommittee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chair, or, in the case of a subcommittee from the subcommittee chair and the Chair. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chair, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

- (A) The purpose of the travel.
- (B) The dates during which the travel will occur.
- (C) The names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each.
- (D) An agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of Committee jurisdiction involved.

(E) The names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.

(2) **Initiation of requests.**—Requests for travel outside the United States may be initiated by the Chair or the chair of a subcommittee (except that individuals may submit a request to the Chair for the purpose of attending a conference or meeting) and shall be limited to members and permanent employees of the Committee.

(d) **Reports by Members and Staff.**—Within 15 legislative days from the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting, or conference for which travel has been authorized pursuant to this rule, each member and staff member involved in such travel shall submit a written report to the Chair covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.

(e) **Applicability of Laws, Rules, Policies.**—Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Committees on House Administration and Ethics pertaining to such travel, and by the travel policy of the Committee.

#### RULE XVIII. COMMITTEE PANELS

(a) **Designation.**—In accordance with clause 5(b)(2)(C) of Rule X of the Rules of the House, the Chair of the Committee, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, may designate a panel of the Committee consisting of members of the Committee to inquire into and take testimony on a matter or matters that fall within the jurisdiction of more than one subcommittee and to report to the Committee.

(b) **Duration.**—No panel designated under paragraph (a) shall continue in existence for more than six months after the date of the designation.

(c) **Party Ratios and Appointment.**—The ratio of majority members to minority mem-

bers on a panel designated under paragraph (a) shall be as close as practicable to the ratio of the Full Committee. All majority members of the panels shall be appointed by the Chair of the Committee, and all minority members shall be appointed by the ranking minority member of the Committee. The Chair of the Committee shall choose one of the majority members so appointed to serve as Chair of the panel. The ranking minority member of the Committee shall similarly choose the ranking minority member of the panel.

(d) **Ex Officio Members.**—The Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio members of a panel designated under paragraph (a). The Chair and ranking minority member are authorized to vote on matters that arise before the panel and shall be counted to satisfy the quorum requirement for any purpose.

(e) **Jurisdiction.**—No panel designated under paragraph (a) shall have legislative jurisdiction.

(f) **Applicability of Committee Rules.**—A panel designated under paragraph (a) shall be subject to all Committee Rules herein.

### PUBLICATION OF BUDGETARY MATERIAL

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT SPENDING LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FY 2019 AND THE 10-YEAR PERIOD FY 2019 THROUGH FY 2028

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET,  
Washington, DC, March 5, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: To facilitate application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I am transmitting an updated status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal year 2019, and for the period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028. This status report is current through February 25, 2019. The term “current level” refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President’s signature.

Table 1 compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues to the overall limits filed in the Congressional Record on May 10, 2018, for fiscal year 2019 and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028. These comparisons are needed to implement section 311(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, which establishes a rule enforceable with a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution’s aggregate levels. The table does not show budget authority and outlays for years after fiscal year 2019 because appropriations for those years have not yet been completed.

Table 2 compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for legislative action completed by each authorizing committee with the limits filed in the Congressional Record on May 10, 2018, for fiscal year 2019 and for the 10-year period of fiscal years 2019 through 2028. These comparisons are needed to enforce the point of order under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, which prohibits the consideration of measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure. It is also needed to implement section 311(c), which provides an exception for committees that comply with their allocations from the point of order under section 311(a).

Tables 3 compares the current status of discretionary appropriations for fiscal year

2019 with the section 302(b) suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 because the point of order under that section equally applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation. The table also provides supplementary information on spending in excess of the base discretionary spending limits allowed under section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Table 4 displays the current level of advance appropriations in fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills. All of the advance appropriations are for accounts identified pursuant to H. Res. 6 and the statement of the Chairman published in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2019. This table is needed to enforce a rule against appropriations bills containing advance appropriations that: (i) are not identified in the statement of the Chairman published in the Congressional Record on January 8, 2019 or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations

to exceed the level specified in section 103(c) of H. Res. 6.

In addition, a letter from the Congressional Budget Office is attached that summarizes and compares the budget impact of legislation enacted after the adoption of the budget resolution against the budget resolution aggregates in force.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Wheelock.

Sincerely,

JOHN YARMUTH,  
Chairman.

TABLE 1—REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019, AND 2019–2028 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019

[On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2019	Fiscal Years 2019–2028
Appropriate Level <sup>1</sup> :		
Budget Authority .....	3,752,421	n.a.
Outlays .....	3,551,738	n.a.
Revenues .....	2,590,496	33,273,213
Current Level:		
Budget Authority .....	3,641,006	n.a.
Outlays .....	3,547,220	n.a.
Revenues .....	2,590,070	33,272,518
Current Level over (+)/under (–)		
Appropriate Level:		
Budget Authority .....	–111,415	n.a.
Outlays .....	–4,518	n.a.
Revenues .....	–426	–695

n.a. = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2019 through 2028 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

<sup>1</sup> The resolution includes emergencies enacted in 2018, adjusted for inflation. Current level excludes all emergencies.

TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION, COMPARISON OF AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WITH 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR BUDGET CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019

[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2019		2019–2028 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	2,414	1,406	3,514	461
Difference .....	2,414	1,406	3,514	461
Armed Services				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Education and Labor				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	2	2
Difference .....	0	0	2	2
Energy and Commerce				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	329	136	–505	–508
Difference .....	329	136	–505	–508
Financial Services				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	23	22	404	404
Difference .....	23	22	404	404
Foreign Affairs				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	–20	–20
Difference .....	0	0	–20	–20
Homeland Security				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
House Administration				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	4	4
Difference .....	0	0	4	4
Judiciary				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	–11	–11
Difference .....	0	0	–11	–11
Oversight and Reform				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	1	1	12	12
Difference .....	1	1	12	12
Science, Space, and Technology				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	5	5
Difference .....	0	0	5	5
Small Business				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	0	0	0	0
Difference .....	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	42	55	9	54
Difference .....	42	55	9	54
Veterans' Affairs				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0
Current Level .....	–1	4,397	–754	3,643
Difference .....	–1	4,397	–754	3,643
Ways and Means				
Allocation .....	0	0	0	0



TABLE 2—DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION, COMPARISON OF AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE ACTION WITH 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR BUDGET CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION COMPLETED AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019—Continued  
[Fiscal Years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2019		2019–2028 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Current Level .....	13	7	– 661	– 666
Difference .....	13	7	– 661	– 666

TABLE 3—DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019, COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS  
[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) Suballocations as of August 10, 2018 (H. Rpt. 115–897)		Current Status Reflecting Action Completed as of February 15, 2019 <sup>1</sup>		Current Status less 302(b)	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA .....	23,242	24,677	23,042	24,491	– 200	– 186
Commerce, Justice, Science .....	62,520	72,145	64,118	70,889	1,598	– 1,256
Defense .....	674,591	625,811	674,383	624,840	– 208	– 971
Energy and Water Development .....	44,700	44,476	44,640	44,335	– 60	– 141
Financial Services and General Government .....	23,423	24,045	23,423	24,085	0	40
Homeland Security .....	58,087	59,384	61,576	59,602	3,489	218
Interior, Environment .....	35,252	35,015	35,552	34,975	300	– 40
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education .....	178,997	184,114	179,973	185,820	976	1,706
Legislative Branch .....	4,880	4,770	4,836	4,720	– 44	– 50
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs .....	98,057	90,691	98,057	90,809	0	118
State, Foreign Operations .....	54,018	50,280	54,218	49,957	200	– 323
Transportation, Housing & Urban Development .....	71,800	132,364	71,079	132,524	– 721	– 160
Subtotal (Section 302(b) Allocations) .....	1,329,567	1,347,772	1,334,897	1,347,047	5,330	– 725
Unallocated portion of Section 302(a) Allocation <sup>2</sup> .....	5,330	– 8611	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation) .....	1,334,897	1,339,161	1,334,897	1,347,047	0	7,886

Comparison of total appropriations and 302(a) allocation	General Purpose		OCO <sup>3</sup>	
	BA	OT	BA	OT
302(a) Allocation .....	1,257,897	1,299,110	77,000	40,051
Total Appropriation .....	1,257,897	1,306,996	77,000	40,051
	0	7,886	0	0

Memorandum:	Amounts Assumed in 302(b) <sup>4</sup>		Amounts enacted							
			OCO		Program Integrity		Emergency Requirements		Disaster Relief	
Spending in Excess of Base Budget Control Act Caps for Sec. 251(b) Designated Categories	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Defense .....	n.a.	n.a.	67,914	37,071	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Financial Services and General Government .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Homeland Security .....	n.a.	n.a.	165	127	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	12,000	600
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,897	1,573	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs .....	n.a.	n.a.	921	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
State, Foreign Operations .....	n.a.	n.a.	8,000	2,853	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	10	n.a.	n.a.
Transportation, Housing & Urban Development .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1,680	25	n.a.	n.a.
Totals .....	92,557	42,259	77,000	40,051	1,897	1,573	1,680	35	12,000	600

<sup>1</sup> Spending designated as emergency is not included in the current status of appropriations shown on this table.  
<sup>2</sup> Totals include 302(a) adjustments for Overseas Contingency Operations and General Purpose amounts that differ from amounts anticipated in the 302(b) suballocations.  
<sup>3</sup> Totals include an adjustment for Overseas Contingency Operations included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116–6).  
<sup>4</sup> Totals assume an allowable 302(b) adjustment for Disaster Relief, pursuant to a revised 302(a) allocation filed in the Congressional Record on February 14, 2019.

TABLE 4.—ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 103(c) OF H. RES. 6 AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019  
[Budget authority in millions of dollars]

For 2020:	
Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations:	
Appropriate Level .....	28,852
Enacted advances:	
Accounts identified for advances:	
Employment and Training Administration .....	1,772
Education for the Disadvantaged .....	10,841
School Improvement .....	1,681
Career, Technical, and Adult Education ....	791
Special Education .....	9,283
Tenant-based Rental Assistance .....	4,000
Project-based Rental Assistance .....	400
Subtotal, enacted advances .....	28,768
Enacted Advances vs. Section 103(c)(2)(A) limit	– 84
Veterans Accounts Identified for Advance Appropriations:	
Appropriate Level .....	75,551
Enacted advances:	
Veterans accounts identified for advances:	
Veterans Medical Services .....	51,411
Veterans Medical Support and Compliance .....	7,239
Veterans Medical Facilities .....	6,142

TABLE 4.—ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 103(c) OF H. RES. 6 AS OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019—Continued  
[Budget authority in millions of dollars]

Veterans Medical Community Care .....	10,758
Subtotal, enacted advances .....	75,551
Enacted Advances vs. Section 103(c)(2)(B) limit .....	0
For 2021:	
Corporation for Public Broadcasting .....	445

U.S. CONGRESS,  
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,  
Washington, DC, February 27, 2019.

Hon. JOHN YARMUTH,  
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2019 budget and is current through February 25, 2019. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the allocations, aggregates, and other budgetary levels printed in the Congressional Record on May 10, 2018, pursuant to section 30104 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123), and section 103(m) of House Resolution 6 of the 116th Congress.

Since our last letter dated October 25, 2018, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following legislation that has significant effects on budget authority, outlays, and revenues in fiscal year 2019:

Frank LoBiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–282);  
Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334);  
First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–391);  
Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–3); and  
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116–6).

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,  
Director.

Enclosure.

## FISCAL YEAR 2019 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT THROUGH FEBRUARY 25, 2019

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Previously Estimated: <sup>a, b</sup>			
Revenues .....	n.a.	n.a.	2,590,496
Permanents and other spending legislation .....	2,341,676	2,236,400	n.a.
Appropriation legislation .....	0	573,950	n.a.
Offsetting receipts .....	- 890,012	- 890,015	n.a.
Total, Previously Enacted .....	1,451,664	1,920,335	2,590,496
Enacted Legislation:			
Authorizing Legislation:			
Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protections Act (P.L. 115-174) <sup>c</sup> .....	18	17	- 5
VA MISSION Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-182) .....	0	4,400	0
American Innovation \$1 Coin Act (P.L. 115-197) .....	0	3	0
Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-239) .....	0	0	- 304
Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-251) .....	4	2	0
FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-254) <sup>d,e,f</sup> .....	1	44	0
America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-270) .....	2	2	0
SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (P.L. 115-271) <sup>b</sup> .....	206	119	0
Frank Lobiondo Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-282) .....	40	10	0
Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334) .....	2,414	1,406	7
First Step Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-391) .....	11	11	0
Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-3) .....	120	8	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-6, Division H) <sup>c</sup> .....	2	2	1
Subtotal, Authorizing Legislation .....	2,821	6,024	- 301
Appropriation Legislation: <sup>a,b,d,e,f</sup>			
Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-244) .....	191,127	145,276	0
Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 115-245) <sup>a,b</sup> .....	1,691,001	1,223,855	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Divisions A-G, P.L. 116-6) <sup>a,b,c,f</sup> .....	480,297	311,576	- 125
Subtotal, Appropriation Legislation .....	2,362,425	1,680,707	- 125
Total, Enacted Legislation .....	2,365,246	1,686,731	- 426
Adjustments to Entitlements and Mandatories .....	- 175,904	- 59,846	0
Total Current Level <sup>b</sup> .....	3,641,006	3,547,220	2,590,070
Total House Resolutions <sup>#</sup> .....	3,752,421	3,551,738	2,590,496
Current Level Over House Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution .....	111,415	4,518	426
Memorandum:			
Revenues, 2019-2028:			
House Current Level <sup>c</sup> .....	n.a.	n.a.	33,272,518
House Resolutions <sup>#</sup> .....	n.a.	n.a.	33,273,213
Current Level Over House Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Current Level Under House Resolution .....	n.a.	n.a.	695

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = public law.

<sup>a</sup> Sections 1001-1004 of the 21st Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) require that certain funding provided for 2017 through 2026 to the Department of Health and Human Services—in particular the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health—be excluded from estimates for the purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Deficit Control Act) or the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Therefore, the amounts shown in this report do not include \$781 million in budget authority, and \$770 million in estimated outlays.

<sup>b</sup> For purposes of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act in the House, the resolution, as approved by the House of Representatives, does not include budget authority, outlays, or revenues for off-budget amounts. As a result, current level does not include those items.

<sup>c</sup> In the House of Representatives during the 115th Congress, pursuant to section 5111 of H. Con. Res. 71, the budgetary effects of legislation that affects the Federal Reserve's surplus funds are excluded from current level totals. As a result, the amounts shown do not include estimated increases in revenues of \$655 million in fiscal year 2019, \$570 million over the 2019-2023 period, and \$455 million over the 2019-2028 period.

<sup>d</sup> Division I of P.L. 115-254 provided \$1,680 million in supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2019, and designated those amounts as being for emergency requirements pursuant to section 251 of the Deficit Control Act. In general, the budgetary effects of authorizing legislation are recorded as direct spending or revenue. However, consistent with the language in division I, and at the direction of the House Committee on the Budget, those budgetary effects are classified as discretionary spending.

<sup>e</sup> The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-5), as amended, extended several immigration programs through February 15, 2019, that would otherwise have expired at the end of fiscal year 2018. The estimated budgetary effects of those previously enacted extensions are charged to the Committee on Appropriations, and are included in the budgetary effects of P.L. 116-6 shown in the "Appropriation Legislation" portion of this report. In addition, division H of P.L. 116-6 further extended those same programs through the end of fiscal year 2019. Consistent with the language in title III of division H of P.L. 116-6, and at the direction of the House Committee on the Budget, the budgetary effects of extending those immigration programs for the remainder of the fiscal year are charged to the relevant authorizing committees, and are shown in the "Authorizing Legislation" portion of this report.

<sup>f</sup> In the House of Representatives, and pursuant to section 314(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, amounts designated as an emergency requirement shall not count for purposes of title III and title IV of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and are excluded from current level totals. In addition, emergency funding designated that was not designated pursuant to the Deficit Control Act does not count for certain budgetary enforcement purposes. Those amounts, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Discretionary Emergency Requirements:			
Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-254, Division I) .....	1,680	25	0
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Divisions A-G, P.L. 116-6) .....	0	10	0
Total, Discretionary Emergency Requirements .....	1,680	35	0

<sup>#</sup> Section 30104 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) required—in the absence of a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2019 that the Chair of the House Committee on the Budget publish the aggregate spending and revenue levels for fiscal year 2019; those aggregate levels were first published in the Congressional Record on May 10, 2018. P.L. 115-123 also allows the Chair of the House Committee on the Budget to revise the budgetary aggregates:

	Budget Authority	Outlays	Revenues
Original Aggregates Printed on May 10, 2018: .....	3,747,016	3,551,514	2,590,496
Revision:			
Adjustment for H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019 .....	921	0	0
Adjustment for H.J. Res. 31, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 .....	4,484	224	
Revised House Resolution .....	3,752,421	3,551,738	2,590,496

## SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 252. An act to authorize the honorary appointment of Robert J. Dole to the grade of colonel in the regular Army; to the Committee on Armed Services.

## SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 47.—An act to provide for the management of the natural resources of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 483.—An act to enact into law a bill by reference.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

## EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

303. A letter from the PRAO Branch Chief, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Eligibility, Certification, and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 [FNS 2011-0008] (RIN: 0584-AE54) received March 4, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

304. A letter from the Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visual Information Documentation Program [Docket ID: USAF-2018-HQ-0009] (RIN: 0701-AA86) received February 28, 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.

305. A letter from the Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Delivery of Personnel to United States Civilian Authorities for Trial [Docket ID: USAF-2018-HQ-0008] (RIN: 0701-AA85) received February 28, 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.

306. A letter from the Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Sale to the Public [Docket ID: USAF-2018-HQ-0010] (RIN: 0701-AA83) received February 28, 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.

307. A letter from the Chief Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Suspension of Community Eligibility; Mississippi: Aberdeen, City of, Monroe County [Docket ID: FEMA-2018-0002; Internal Agency Docket No.: FEMA-8567] received March 4, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

308. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received March 4, 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.

309. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Compliance With Statutory Program Integrity Requirements [HHS-OS-2018-0008] (RIN: 0937-ZA00) received March 1, 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.

310. 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; Gamma-Linolenic Acid Safflower Oil [Docket No.: FDA-2017-F-4511] received March 4, 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.

311. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change of Address; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2019-N-0646] received March 4, 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.

312. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions, is to

continue in effect beyond March 6, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 116—15); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

313. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of persons that undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine, that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2019, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 116—16); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

314. A letter from the Chief Counsel for Regulation, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Public Information, Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Regulations [160801675-7593-02] (RIN: 0605-AA45) received February 28, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

315. A letter from the Assistant Director, OSD SEMO, Department of Defense, transmitting notification of a vacancy and a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

316. A letter from the Assistant Director, OSD SEMO, Department of State, transmitting notification of a vacancy and a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

317. A letter from the Secretary, Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's final rule — Civil Monetary Penalties--2019 Adjustment [Docket No.: EP 716 (Sub-No. 4)] received February 28, 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.

318. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's Notice of Annual Inflation — Adjustments to Civil Monetary Penalty Amounts [Release Nos.: 33-10604; 34-85118; IA-5111; IC-33373] received February 28, 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.

319. A letter from the Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Passenger Equipment Safety Standards; Standards for Alternative Compliance and High-Speed Trainsets [Docket No.: FRA-2013-0060, Notice No. 3] (RIN: 2130-AC46) received March 1, 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.

320. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of the intention to terminate the designation of India as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences program, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 502 (as added by Public Law 104-188, Sec. 1952(a)); (110 Stat. 1920) (H. Doc. No. 116—17); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

321. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a notification of the intention to terminate the designation of Turkey as a beneficiary developing country under the Generalized System of Preferences program, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2462(f)(2); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 502 (as added by Public Law 104-188, Sec. 1952(a)); (110 Stat. 1920) (H. Doc. No. 116—18); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follow:

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 172. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 116-16). Referred to the House Calendar.

## PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. WATSON CLEMAN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BASS, Mr. CLEBURN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1494. A bill to strengthen partnerships between historically Black colleges and universities and minority-serving institutions and the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 1495. A bill to require State agencies to use Federal tax return information to verify income eligibility for Medicaid, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia (for himself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 1496. A bill to amend the Act of August 25, 1958, commonly known as the "Former Presidents Act of 1958", with respect to the monetary allowance payable to a former President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 1497. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize certain water pollution control programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1498. A bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1499. A bill to prohibit brand name drug manufacturers from compensating generic drug manufacturers to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable product manufacturers to delay entry of biosimilar and interchangeable products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLAY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. HIMES, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. HECK, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GONZÁLEZ of Texas, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. PORTER, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. GABBARD, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. DEAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. GARCÍA of Texas):

H.R. 1500. A bill to require the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to meet its statutory purpose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1501. A bill to allow certain off-duty law enforcement officers and retired law enforcement officers to carry a concealed firearm to protect children in a school zone; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WALBERG (for himself, Mr. GIANFORTE, and Mr. MITCHELL):

H.R. 1502. A bill to modernize the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1503. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act regarding the list under section 505(j)(7) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 1504. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish minimum notification requirements for voters affected by polling place changes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 1505. A bill to amend title IV-A of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BARRAGAN:

H.R. 1506. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ensure that valid generic drugs may enter the market; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 1507. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify employer-pro-

vided fringe benefits for bicycle commuting; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H.R. 1508. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for Move America bonds and Move America credits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. CUMMINGS):

H.R. 1509. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1510. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Patient and State Stability Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 1511. A bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underride crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. LANGEVIN):

H.R. 1512. A bill to provide funds to give States incentives to invest in practices and technology designed to expedite voting at the polls and simplify voter registration, improve voting system security, and promote automatic voter registration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 1513. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to enhance enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1514. A bill to sever United States Government relations with the Creek Nation of Oklahoma until such time as the Creek Nation of Oklahoma restores full Tribal citizenship to the Creek Freedmen disenfranchised in the October 6, 1979, Creek Nation vote and fulfills all its treaty obligations with the Government of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 1515. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to require that any discretionary grant funds provided by the Department of Transportation for high-speed rail development in California be reimbursed to the Federal Government and to authorize additional funds for nationally significant freight and highway projects; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 1516. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on certain trading transactions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. MCADAMS):

H.R. 1517. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a pilot program to develop and provide to States and transportation planning organizations accessibility data sets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. KILMER, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 1518. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion of Medicare coverage for hearing aids and examinations therefor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 1519. A bill to assist entrepreneurs, support development of the creative economy, and encourage international cultural exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Labor, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 1520. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the publication of a list of licensed biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FRANKEL (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. MOORE, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILD, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MENG, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. DEAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. PORTER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. HARDER of California, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SABLON, Mr. COX of California, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 1521. A bill to deter, prevent, reduce, and respond to harassment in the workplace, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and harassment based on protected categories; and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the tax treatment of amounts related to employment discrimination and harassment in the workplace, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and harassment based on protected categories; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Financial Services, House

Administration, Oversight and Reform, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 1522. A bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 to prohibit certain individuals from service as an agent of a foreign principal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 1523. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Federal political appointees to sign a binding ethics pledge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1524. A bill to require annual reports on funds expended by the Federal Government with the Trump Organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico (for herself and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK):

H.R. 1525. A bill to provide tax incentives to promote economic development in Economically Distressed Zones; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HECK (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. KILMER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington):

H.R. 1526. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 Israel Road Southeast in Tumwater, Washington, as the "Eva G. Hewitt Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. BARR, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 1527. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the placement of veterans in non-Department medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 1528. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the comprehensive opioid abuse grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KATKO (for himself and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 1529. A bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to provide that the supplemental security income benefits of adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities shall not be reduced by reason of marriage; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KIND (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. REED, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KATKO, and Mr. HURD of Texas):

H.R. 1530. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of New York (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. NORTON,

Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LAMB, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire):

H.R. 1531. A bill to increase public safety by permitting the Attorney General to deny the transfer of a firearm or the issuance of firearms or explosives licenses to a known or suspected dangerous terrorist; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. YARMUTH, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. LEWIS):

H.R. 1532. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues related to recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. WILD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KILMER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 1533. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 1534. A bill to provide that 12 weeks of family leave made available to a Federal employee shall be paid leave, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. MCBATH:

H.R. 1535. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit campaign activities by chief State election administration officials; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. MITCHELL (for himself and Mr. BYRNE):

H.R. 1536. A bill to modify the congressional budget and appropriations process to provide fiscal stability for the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, Oversight and Reform, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1537. A bill to direct the Postmaster General to issue a forever stamp depicting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1538. A bill to revise the composition of the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia so that the Commission will consist solely of members appointed by the government of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1539. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit the conversion of leadership PAC funds to personal use; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 1540. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to improve social security benefits for widows and widowers in two-income households; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself and Mr. MEADOWS):

H.R. 1541. A bill to require a report on Saudi Arabia obtaining nuclear fuel enrichment capabilities; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Mr. RATCLIFFE):

H.R. 1542. A bill to require a report that identifies each person in the People's Republic of China and Chinese Government official involved in the production of fentanyl and its trafficking into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. DUFFY, Mr. FORTENBERRY, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 1543. A bill to require the procurement of iron and steel products from American sources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 1544. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to obtain the consent of affected State and local governments before making an expenditure from the Nuclear Waste Fund for a nuclear waste repository, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALKER (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. BUDD):

H.R. 1545. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the inclusion of certain fringe benefit expenses for which a deduction is disallowed in unrelated business taxable income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. SOTO, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1546. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to establish a minimum period for early voting in elections for Federal office; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGAN,

Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. CRAIG, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. HECK, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mrs. LURIA):

H. Res. 171. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Women's History Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. COLE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. CASE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HECK, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. CORREA):

H. Res. 173. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLDING (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. KILMER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. KIND, Mr. NUNES, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COLE, Mr. THORNBERRY, and Mr. CHABOT):

H. Res. 174. A resolution recognizing the self determination of Gibraltar to determine its status as a British Overseas Territory; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. FRANKEL, and Mrs. WALORSKI):

H. Res. 175. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of June 1, 2019, through June 9, 2019, as National Fishing and Boating Week; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. LEWIS):

H. Res. 176. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day on March 19, 2019; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. COLE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. OLSON, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. TIPTON, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. VELA, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. STAUBER, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. DUNN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. STEWART, Mr. FLORES, Ms. HILL of California, Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BRADY, Mr. GOODEN, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland):

H. Res. 177. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should continue to support the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H. Res. 178. A resolution directing the Fine Arts Board to accept the gift of a portrait of Alice Paul for placement in the House of Representatives wing of the United States Capitol or an office building of the House, and directing the Architect of the Capitol to place the portrait in a suitable permanent location; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. BURGESS):

H. Res. 179. A resolution recognizing the importance of vaccinations and immunizations in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 1547. A bill for the relief of Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PELOSI:

H.R. 1548. A bill for the relief of Maria Carmen Castro Ramirez and J. Refugio Carreno Rojas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representa-

tives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi:

H.R. 1494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. ABRAHAM:

H.R. 1495.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 1496.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I: The Congress shall have Power To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in this Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DEFazio:

H.R. 1497.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 1498.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3—"Commerce Clause."

By Mr. RUSH:

H.R. 1499.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. WATERS:

H.R. 1500.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. HARTZLER:

H.R. 1501.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution. Article I, Section 8, clause 3, the Interstate Commerce Clause, gives Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes. Article I, Section 8, clause 18, the Necessary and Proper Clause, gives Congress the power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. WALBERG:

H.R. 1502.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 1503.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 1504.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 1505.



Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 1506.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1507.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 1508.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause I

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 1509.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 1510.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 1511.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 1512.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 1513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 1514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution and its subsequent amendments and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 1515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DEFazio:

H.R. 1516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress)

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 1517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 1518.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 1519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 1520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3

By Ms. FRANKEL:

H.R. 1521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 1522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution "any of Congress's enumerated powers"

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 1523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution "any of Congress's enumerated powers"

By Mr. GALLEGO:

H.R. 1524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico:

H.R. 1525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution, which provide as follows:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [ . . . ]—And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HECK:

H.R. 1526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7, "The Congress shall have Power to . . . establish Post Offices and Post Roads . . ."

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 1527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 1528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The Congress shall have Power \*\*\* To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Office thereof.

By Mr. KATKO:

H.R. 1529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KING of New York:

H.R. 1531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 6

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 1532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States."

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 1533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States."

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 1534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US constitution.

By Mrs. McBATH:

H.R. 1535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 5

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. MITCHELL:

H.R. 1536.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 5: "Each House may determine the Rules of its Proceedings" and

Article 1, Section 9: "No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law"

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 7 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 1539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 1540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Sec. 8

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 1541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 1542.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 1543.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 1544.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3.

By Mr. WALKER:

H.R. 1545.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 1546.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 4 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. Pascrell:

H.R. 1547.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1

By Ms. Pelosi:

H.R. 1548.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to “establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization”. The Supreme Court has long found that this provision of the Constitution grants Congress plenary power over immigration policy. As the Court found in *Galvan v. Press*, 347 U.S. 522, 531 (1954), “that the formulation of policies [pertaining to the entry of aliens and their right to remain here] is entrusted exclusively to Congress has become about as firmly imbedded in the legislative and judicial tissues of our body politic as any aspect of our government.” And, as the Court found in *Kleindienst v. Mandel*, 408 U.S. 753, 766 (1972) (quoting *Boutillier v. INS*, 387 U.S. 118, 123 (1967)), “[t]he Court without exception has sustained Congress’ ‘plenary power to make rules for the admission of aliens and to exclude those who possess those characteristics which Congress has forbidden.’

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 38: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 40: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 45: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, and Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 51: Mr. DELGADO and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 93: Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 94: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H.R. 95: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 141: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. RUSH, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. MEEKS.

H.R. 188: Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 203: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 230: Ms. DEAN, Mr. HECK, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 250: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 273: Mrs. LOWEY and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 291: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 295: Mr. MEEKS and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 303: Mr. KIND and Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 309: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. ROYBAL-

ALLARD.

H.R. 337: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 366: Ms. WILD and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 367: Ms. FINKENAUER and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 372: Mr. SCHRADER.

H.R. 472: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 490: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 510: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 530: Mr. DOGETT, Ms. BASS, and Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 535: Mr. LUJÁN and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 549: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 553: Mr. KIM, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 555: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. STANTON, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 566: Ms. DELAURO.

H.R. 592: Mr. POCAN and Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 596: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 597: Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 611: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 613: Mr. CROW, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 615: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 645: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 647: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 649: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 651: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 662: Mr. KIM.

H.R. 663: Mr. LOEBSACK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 674: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 677: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 693: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. DEAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RUSH, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. BASS, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. CURTIS.

H.R. 728: Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 732: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 748: Mr. RATCLIFFE, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RIGGLEMAN, Mr. CROW, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BALDERSON, Ms. HILL of California, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 767: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 784: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia.

H.R. 788: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 810: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 824: Mr. RYAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 835: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. BASS.

H.R. 837: Mrs. ROBY.

H.R. 850: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 856: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 864: Ms. DEAN, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 869: Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 874: Mr. YARMUTH, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. TONKO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 921: Mr. HECK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ESHOO, and Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 943: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.

H.R. 949: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 953: Mrs. CRAIG.

H.R. 956: Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma and Mr. JORDAN.

H.R. 959: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 960: Mr. CISNEROS.

H.R. 962: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 978: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 981: Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 996: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 997: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BROOKS of Alabama, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 1002: Ms. GABBARD, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1004: Mr. BERA and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1019: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. DEFAZIO.

H.R. 1024: Mr. SENSENBRENNER.

H.R. 1029: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1034: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. MARSHALL.

H.R. 1035: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 1042: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1043: Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mrs. CRAIG, and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 1044: Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. CRAIG, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HECK, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. RICHMOND.

H.R. 1046: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1050: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 1058: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. HASTINGS.

H.R. 1066: Mr. HECK, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 1069: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. WILD, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1070: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1073: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1078: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1081: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 1098: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1104: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1108: Mr. COOK, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 1111: Mr. LEWIS.

H.R. 1113: Mr. FULCHER.

H.R. 1133: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. ROSE of New York.

H.R. 1134: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 1135: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 1139: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. FRANKEL.

H.R. 1140: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1142: Mr. SWALWELL of California.

H.R. 1146: Mr. HECK and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1154: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1155: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1170: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 1171: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1173: Mr. GOODEN and Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1185: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.

H.R. 1192: Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1201: Mr. QUIGLEY and Ms. HAALAND.

H.R. 1220: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. SPEIER, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 1223: Mr. COOPER, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CICILLINE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1224: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. FOSTER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1226: Mr. HECK and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 1234: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1243: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1249: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1250: Ms. ESCOBAR.

H.R. 1254: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1256: Ms. BROWNLEY of California.

H.R. 1266: Mr. HASTINGS and Ms. DEAN.

H.R. 1271: Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1274: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 1277: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Mr. SWALWELL of California.  
 H.R. 1279: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CLAY, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-  
 ESTER, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois,  
 Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PAS-  
 CRELL, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. LAWSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 1294: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.  
 H.R. 1309: Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEFazio, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
 H.R. 1319: Mr. NORMAN.  
 H.R. 1327: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. LEVIN of Cali-  
 fornia, and Mr. HECK.  
 H.R. 1337: Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 1348: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
 H.R. 1357: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1363: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.  
 H.R. 1379: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MCGOVERN,  
 Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MOORE, and Mr. STAUBER.  
 H.R. 1380: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire,  
 Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 1381: Ms. GABBARD, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DELGADO, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. GALLAGHER.  
 H.R. 1383: Mr. CICILLINE.  
 H.R. 1386: Mrs. MURPHY.  
 H.R. 1387: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H.R. 1394: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. NOR-  
 TON, and Ms. SEWELL of Alabama.  
 H.R. 1398: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. JOHNSON of  
 Ohio, Mr. HURD of Texas, Ms. KUSTER of New  
 Hampshire, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H.R. 1400: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of  
 New York and Ms. HILL of California.  
 H.R. 1407: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. COX of Cali-  
 fornia, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. YOUNG,  
 and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H.R. 1409: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1411: Mr. PALLONE and Mr. RASKIN.  
 H.R. 1418: Mr. BIGGS.  
 H.R. 1419: Mr. LARSEN of Washington and  
 Mr. COHEN.  
 H.R. 1425: Mr. SCHRADER and Ms. KUSTER of  
 New Hampshire.  
 H.R. 1426: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. GONZALEZ of  
 Texas.  
 H.R. 1427: Ms. BASS.  
 H.R. 1448: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H.R. 1454: Ms. TLAIB.  
 H.R. 1455: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
 H.R. 1456: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. AGUILAR,  
 Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and  
 Ms. HAALAND.  
 H.J. Res. 2: Mrs. LOWEY and Mr. LOEBSACK.  
 H.J. Res. 23: Ms. PRESSLEY.  
 H.J. Res. 36: Mr. JORDAN.  
 H.J. Res. 42: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of  
 Pennsylvania and Ms. JUDY CHU of Cali-  
 fornia.  
 H.J. Res. 48: Ms. HAALAND, Mr. GARCÍA of  
 Illinois, and Mr. LYNCH.  
 H. Con. Res. 20: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri,  
 Mr. BACON, Mr. STEILL, and Mr. CARSON of In-  
 diana.  
 H. Con. Res. 23: Mr. POCAN.  
 H. Res. 12: Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia.  
 H. Res. 23: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SCHNEIDER,  
 Ms. BASS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr.  
 AMODEI, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
 H. Res. 33: Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. KILDEE,  
 Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
 H. Res. 54: Ms. FINKENAUER, Mr. REED, Ms.  
 DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. BASS, Mr. SCHNEIDER,  
 Ms. PORTER, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. COHEN.  
 H. Res. 60: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. BASS,  
 and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
 H. Res. 69: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.  
 H. Res. 72: Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. FOXX  
 of North Carolina, and Mr. HUDSON.  
 H. Res. 75: Mr. CUMMINGS.  
 H. Res. 91: Mr. SARBANES.  
 H. Res. 100: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr.  
 GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Mr.  
 PAYNE.

H. Res. 104: Mr. GALLAGHER.  
 H. Res. 107: Mr. HICE of Georgia.  
 H. Res. 114: Mr. GALLEG0, Mrs. NAPOLI-  
 TANO, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE  
 of Pennsylvania.  
 H. Res. 124: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SARBANES,  
 Mr. CASE, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. BEYER.  
 H. Res. 154: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FOSTER, and  
 Mrs. LOWEY.  
 H. Res. 156: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr.  
 MCGOVERN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr.  
 RASKIN, and Mr. CHABOT.  
 H. Res. 161: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr.  
 VARGAS.  
 H. Res. 164: Ms. LEE of California.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors  
 were deleted from public bills and reso-  
 lutions, as follows:

H.R. 1155: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

#### PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,  
 4. The SPEAKER presented a petition of  
 Mr. Gregory D. Watson, a citizen of Austin,  
 TX, relative to urging Congress to enact leg-  
 islation that would prohibit Members of Con-  
 gress, and members of State legislatures,  
 from participating as delegates or commis-  
 sioners to a convention, applied for by the  
 State legislatures, pursuant to the Constitu-  
 tion's Article V, the purpose of which would  
 be to propose one or more amendments to  
 the United States Constitution; which was  
 referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, You are our refuge and strength. We look to You for mercy and grace.

Send to our lawmakers the power and grace they need today to glorify Your name in all they do. Lord, give them the purity of heart that will shut the doors to all evil. Keep their feet in the path of integrity that they may walk securely. Develop in them a perseverance which refuses to leave any task half done. Empower them with a diligence to offer You no less than their best.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as if in morning business.

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

#### THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to make a point about the so-called Green New Deal. It is very obvious it is a reference to Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal in the 1930s. The implication is that what the New Deal did for the Depression should be a model for the environment.

There is just one great big problem: The New Deal in the 1930s didn't work. It didn't get us out of the Great Depression. The Depression didn't end until we entered World War II.

Just like the original, the Green New Deal sounds like really bold action, but it is really a jumble of half-cocked policies that will dampen economic growth and will hurt jobs.

Everything our government ought to be trying to do is to encourage economic growth and to create jobs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### NOMINATION OF ALLISON JONES RUSHING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Senate voted to advance

the nomination of Allison Jones Rushing to serve on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As I noted yesterday, Ms. Rushing comes with significant appellate experience and has filed 47 briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court. It is clear to me, as it was to a majority of our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, that she would make a fine addition to the Federal bench. So I will support her confirmation later today, and I recommend that each of our colleagues do the same.

#### NOMINATION OF CHAD A. READLER

Madam President, following Ms. Rushing, the Senate will consider Chad Readler of Ohio to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Readler is a two-time graduate of the University of Michigan, earning his J.D. with honors in 1997. Following law school, he held a clerkship on the Sixth Circuit and has built a longstanding reputation in private practice as a consummate legal professional.

Mr. Readler is also active in pro bono work, including for the United Way of Central Ohio, and his nomination earned a "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association.

So I look forward to advancing yet another of President Trump's impressive judicial nominees later this week.

#### H.R. 1

Madam President, on another matter, this week the House will be devoting floor time to the Democrat politician protection act. That is what I call the signature effort that Speaker PELOSI has given top billing—top billing—as H.R. 1, because this new House Democratic majority's top priority is apparently assigning themselves an unprecedented level of control over how they get elected to Washington, along with how, where, and what American citizens are allowed to say about it. That is their priority No. 1.

Over there, across the Capitol, more than anything else, Washington Democrats want a tighter grip on political

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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debate and the operation of elections nationwide. But the Democrat politician protection act is just part of a trio of massive, unprecedented government takeover schemes that Democrats have already rolled out just this Congress.

On its face, this proposal might seem less outrageous than Medicare for None or the so-called Green New Deal. It wouldn't seem to impact the middle-class families as directly as making private health insurance plans illegal or sending the U.S. economy on a nose-dive in the name of tackling carbon emissions while China goes roaring right by.

Here is the thing. Those two proposals are just terrible policy. Bad policy can be stopped or undone through the political process, but H.R. 1 isn't just terrible policy. It is an attempt to rewrite the underlying rules of that political process itself and skew those rules to benefit just one side—that side.

By every indication, the Democratic politician protection act is a massive, partisan solution in search of a problem. Democrats want to convince everyone that our Republic is in crisis, but when you scratch the surface of these scare tactics, their two main complaints seem to be that Democrats don't win enough elections, and people Democrats don't like also happen to have First Amendment rights.

Just look at the data. In 2016, turnout reached its third highest rate since the 1960s. Turnout was very high. By the sheer number of Presidential ballots cast, an all-time record was set, and these numbers were hardly a fluke. Last November, the midterm turnout rate set a new 50-year record for off-year elections.

Nevertheless, the Democrats are intent on fixing our elections even though they aren't broken. Their solution amounts to a hostile, one-sided takeover of the electoral process without—without—the input of both parties.

In the Democrats' view, our federalist system, in which State laws evolve to address unique challenges, is old-fashioned and no longer to their liking. Now it is time for sweeping new decrees from Washington.

What each State has found works best for them to register voters or to maintain voter rules—all of that is now supposed to yield to what Washington Democrats want.

It starts with a massive influx of government data to the registration rolls. In one sweep, all of the duplicative and conflicting data from across State and Federal Government Agencies—as well as colleges and universities—would flood the voter registration system—flood it.

This isn't the slightly tested, automatic voter registration some States have installed with the DMV. This is a massive data dump that is sure to invite risk of inaccuracy and a loss of privacy. It is especially concerning, as the Democrats want to mandate that agencies register 16- and 17-year-olds.

What about things like one-size-fits-all online voter registration, where the simple safeguard of signing a document can be easily side-stepped? Or a mandatory new one-stop registration and voting procedure in every State, without the assurance of verifying the voter's identity or address before adding their ballot to the ballot box?

If your State requires even the loosest voter ID requirement, the Democrats' bill would undermine it. Everything down to the type of paper the ballot is printed on is dictated by Washington Democrats under their proposal. The list goes on and on.

Now you might think that with Democrats insisting that every locality subscribe to ever looser registration standards, they must provide strong tools for verification and maintenance of the voter rolls. Think again. In fact, they seem more focused on taking away these safeguards.

The bill leaves States with less ability to maintain voter records and to ensure that people aren't registered in multiple States. In many instances, it seems the Democrats want more identification required to correct an erroneous voter entry—listen to this: more identification required to correct an erroneous voter entry—than to register a new voter. In other words, it is harder to get off the rolls than it is to get on the rolls.

What if we look at the problems that actually exist? What about the murky “ballot harvesting” process that invites misbehavior? It was already illegal in North Carolina, where a congressional election result was thrown out recently due to fraud, but the practice that threw out the election in North Carolina just the other day remains perfectly legal in California, where it seems to benefit, amazingly enough, the Democrats. Somehow, for all of the other top-down changes that H.R. 1 would force on the country, somehow addressing ballot harvesting didn't make the cut. Imagine that.

It is almost like Democrats' purpose here is not promoting integrity but, rather, preserving the chaos that would make close elections ripe targets for their DC lawyers to contest. The law itself suggests as much by creating new private rights of action—new private rights of action—for trial lawyers to ramp up litigation when they are unhappy with an outcome.

Now as I mentioned, elections aren't the only focus. Democrats are also coming after America's political speech. Under H.R. 1, a newly partisan Federal Election Commission would be empowered with sweeping—sweeping—new authority to regulate speech that is deemed to be “campaign related.”

New rules apply to the mere mention of a politician's name. There are new limitations on advocacy groups to speak on substantive issues and strict new penalties for when private groups of citizens cross the lines that Washington Democrats have drawn.

But it doesn't stop there. Protecting Democrat politicians is hard work—

hard work, indeed—and it requires a multipronged approach. So not only does H.R. 1 deploy stricter regulations on political speech; it also ramps up requirements when private citizens engage in it. Even small expressions of First Amendment rights could require extensive documentation, and in many new cases, forced public disclosure of your private activities would be required.

So we are in a dangerous climate for the robust exchange of ideas. There is outright government bias like we saw from Lois Lerner's IRS. There are activist-driven online mobs that come after individuals' reputations and their livelihoods. This is not—I repeat, this is not—a climate where the people's representatives should be rushing to make more of Americans' private information public.

The ACLU is not often an organization that would be described as bipartisan—not always—but here is what the ACLU wrote in a letter to House Democrats just a couple of days ago:

There are . . . provisions that unconstitutionally impinge on the free speech rights of American citizens and public interest organizations . . . [the bill] strikes the wrong balance between the public's interest in knowing who supports or opposes candidates for office and the vital associational privacy rights guaranteed by the First Amendment.

That is the ACLU. They go on:

[H.R. 1] interferes with that ability by impinging on the privacy of these groups, forcing the groups to make a choice: their speech or their donors. Whichever they choose, the First Amendment loses.

This is the very issue that the NAACP had to sue the State of Alabama over way back in the 1950s. They won a critical victory when the Supreme Court confirmed that the First Amendment is eroded when Big Brother forces private organizations to publicize the people who work to support them—the NAACP v. Alabama, in the 1950s.

It was true in the 1950s, and it remains true today, but that erosion is exactly what House Democrats want to achieve. It is what they want to achieve. Their bill even supports a constitutional amendment to take away First Amendment protections.

Even if their proposal does chill the exercise of the First Amendment—fear not—House Democrats have a plan to make sure there is still plenty of activity come election season. It is a taxpayer-funded stimulus package for campaign consultants and political candidates. They are going to take your tax money and give it to candidates you oppose to buy commercials, buttons, balloons, bumper stickers with your tax money. Democrats want to sign taxpayers up to a six-times matching subsidy for certain political contributions. It could total about \$5 million in taxpayer money—\$5 million in taxpayer money—for every candidate who wants it. What a great idea—right into the pockets of political campaigns—your tax money.

That is what these guys want to pass. Middle-class Americans will have the

privilege of watching television commercials attacking their own beliefs and the candidates they support and knowing their own tax dollars bought the airtime for candidates they oppose.

All of this is what House Democrats are debating on the floor this very week—H.R. 1—all of this and more. I have only scratched the surface of the Democratic Politician Protection Act: running roughshod over States' and communities' control of their own elections, regulating and chilling the American people's exercise of the First Amendment, forcing taxpayers to indirectly donate to the politicians they don't like, and a dozen other bad ideas to boot.

Behold the signature legislation of the new House Democratic majority.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, just briefly, I heard my good friend, the Republican leader, decry H.R. 1. He called it the Democratic protection act. Well, if making it easier for people to vote and getting Big Money out of politics hurt the Republican Party and is good for Democrats, what a sad commentary on the Republican Party that they don't want to see people vote, make it easier to vote, and that they don't want Big Money out of politics—a sad commentary on the Republican Party to be afraid of H.R. 1.

#### NOMINATION OF CHAD A. READLER

Madam President, later this afternoon, the Senate will vote to take up the nomination of Chad Readler to be a judge on the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Readler was the man behind the curtain last year when the Trump administration decided to side with Texas and 19 other States with Republican attorneys general in suing to repeal our healthcare law. Mr. Readler didn't merely work on the case; he was the lead lawyer who filed the Justice Department brief declaring the administration would refuse to defend the laws of our country.

His recommendations were so outrageous that many career Justice Department attorneys refused to sign it. Mr. Readler argued that protections for Americans with preexisting conditions should be eliminated. Let me repeat that. The nominee up for a vote later this afternoon argued that protections for Americans with preexisting conditions should be eliminated. Then, a day after Mr. Readler filed this awful brief hurting average Americans—hurting tens of millions of average Ameri-

cans—he was nominated for a lifetime appointment on the Federal bench. Coincidence? I think not. You see, in the Trump administration, depriving people of protections for preexisting conditions is actually something to be rewarded. Shame. Shame on the Trump administration. Shame on anybody who votes for Mr. Readler, particularly those who claim they want to protect preexisting conditions. Those who say they want to protect them and vote for the chief cook and bottle washer who pulled them away and was given this nomination the next day, shame on them.

During the past campaign, as I said, many Republicans stood up and said, rightly, that they supported keeping protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. That is all well and good, but that is what is so typical of our Republican friends in the Senate. They talk the game that we do—they are for more healthcare, they are for protecting Americans with preexisting conditions—but their votes on the floor of the Senate are exactly the opposite. It is all well and good to say you want to protect them, but those promises and pronouncements mean next to nothing if they will not vote to reject a lifetime appointment for the man who played the starring role in the legal effort to take these conditions away.

Republicans who vote yes on Mr. Readler, I believe, will regret that vote in future years. A vote to confirm Mr. Readler is an endorsement of the Republican lawsuit to eliminate protections for preexisting conditions and repeal healthcare for millions of Americans.

#### DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Madam President, on another matter, the national emergency. It seems with each passing day, another Republican comes out to oppose the President's declaration of a national emergency at the border. Over the weekend, Senator RAND PAUL, who often speaks his own mind, became the fourth Republican to officially announce his support for terminating the President's emergency declaration, apparently guaranteeing enough votes for passage in the Senate. I hope and expect that Senator PAUL will not be the last Republican to announce their support because this should be an issue that transcends party. The President's emergency declaration gnaws at our very fabric, particularly the separation of powers. The President—this President—is trying to bend the law to his will, to accrue powers that are not his.

There is no evidence that some new emergency exists at the border. The President himself has said he "didn't need to do this." An emergency, by definition, is something that you need to do. Everyone here knows the truth. The President didn't declare an emergency because there is one. He declared an emergency because he lost in Congress, threw another temper tantrum, and wanted to go around it. That, my

friends, is a gross abuse of our constitutional system.

Article I—not article II, the executive branch article, not article III, the judiciary branch article, but article I, Congress—gives Congress the power of the purse, not the President. Were we to permit an Executive—any Executive—to declare an emergency every time they lost in Congress, what would be the point of Congress? We would be trading our democracy for a monarchy, the very thing our Framers abhorred and that our Constitution guards against. Remember, back then, why did the colonists—the brave colonists—rebel? It was against the overreaching power of King George. They said: We need a government that is going to protect us from the overreaching power of any individual, particularly one empowered to lead a nation. That is why they did it. It is relevant today. Donald Trump has shown more desire to overreach than any President. Some people may like that, but it goes against 200 years of wisdom in this country, and I hope people will reject it.

Whatever you think of the policy at the southern border—I suppose Senator PAUL is very much for the wall—no President should be allowed to discard the Constitution on a whim and do an end run around a coequal branch of government.

This vote on the resolution to terminate this emergency is not a vote about policy, it is not a vote about party. It is a vote about Presidential power and the precedent it will set, which will reach far beyond the current debate about the border. The debate about the border will be forgotten, but the fact that this Congress, this Senate, allows a President to so overreach and rearrange singlehandedly the balancing blocks in our democracy will be regarded by historians as a bleak day.

I say to my colleagues, that doesn't just apply to how you vote. It applies to whether we have enough votes to override the President should he veto this resolution when it passes.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, on climate, Leader MCCONNELL has spent a great deal of time talking about bringing his version of the Green New Deal to the floor. Everybody knows it is nothing more than a political stunt. Everybody knows the same Republican leader decried bringing bills to reopen the government because the President wouldn't sign them, and he said those were stunts. Now he is doing the same thing. It is amazing sometimes that there can be a 180-degree turn so quickly.

So let's talk about some of the things Leader MCCONNELL could actually do to move the ball forward on climate change, which now more and more people—two thirds of Americans, if you believe in polling—believe is a real threat to our planet that demands the Senate's action, not stunts, not games.

All 47 Democrats have introduced a resolution that affirms three simple things; one, climate change is real;



two, climate change is caused by human activity; and, three, Congress must immediately act to address the problem. Leader MCCONNELL could bring that resolution to the floor. He could say he believes climate change is real and deserves our time and attention. Given the rampant denialism from some wings of the Republican Party, including so many in the White House, that would be notable progress, but I don't think it will happen.

You scratch your head and wonder why. Why would they be so afraid to even say climate change is real? One possible answer many people think is the cause, one of the main causes, is oil money—oil money. The oil industry has such power around here—and much of that money is dark, by the way—that Republicans are afraid to admit the candid truth and say climate change is real.

Our resolution doesn't talk about how you propose to deal with this very real issue. We are not locking people into this proposal or that proposal. We are simply saying, let's start talking about it. Actually, the one good thing about Leader MCCONNELL's stunt is we are talking about it, and that is a good thing. I have news for the leader. We will keep talking about it throughout this whole Congress, and we will keep trying to use our leverage to make it easier to resist the bad forces of carbon dioxide entering our atmosphere.

So we are going to keep at this. We are going to keep at this, Leader MCCONNELL. No stunt that you put on the floor is going to deter us. We are preparing legislation to defund President Trump's attempt to create a fake climate panel within the executive branch. Leader MCCONNELL can bring that legislation to the floor once it is ready so Congress can tell the President that we do not tolerate the intentional dissemination of disinformation to the American public on any issue, especially climate change.

Democrats have also said any infrastructure bill must include substantial investments in green jobs. That is something Leader MCCONNELL could pursue. We all like jobs. Many Members on his side of the aisle believe in wind and solar power—well, not many but at least some. Let's move forward on that. We need to upgrade our power grids. We need to make energy more available and cheaper and greener. Let's do that.

There are many more things besides, but make no mistake, before and after Leader MCCONNELL's political stunt on climate change, Democrats will continue to focus on the issue, propose solutions, and try to get some of those solutions enacted into law in the places we have some leverage, even as a minority.

There is an enormous energy—enormous energy in this country, particularly among young Americans—to take bold action on climate change. They see the planet on which they live changing before their eyes, not for the

better, and they are absolutely right. It is our job to channel the energy of those young people—wonderful energy; I am so glad it is out there—into bold legislation that addresses the climate crisis head on, and that is exactly—exactly—what Democrats will do, even if Republicans continue to play these political games in their efforts to try to keep their heads in the sand and ignore that climate change is real.

CHINA

Madam President, finally, on China, recent news reports have described an emerging trade deal with China that would see the United States ease up on tariffs in exchange for the Chinese buying more American goods and making some—some changes to its trade practices.

As the New York Times reports this morning, "The agreement does not appear to require the sweeping changes to China's economy that prompted Mr. Trump to begin the trade war." If the reports about the emerging agreement are accurate, I would say to President Trump, you are heading down a precarious road.

The President's instincts were right when he took a hard line on China. I supported his hard line on China. China is killing us in terms of stealing our intellectual property, in terms of not letting American companies compete fairly in their large market while they are allowed to come here, in terms of not creating a level playing field for companies no matter what country they are from.

The President was right when he said we have to do something about it. In fact, as he began on this road, he did a lot more than previous Presidents. Both President Bush and President Obama did less to get China to understand the seriousness of this problem than President Trump did. He knows that.

When you are getting close to a victory, to relent at the eleventh hour without meaningful, enforceable, and verifiable structural reform to China's trade policies would be an abject failure of the President's China policies, and people will shrug their shoulders and ask, what the heck did he begin this for if he will not complete it?

We need to put an end to the forced transfer of American technology and American know-how as a ransom for doing business in China. We need to put an end to China's systemic theft of American intellectual property. A big hack from China was found out just last month. Our companies need the same unfettered access to China's markets that we allow Chinese firms to have to markets in America.

This may be our last shot. If the President squanders his own efforts now, there will be lasting and untold consequences for generations to come.

The President is too focused on trade imbalances. That is short term. Those come and go. The reason our trade balance is so bad is because of all of the structural things China does to make

it harder for us to export to China and easier for them to import here after stealing a lot of our know-how. A temporary narrowing of the trade deficit would be cold comfort to the millions of American workers who have suffered and will continue to suffer the abuse of China's policies.

When the President was headed to North Korea, I said to him: When it comes to North Korea, don't let March go in like a lion and come out like a lamb.

The President did the right thing on North Korea, and I got up here and said that he did. He backed out when the North Koreans wouldn't give him much and resisted the opportunity of a photo op, which we know is hard for him to resist. He should do the same thing on China.

He got a lot of credit for backing out on North Korea. The President will get a lot of credit if he stands up to China and will eventually win because the Chinese economy is hurting. They just reduced their own biased estimates on growth. It is lower.

My plea to President Trump is this: Stand firm. We will win this fight that you correctly began, but don't back off for some temporary salve. America's future depends on it. The income of our workers and the number of good-paying jobs we create all depend on our standing tough with China right now when we sort of have them where we want them and completing a strong deal. Please, Mr. President, don't back off. When it comes to China trade and your actions, don't let March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last week, we learned that the economy grew at a rate of 3.1 percent from the fourth quarter of 2017 to the fourth quarter of 2018. That is the strongest economic growth in over 10 years. Economic growth for the fourth quarter of 2018 smashed market expectations.

In January, the economy created more than 300,000 jobs. More than 5.3 million jobs have been created since President Trump was elected. Job openings hit a record high of 7.3 million in December, substantially exceeding the number of those looking for work. The Department of Labor reports that the number of job openings has exceeded the number of job seekers for 10 straight months. Unemployment is low. January marked the 11th straight month that unemployment has been at or below 4 percent. That is the longest streak in nearly five decades.

Wage growth has accelerated. Wages have now been growing at a rate of 3 percent or greater for 6 straight months. The last time wage growth reached this level was in 2009. Median household income is at an alltime high.

U.S. manufacturing has rebounded. The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday:

America's factories are hiring again.

After years of job losses, U.S. manufacturing employment has risen for 18 straight months among those holding production or nonsupervisory jobs, the longest stretch of gains since the mid-1990s.

That is from the Wall Street Journal. The list goes on.

The economic growth we are experiencing is the direct result of Republican policies. Economic growth has accelerated over the past 2 years, thanks to the lifting of the burdensome regulations and a historic reform of our Tax Code.

Before we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our Tax Code was acting as a drag on economic growth. Small businesses faced heavy tax burdens that frequently made it difficult for them to expand and create jobs or even to get their businesses off the ground in the first place. America's global businesses faced the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world, which put them at a competitive disadvantage on the international stage.

Of course, all of that had real consequences for American workers. A small business owner facing a huge tax bill was highly unlikely to be able to expand her business or to hire a new employee. A larger business was going to find it hard to create jobs or improve benefits for employees while struggling to stay competitive against foreign businesses paying much less in taxes. So we reformed our Tax Code to make it easier for businesses to grow, create jobs, and expand opportunities for American workers. Now we are seeing the results—economic growth, low unemployment, higher wages, a record-high number of job openings, and more.

Importantly, the benefits of this growth are being experienced widely. The Wall Street Journal reports:

Racial minorities, those with less education and people working in the lowest-paying jobs are getting bigger pay raises and, in many cases, experiencing the lowest unemployment rate ever recorded for their groups. They are joining manufacturing workers, women in their prime working years, Americans with disabilities and those with criminal records, among others, in finding improved job prospects after years of disappointment.

Again, that is from the Wall Street Journal.

The Obama administration was characterized by a weak recovery and years of economic stagnation. There were predictions that 2 percent growth would be the new normal. But Republican economic policies have turned the economy around. Now we need to focus on ways to extend the benefits of tax reform even further and to secure the gains we have made for the long term.

Unfortunately, our colleagues across the aisle are more focused on dismantling the policies that created the growth we are experiencing today. Apparently, it doesn't matter to them that workers are doing better after years of economic stagnation or that jobs and opportunities are increasing.

They are set on dismantling tax reform and raising rates to fund their socialist fantasies. They want to spend \$93 trillion—more money than the GDP of the entire world—to put the government in charge of Americans' healthcare, energy usage, and more.

I wish I were joking, but Democrats' turn toward socialist insanity is all too real. The kinds of tax hikes that would be required to pay for Democrats' proposals would cripple our economy and severely downgrade America's standard of living—not to mention robbing Americans of their freedom to make their own decisions about all the various aspects of their lives.

It is mind-boggling that more and more Democrats are embracing socialism and the less free and less prosperous future it would bring. Let's hope their socialist fantasies stay just that—fantasies—because our economy might never recover from the reality of Democrats' proposals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, when I hear my friend from South Dakota describe the state of the economy, it is amazing how political amnesia can take over on the floor of the Senate Chamber.

Do you remember the election of 2008 when Barack Obama was elected President of the United States? Was there anything going on with the economy when he took office? Oh, something that the Senator failed to mention—our country was facing the one of the worst recessions in the history of the United States.

You had to go back to the Great Depression to see the impact of this recession on the American economy, and it happened under a Republican President—George W. Bush. President Obama inherited that, and most people will never forget it because in 2008 and 2009, many people saw their savings devastated by the drop in value in the stock market. They saw this economy teetering on the edge and financial institutions failing. This all happened on President George W. Bush's watch. President Obama inherited it and had to turn it around—without the cooperation of the Republican Party, I might add. A handful of them stepped up to join him in a bipartisan effort, but most of them opposed him. He did everything he needed to do to save this economy and then started turning it around with job creation—unprecedented job creation—throughout the 8 years of his term.

Now, of course, along comes a new President who wants to take credit for all of it and, as the Senator from South Dakota suggested, blame President Obama for the state of the economy he inherited. History tells us a different story.

After this tax cut that the Senate Republicans are so proud of, I think you ought to ask the American families paying their taxes now to take a

look at their taxes and tell you how the Trump tax cut helped them as working families. For some, there is some value to it, but for most, there is none. You see, over a long period of time, the vast majority of the benefits of this Republican tax cut go to people in the highest income categories. If there were ever a group who didn't need a break, it is people who are already making millions of dollars each year. Yet this Republican tax cut gave them the break. It added trillions of dollars to our deficit, it helped the richest people in America, and it forgot working families and left them behind. Yet Republican Senators still come to the floor and boast about it with regularity.

There is a better way to approach this. Yes, I want to give tax incentives and tax relief to working families because we know they are not getting the paychecks they need to meet their obligations, to save for the future, and to make sure their kids have a better life. We should be focused on them, not the wealthiest among us—they are doing quite well, thank you. Let's focus on working families instead. The Trump tax cut forgot that.

(Mr. SCOTT of Florida assumed the Chair.)

#### DIABETES

Mr. President, millions of Americans got up this morning and faced the challenge of diabetes. For most of them, it is now routine to measure their blood sugar and to inject insulin when necessary so that they avoid the terrible outcomes of untreated diabetes.

At the highest levels of government, the person I think about immediately is Sonia Sotomayor, who is an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Hers is an amazing life story. This woman from a Puerto Rican family went to law school, became recognized as a talented and brilliant lawyer, and eventually ascended to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

I got to meet her during the period of time when she was going through her nomination process. She slipped and fell at an airport in New York and broke her ankle and couldn't get around as much as she wanted to, so she parked herself in my office upstairs and invited Senators to come in to meet her. Between those meetings, I stepped in the room and got to know her and learned a lot about her.

It turns out, to no surprise, that this wonderful Supreme Court Justice from the Bronx is a passionate fan of the New York Yankees baseball team. We talked about baseball, and I said to her: Occasionally, the Yankees play the Cubs at Wrigley Field. Would you join me there?

She said: Sure. Invite me.

Well, I wasn't sure she would actually show up if I did, but I invited her. A few years ago, Justice Sotomayor came to Wrigley Field. She was a great sport. They had a Cubs jersey for her to wear, which I am sure she didn't exactly feel comfortable in, and she went

out and threw the first pitch. We had a wonderful time.

The reason I tell that story is, during the course of that baseball game, as we sat together at Wrigley Field, I noticed that several times she tested herself and her blood sugar because of the diabetes she battles with every day. That is not an uncommon experience with diabetics.

What is uncommon is what has happened to the price of insulin facing people with diabetes in America. You have to go back almost 100 years to the discovery of insulin. This is not a drug that just appeared on the market.

Almost 100 years ago, researchers in Canada ended up discovering insulin extracted from animals, and they ended up making it available to Americans and everyone, for that matter, because they surrendered their patent rights. Those who discovered insulin said: We don't want to make money off of this. This is a lifesaving drug.

Over the years, insulin has evolved from human-based insulin to what is known as analogue insulin and synthetic insulin in different dosage, but the fundamental chemical that is saving the lives of those who suffer from diabetes has been known for almost a century.

What has happened to the cost of the insulin that has been around for many decades? It has risen dramatically. Last week, I took to the floor for the first pharma fleecing award, which went to the three companies that make insulin and sell it in America today. Those companies are Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, and Eli Lilly.

I took them to task for this increasing cost of insulin, a drug that has been around for so long. They are just raising the cost way beyond the reach of many people who have to pay for this lifesaving drug. I told the story of a young man covered by his parent's insurance—thanks to ObamaCare, the Affordable Care Act—who, when he reached age 26, was on his own, managed a restaurant, couldn't afford the insulin dosage that was required, rationed his own insulin, and died as a result of that decision.

I made the point on the floor of the Senate that these pharmaceutical companies are not sensitive to the reality of life and death in what they are charging Americans for the cost of insulin.

Yesterday, there was a news flash. Eli Lilly, a pharmaceutical company, one of the producers of insulin products, announced that they were going to reduce the cost of a generic form of insulin known as Humalog to \$140 a dosage. That is bringing it down from as much as \$329 to \$140—dramatic.

Let's put this in perspective for one moment. We checked the records, and it turns out you can buy that exact product made by that same company for sale in Canada for as little as \$38. They are expecting—I think Eli Lilly is expecting all of us to send flowers to their corporate headquarters in Indian-

apolis—to send flowers because they reduced the cost of their drug from \$329 to \$140 a dosage. I am not going to send them any flowers, and I am not going to express any great gratitude. They are charging Americans, under this new bargain approach, almost four times what Canadians are paying for exactly the same product—four times.

To the other drug companies involved in this that are producing insulin: America is watching. If you are going to continue to kite the cost of this lifesaving drug, pressure is going to grow politically even to the point where the U.S. Senate may take action. I think that day is coming.

So, for Eli Lilly: Nice first step. When you bring the cost of insulin in the United States for the same products that you are selling in Canada to the same level, then I will send you some flowers.

#### NOMINATION OF ALLISON JONES RUSHING

Mr. President, we have three judges before us on the floor of the Senate this week. It turns out that the filling of judicial vacancies is the highest single priority of the Republican leadership in the Senate.

Senator MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, has gone to extraordinary, precedent-breaking lengths to fill vacancies. Of course, the most notorious example was when Senator MCCONNELL, then in charge of the Republican majority, announced that despite the death of Justice Scalia and a vacancy on the highest court of the land, he would refuse to fill that vacancy for almost 1 year because President Obama was in office.

The man President Obama wanted to put in that position, Merrick Garland from the D.C. Circuit Court, was widely respected by Democrats and Republicans alike, but his qualifications meant nothing to Senator MCCONNELL. The end game, in his mind, was the chance that a Republican President might be elected and fill that vacancy with a Republican nominee.

Well, Senator MCCONNELL's dream came true when Donald Trump was elected President, and he turned around and nominated Justice Gorsuch, who now serves on the Supreme Court, filling the Scalia vacancy. That was the most extreme example that we have, in the history of the U.S. Senate, of the defiance of tradition and precedent, a defiance by Senator MCCONNELL with one goal in mind: to make sure that the judicial branch of our government became a political branch of our government, to make sure that as many Republican conservatives, some with the most extreme views, were appointed to the bench. That has been his goal, and he pursues that goal to this day.

There are three nominations before us that amply demonstrate his efforts. When Donald Trump became President, Senate Republicans stopped their obstruction of judicial nominations and started moving nominations through at a breakneck speed.

During the last 2 years, Republicans in the Senate bragged about filling the courts with Trump nominees at record pace. The Republican philosophy, when it comes to Trump judges, seems to be, in Senator MCCONNELL's words, "plow right through" no matter how questionable the nominee's credentials or judgment.

There are three more confirmation votes scheduled this week. Let me tell you about these nominees whom they want to put on the court.

Allison Jones Rushing is President Trump's nominee to fill a North Carolina seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. For those who are students of the Constitution, you know that the circuit court of appeals is the highest court below the Supreme Court.

Allison Jones Rushing checks a lot of the standard Trump nominee boxes. She is a member of the Federalist Society, an absolute requirement if Trump is going to nominate you for a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench, and—this is a recurring theme as well—she clerked for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

She is 36 years old. She has practiced law for 9 years. How many cases has she tried to verdict or judgment? Four. Has she been the lead attorney on any of those cases? No. She is not a member of the bar association of the State of North Carolina, the State in which she would sit if she is confirmed. That is the most scant, weakest legal resume imaginable for someone who is seeking a lifetime appointment to the second highest court of the land.

At our hearing—which, by the way, was held during a Senate recess over the objection of committee Democrats; we weren't even in town when her hearing was scheduled—Senator KENNEDY of Louisiana, who is becoming famous for this, started questioning her about her breadth of legal experience.

Senator KENNEDY is a real lawyer. On the Republican side, he has put some of Trump's nominees on the spot by asking them some pretty tough questions about legal procedure in a courtroom.

Senator KENNEDY said: "I think, to be a really good federal judge, you've got to have some life experience." Ms. Rushing struggled to describe how her life experience actually prepared her for this lifetime appointment to the second highest Federal court.

Senator KENNEDY made a valid point. The fact that a judicial nominee meets all of the litmus tests of being a loyal Republican doesn't mean the nominee has the experience or the legal ability to be a good Federal judge. It is inconceivable to me that in the State of North Carolina, they couldn't find a qualified and experienced conservative Republican judge.

The Federal circuit courts are critically important. Since the vast majority of cases don't reach the Supreme Court, the circuit courts are often the last word. This is a position where experience matters, and, unfortunately, Ms. Rushing doesn't have enough of it. I am going to oppose her.

## NOMINATION OF CHAD A. READLER

Mr. President, the second nominee is Chad Readler, a 46-year-old attorney in the Trump Justice Department. When he was nominated to another circuit court of appeals, the Sixth Circuit, it was a clear sign of the Trump administration's strong negative feelings about the Affordable Care Act and the fact that that act covers preexisting conditions.

Mr. Readler filed the Trump administration's brief in the *Texas v. United States* case, in which he opposed the Affordable Care Act's preexisting coverage requirement. Do you remember that issue from the last election? It was a big one. It might have been the biggest one.

We basically said that we think health insurance should be available to you even if you don't have a perfect medical record. And who does? Hardly any of us. Certainly, each of us knows someone in their family who struggles with a medical challenge, and without a perfect medical record, you can be denied insurance or charged premiums you can't pay, unless you have the protection of the law. The law is known as the Affordable Care Act, or ObamaCare.

Mr. Readler argued that this requirement of covering people with preexisting conditions, which benefits tens of millions of Americans, had to be stricken from the law. The brief Mr. Readler signed was deeply controversial. Our colleague Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, Republican from Tennessee, called the argument that Mr. Readler made in his brief opposing ObamaCare "as far-fetched as any I ever heard." Thank you, LAMAR.

Two Department of Justice attorneys withdrew from the case when they were asked to sign the crazy arguments in this brief, and a senior Department of Justice litigator resigned in protest of the bizarre arguments that Mr. Readler signed up for.

However, almost immediately, after Mr. Readler signed this crazy brief, he was nominated by the White House for a lifetime appointment to a Federal judiciary.

What message is the Trump administration sending with this nomination? They are doubling down on their attack on coverage of people with preexisting conditions. They are putting in a lifetime appointment a circuit court judge who will be watching for vindication. They are rewarding those who have led the fight against the preexisting coverage requirement. This is deeply troubling.

That is not my only concern with Mr. Readler. He has also defended the Trump administration's unconscionable family separation policy. Do you remember that one? Remember when, in March of last year, Attorney General Sessions came forward and proudly announced the family separation policy? Do you remember then that 2,800 infants, toddlers, and children were forcibly, physically removed from their

parents and placed in detention and that these infants, toddlers, and children were then lost in the system? They didn't keep a computer check on where they were sent or who their parents were.

It took a Federal judge in San Diego, CA, to mandate and require this administration to account for these children. It is one of the most shameful chapters in recent American history, and, of course, Mr. Readler, this nominee, defended it.

He argued in favor of the Trump administration's efforts to end the DACA Program—790,000 young people brought here as children to this country, who went through all of the hoops and paid the fees and qualified to have a chance to stay in America without fear of deportation. Well, it turns out Mr. Readler thinks that is a bad idea.

He litigated against the rights of same-sex couples and opposed anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ Americans. He advocated for making the death penalty more widely available and applying it to children. He argued for denying Byrne JAG violence prevention funds to a city I represent: Chicago.

It is hard to imagine a more controversial partisan nominee than Mr. Readler. Yet his nomination is going to be rammed through this week.

## NOMINATION OF ERIC E. MURPHY

Mr. President, Senate Republicans have also scheduled to vote this week on Eric Murphy, a 39-year-old nominee to another Ohio-based seat on the Sixth Circuit. Mr. Murphy is well known for his advocacy against LGBTQ rights, including the landmark *Obergefell* case, in which he argued against the right of same-sex couples to marry.

He has a lengthy record of defending restrictive voting laws. He has fought for laws to make it more difficult for Ohioans to exercise their fundamental right to vote, including voter purge laws and laws limiting the ability of poll workers to assist voters.

I know a little bit about Ohio's experience because, a few years ago, I chaired a subcommittee that held a hearing in Cleveland, OH, discussing their decision as a State to start limiting the opportunity of people to vote in Ohio. I called those witnesses before my subcommittee—election officials from both political parties, Democrats and Republicans—put them under oath and asked them a basic question: What was the incidence of voter fraud in Ohio that led you to restrict the access of people to vote, to require voter IDs, to limit early voting? What were the instances which led to that conclusion? They could tell me none, not one. I asked them: How many people have been prosecuted for voter fraud in Ohio that led to this? Well, maybe one several years ago—here or there—despite millions of votes being cast. Let's call this for what it is: voter suppression authored by Republicans at every level of government, even here in Congress, designed to fight demography.

Republicans understand they are not doing well with growing segments of the U.S. population, so they are trying to restrict and limit the rights of some groups who may vote against them to actually show up and vote. They go to ridiculous lengths. It turns out that Mr. Eric Murphy—a nominee we will have before us this week for a circuit court position—agrees with their position on voter suppression.

My Republican colleagues are largely silent about the outrageous incident that occurred in North Carolina last week. There was a glaring case of election fraud, and it involved their party, not the Democrats. It involved a gentleman whose conduct was so outrageous and criminal, they voided the congressional election. I can't remember that ever occurring. Why would the Republican Party ignore that occurrence in their own ranks and then try to restrict voting for people who, frankly, have a right, as all of us do, to legally vote in this country? Why are they appointing judges who would defend that approach? I think it is because of the endgame. The endgame is to restrict the number of people who are going to vote in the future and try to limit those who might vote against the Republican Party.

I also am troubled that Mr. Murphy, the nominee before us, has declined to commit to recuse himself from matters involving tobacco. As the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids noted, Mr. Murphy personally and extensively represented the tobacco company R.J. Reynolds when he was in private practice. For example, Mr. Murphy was the attorney to R.J. Reynolds on a series of petitions to the Supreme Court that sought to limit that tobacco company's liability from a landmark lawsuit in Florida. Mr. Murphy's refusal to commit to recuse himself from matters where he clearly has expressed his opinions and has gotten paid for it raises serious questions about whether he can serve the cause of justice.

The nominations of Eric Murphy and Chad Readler are being pushed through this week over the opposition of Ohio Senator SHERROD BROWN. Senator BROWN testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about his opposition to Murphy and Readler. He said: "I cannot support nominees who have actively work to strip Ohioans of their . . . rights." I hope my colleagues will listen to Senator BROWN. No one has fought harder for the rights and opportunities of Ohioans than that Senator.

It is shameful that circuit court nominees like Murphy and Readler are being moved forward over the legitimate objections of their home State Senators. Each of us as Senators knows our State. We know when our State's legal community lacks confidence in a nominee's qualifications.

The blue-slip procedure is the mechanism Senators use for each State to speak as to these nominees. This last week, when it came to a circuit court position in the Ninth Circuit, two Senators from the State of Washington

were denied their blue-slip rights, which have traditionally been given to them in the Senate. That broke the precedent last week and continues this week. The Republican Senate leadership will break every rule, every precedent—whatever is necessary—to fill these vacancies. Without blue slips, the White House can ignore home State interests and pick extreme judges like the ones before us this week.

It pains me to watch my Republican colleagues systematically dismantling guardrail after guardrail in the judicial nomination process, all for the sake of stuffing the court with their ideologues. The nomination process in the Senate is breaking down before our eyes. Our ability to fulfill our constitutional responsibility to advise and consent is diminished under the Constitution we have all sworn to uphold and defend. That is a shameful chapter in the history of the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, the number 22 trillion should matter to us. That is our current debt in the United States. Not to be confused, we have debts, and we have deficits. You will hear those names get thrown around together. Deficit is the amount of overspending in a single year—1 year of overspending—and debt is the collection of all of those deficits.

As a nation, our current debt is \$22 trillion. To give some perspective on 22 trillion, if you were to take the total distance of 22 trillion miles, you would have to fly from Earth to Pluto and back 3,081 times to get to 22 trillion miles. This is heavy debt.

We are used to hearing about debts and deficits in relationship to things like home mortgages. Many of us think about taking 30 years to pay off our mortgage. Well, for us to pay off our national mortgage, this \$22 trillion—if we were to balance our budget, which is way out of balance right now, and then have a \$100 billion surplus—so let's say that by next year, we have a balanced budget and a \$100 billion surplus. That would be a very large surplus for us. How many years of \$100 billion surpluses in total revenue would it take to pay off \$22 trillion? The quick math on that is 220 years. That is approximately as long as we have been a republic. If we had a \$100 billion surplus every single year for the next 220 years, we could pay off our mortgage. Does anyone think that every single year over the next 220 years, we are going to both balance our budget and have a \$100 billion surplus?

The issue we face as a nation is that we have fumbled a lot in our past. We fumbled our spending. We fumbled our handling of Federal tax dollars. We have to work our way out of this. Climbing out of this is not going to be a 1-year deal. This is not a short-term fix; this is an intentionally long-term fix.

There are two things we have to have. We have to have economic growth. If our economy is stagnant, we never catch up. The reason for that is, when the economy is stagnant, more people in our Nation need assistance. They need housing support. They need food support. They need other things to help them in those scarce times. Unemployment benefits go up significantly during the time period that our economy is down because people can't find jobs and our safety net kicks in larger amounts.

When we have economic growth, fewer people need housing assistance, fewer people need food assistance, and fewer people receive unemployment benefits. The economy itself grows. As more people have jobs and make money, more people pay taxes. So economic growth is essential to the growth of our economy and to working our way out of debt. That is why the tax reform bill was so incredibly important to us—to get a growing economy again. Our economy had been stagnant for a decade. We would literally have never gotten out of it if we had stayed in a stagnant economy.

Folks called me and said: When the tax revenue changed, when the tax reform bill happened, it also blew a hole in the budget. I have had folks throw all kinds of numbers around and say this is the giant hole that is in the budget.

Interestingly enough, we are now a fiscal year through. Our revenue for fiscal year 2017—the year before the tax reform—was \$3.315 trillion. Our revenue after the tax cut and the tax reform, for fiscal year 2018, is \$3.329 trillion. If you are doing the math in your head, that is \$14 billion more in revenue after the tax cuts. That means our revenue went up the next year.

Contrary to all the myths that were out there early on saying we were going to have this giant hole in the budget, our revenue went up after the tax cuts went into place. Why? More people had more money to invest. More people invested. As they invested, as they engaged in the economy, as they had more money in their pockets, they bought more products, and that stimulated more profits. That meant people got paid more. In this past year of our economy, wages have gone up—especially wages for the lowest income Americans. Their wages have gone up. Unemployment has come down. More people have a job. There are more opportunities to get a different job.

All those things are great benefits, but that doesn't solve \$22 trillion in debt. We need to have economic growth, but economic growth by itself is never going to solve the issue. We also have to deal with our spending and our plans.

Each year for the last 4 years, my office has released something we call "Federal Fumbles." It is ways we believe the Federal Government has dropped the ball. Each year, we take on different areas. Over the last 4 years,

we identified over \$800 billion in ways that we could save Federal tax dollars. For the specific problems we laid out, there is a solution. If we want to try to start attacking some of these things, here is a proposal. Our goal from our office is very simple: We believe all 100 offices should be looking for ways to save Federal tax dollars. We believe everyone should look for ways to be more efficient. What we are doing is not unique to our team; every team can do it. In fact, we believe that everyone wants to see the debt and deficit go down, but now there is the next step of actually identifying how to do it.

In the last 4 years, we have identified \$800 billion in ways to save Federal tax dollars. That is a start. That is a beginning point of how to actually get us there. That would get us back to balancing our budget, but we still have a ways to go to get to a surplus and paying off our debt and deficit.

We just released our "Federal Fumbles" report. It is actually out today online. People from any office or anyplace can go to [lankford.senate.gov](http://lankford.senate.gov) and download the free report. This report is a little bit different for us. We want to identify the major problems we have not only in overspending and blowing our deficit, but we want to identify ways that we are actually being inefficient in how we operate. We begin by talking about government shutdowns, as I think we should begin with. We just experienced the longest government shutdown in American history. It is not the first by far. People have short memories when they forget the government shutdowns that happened during the Carter administration, the three times Tip O'Neill shut down the government on President Reagan in the 1980s, or the multiple shutdowns that occurred on almost every Presidency in the modern day. But that is not solving the problems we have.

Last year, eight Republicans and eight Democrats met almost the entire year and talked about how to reform the budget process. I am a firm believer that we will never solve the problem with our budgeting until we solve the problem with how we do budgeting. We don't budget in a way that actually determines more efficient spending. We determine how to spend more but not how to spend less. That is an issue we have to solve.

The 1974 Budget Act has only worked four times since it was written in 1974. It is not gospel. It is not the Constitution. It needs to be redone. There are proposals we put into place specifically on how we can fix the budgeting process. Again, until we get a better budget process, we will never get a better budget product. We identified some simple things—how we can do a 2-year budgeting system; how we can avoid government shutdowns. There are simple solutions we put into place that I think would actually be effective.

We released a bipartisan bill in the last couple of days on ending government shutdowns that I hope we can actually get momentum toward and solve the issue of government shutdowns.

We deal with the issue of the President's budget—not just this President's but every President's budgets. It has been a problem. There has never been a time since the 1974 Budget Act that the President's budget has ever been implemented. It is an informational document. Let's turn it into what it should be.

Let's figure out how we can start reducing our deficit. We have 12 bills we put out every single year for spending. There is no mandatory bill for savings. As simple as this sounds, why don't we add a 13th bill to our appropriations process? There would be 12 bills that are designed for spending and 1 that is designed for savings. For every single Congress, there would have to be a savings bill. Now, that Congress can choose how much it wants to save, but every single Congress would have a mandatory savings bill to figure out what it is going to do to actually pull our deficits back. With our being \$22 trillion in debt, I don't anticipate anytime soon that we are not going to need that 13th bill.

We could do this. We could fix the way we actually make the law regarding the budget, which currently is not law but is a suggestion made by Congress that has been blown past every single year. There are all kinds of budget games that are out there that make the budget actually look better than it is. Some of them are great, cute names, like CHIMPS, or Changes in Mandatory Program Spending. They sound adorable, but what they actually do is to make the budget look like it is closer to balancing when it is actually even further from balancing but has a budget gimmick. We need to end some of those.

We lay out proposals on how to resolve the debt ceiling. Process reforms will make a big difference in our being able to get on top of the big issue. They may not be exciting and they may not be headline-grabbing, but until we fix these things as a body, they are never going to get better.

We deal with Senate rules on how we are actually going to work together to solve these issues. The Senate has stopped working together on a lot of these things. So we lay out some of the internal aspects as to how to solve them. We lay out some bills that are out there that we have proposed. One is called the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act.

We don't have great transparency in our spending. If taxpayers wanted to find out how many government programs there were that were similar in function, they couldn't find out. The hard part is, as Congress, we can't find out either. The only way that we can get a programmatic list or get the details of different programs from different Agencies is to make the request

through an entity called the GAO. Usually, between 12 and 18 months later, it will give us back a report just to say what programs are out there and what those programs do.

I have met multiple times with the director of the GAO regarding a bill proposal called the Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act, a bill that passed unanimously in the House of Representatives during the last session. Then it came to the Senate and stalled. This bill does something very simple. It tells lawmakers and taxpayers what their government actually does. It is not trying to hide anything. It is trying to list every program that we have and how much we spend on that program. If it is evaluated, how is it evaluated? How many employees are dedicated to it? There is no gimmick to it. It is just that simple. It is transparency. The great gift to our democracy is transparency in how we spend dollars.

Just this basic bill would allow every single person in the country to ask questions of its government. Why do we have four programs that seem to do the same thing? Why do we have 18 programs in another area and 16 different entities that seem to do something similar? Why can't we combine that? Why can't we crowd-source ideas? The reason is that we don't put transparent information out. We could crowd-source the ideas of how to fix our government if only we allowed the taxpayers to see their government. The Taxpayers Right-To-Know Act allows us to do that.

We deal with our grant reforms. It is one of the areas in which we have pushed pretty hard in the last several "Federal Fumbles" books, but we lay out a set of ideas. There is a bill called the GREAT Act, which passed in the last House of Representatives overwhelmingly. By the way, the House of Representatives in this session, led by the Democrats, has also passed the GREAT Act and has sent it over to us in order to reform the grant process and how that information gets out. Now, it is a first step in getting information. I think there are more, but it is a great first step for that.

Grants always seem to be our issue. Some \$600 billion a year is spent by the Federal Government just on grants. There is a great need for greater transparency in that. Some grants are very large, and some of them are small. We can't figure out why we do some of them at all as Federal taxpayers. For instance, last year, the National Endowment for the Humanities gave a grant to a California professor to use Federal tax dollars to study Soviet winemaking—not current Russian winemaking with Federal grant dollars but historic Soviet winemaking.

Now, I can kind of understand why California winemakers may want to do a study of Soviet winemaking for some reason, but why are Federal taxpayers being asked to pay for a study on Soviet winemaking? Yet we did.

Since 2001, we have given a Federal grant for a mariachi program in Cali-

fornia. Now, I kind of understand how a successful mariachi program that works with children and youths may be something we would do for a couple of years to get it started as a community program. That makes total sense. Yet we have done it every year since 2001. At some point, shouldn't the local entities pick that up? Why is that a Federal program that has to be done year after year after year?

The grant issues don't have a lot of transparency, and there is a reason for that. It is that people don't want to be seen. They don't want anyone to know that the program is out there. We want just to ask a simple question. Let's do the grants, but let's make sure they line up with Federal priorities. Let's make sure they actually line up with strategic things that actually help our economy and help expand our Nation and protect our national security.

There are basic things that we can do, and we lay some of those things out. We lay out some questions that we think are practical questions on renewable fuel and, in particular, on ethanol. The ethanol program was designed to reduce emissions, but when it was designed to reduce emissions, it also grandfathered in all of the entities at that time that had produced ethanol, and none of those were required to reduce emissions—only new ones.

What has happened? Practically no new ones have come on board because it is a lot more expensive to limit emissions than it is to be an old facility that doesn't limit emissions. You can't be competitive in limiting emissions. So really what the ethanol mandate does is to protect the old ethanol companies to make sure they never get competition. As a Congress, why aren't we looking at that?

If you are not in the Midwest, you pay more at the gas pump every time you fill up because of the ethanol. If you are in the Midwest, it may be a little cheaper for you, but if you are on the east or the west coast, your gas prices are higher because of the ethanol mandate. Are you happy with that? As a government, we need to look at that. We think it is a legitimate question to ask about not only our debt and deficit but just about basic consumer spending for our GDP and the growth of our economy.

We deal with a lot of issues with regard to the Federal workforce. We deal with regulatory reform. We walk through some of the hardest issues about how we are taking care of our veterans and what is happening with regard to taking care of things like healthcare and transitioning them into vocational work. We feel it is important.

We have dug into small programs—for instance, an IT development program for veterans in Muskogee, OK—because if you are in the veterans service center in Muskogee, which is one of the largest veteran service centers in the country, you handle a lot of different documents. As you go through



that process for those great employees who are there—and there are really some solid people who are there—they have to log in multiple times and use a whole list of workarounds in their system, which gets bogged down. Each employee there spends 45 minutes a day just going through the logistics of logging in and changing around the system to make it work. There are 45 minutes a day of lost productivity for every single person there.

The good news is that Congress allocated \$30 million to fix the IT problems there. The bad news is that the problems are still there. So we are asking the simple question: Where did that money go? How come the problem wasn't fixed?

We can go on and on with regard to these issues. In page after page, we have tried to lay out sets of solutions—things that we see as problems and inefficiencies in the way our government is working and in the way our Congress is working—and establish what can be done. Our goal is simple. Laying out “Federal Fumbles” is a to-do list for us. This is what we are working on right now along with a lot of other issues.

We encourage every office to glance through it. Ask your staff members to glance through and see the things that they are working on in their offices, and see if we are not laying out some ideas. Let's find ways to work together. Of all of the things to agree on, we should be able to agree that our \$22 trillion of debt needs to be addressed. Let's strategize as to how we are going to solve it. Let's find ways that our government is inefficient and find ways to fix it.

Let me give you one more number.

We met in a bipartisan group last year—eight Republicans and eight Democrats—and tried to solve this issue on budgeting. Unfortunately, it was unsuccessful. Those with the Congressional Budget Office visited with us, and we asked them a very specific question as to our current level of debt. If we were to just try to stay at our current level of debt—not grow any more, not get any worse—how much would we have to tax or cut? Their response was \$400 billion a year, every year, for the next 30 years. To just not make the problem worse, we have to either tax more or cut \$400 billion a year, every year, for the next 30 years to keep it from getting worse. That is because, as the CBO stated, Federal outlays, which is how we are spending, are projected to climb from 20.8 percent of the GDP in 2019 to 23 percent by 2029.

The aging of the population and the rising healthcare costs contribute significantly to the growth of spending for the major benefit programs, such as Social Security and Medicare, and the rising debt and higher interest rates drive up the Federal Government's net interest cost.

We have reached a tipping point in interest. Last year, our interest payments were \$325 billion just in the in-

terest on our debt. The CBO estimates that within 10 years our interest payments alone will be \$928 billion. We have crossed over that tipping point we talked about before. Now, just to stay at the status quo, because of the rising interest rates and interest payments, we have to find \$400 billion a year, every year, in new taxes or new cuts.

We are fumbling on the biggest issue that Americans have handed us. It affects our national security. It affects the future of our children. It affects how we take care of those who are in poverty. It affects those who are in the most vulnerable moments of life. It affects those with disabilities, and it affects our transportation.

We have to have a real dialogue about this. We are doing our part. We are trying to get the word out. Let's have a dialogue and together figure out what we can do next in order to solve this because none of us have plans for a \$400 billion cut next year. That means that next year it will again get worse, and it will keep getting worse until we solve it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I appreciate the remarks of my good friend, the Senator from Oklahoma. I look forward to working with him on ways that we can try to come together and solve some of these big problems.

In a minute, I am going to talk about the Affordable Care Act, which is probably the signature accomplishment of a Democratic Senate and Congress. It is notable that the Affordable Care Act, for all of its controversy, reduced the deficit. It did not increase the deficit. It is also notable that the signature accomplishment of the Republican Congress and the Republican Senate was a tax reduction bill that has dramatically spiraled the deficit out of control. There is \$2 trillion of additional deficits in that provision.

I share the concerns about the deficit, and I find it curious that this Congress, under Republican control, has chosen to dramatically increase deficits, making us on pace for having the biggest deficits in our legislative history—with enormous additional new elements of debt as well.

#### NOMINATION OF CHAD A. READLER

Mr. President, I am here, though, to talk about the Affordable Care Act.

One of the things we talk a lot about here on the Senate floor is of our mutual concern for people with preexisting conditions. These are the 130 million Americans who are sick or who have histories of sickness. If you were to listen to both sides of the aisle, you would believe that everyone is on board with the idea that we should provide protections to individuals who are sick or who have ever been sick.

Yet actions do not meet words when it comes down to it in the U.S. Senate.

Over the last 2 years, my Republican colleagues have spared no expense or effort to try to strip away protections

for those individuals with preexisting conditions that were in the Affordable Care Act. The repeal of the Affordable Care Act is the most obvious example of that.

This week, we will have a rare opportunity to take an up-or-down vote on this issue of whether we support keeping protections for people with preexisting conditions in this country. The reason for that is, we are going to vote on a nominee to the Sixth Circuit Court who orchestrated—who directed—the Department of Justice's attempts to take away protections for people with preexisting conditions through the court process.

Chad Readler filed a brief in a case brought by State attorneys general—all of them Republicans—to strike from the Affordable Care Act the protection for people with preexisting conditions.

Normally, when State attorneys general come after the constitutionality of a statute, whether those are Republican or Democratic attorneys general, the administration, whether it be a Republican or Democratic administration, defends the constitutionality of the statute.

This was an exceptional case in which these Republican attorneys general were trying to take away protections for people with preexisting conditions, saying the ACA was unconstitutional, and an Assistant Attorney General by the name of Chad Readler stood up and volunteered to file a brief alleging that, in fact, the attorneys general were right—a rare, almost completely unprecedented example of the Department of Justice arguing against the constitutionality of a statute that had been passed by the Congress and signed by the President.

Interestingly, before Chad Readler decided to file that brief, others at the Department of Justice refused. In fact, one lawyer left the Department of Justice because he wouldn't put his name on something so absurd as the brief Chad Readler filed.

I am not the only person who thinks the arguments in his brief trying to strike down those protections for people with preexisting conditions was absurd. In fact, Senator ALEXANDER read Readler's brief and said the arguments in it were “as far-fetched as any I have ever heard.” That is a Republican Senator.

Now, the consequences of the judge following the recommendations of Chad Readler were catastrophic. In fact, the judge struck down the Affordable Care Act. That order has been held in abeyance temporarily, but the consequences of the Readler brief would be that 133 million Americans would lose their protections from higher rates because they were sick or had been sick. The 20 million people who had insurance would lose it virtually overnight.

Admittedly, the Readler brief didn't agree with every single element of the lawsuit of the attorneys general but enough of it such that it was very clear

the administration was weighing in on the side of the petitioners.

Almost immediately after filing that brief, he was nominated to serve on the appellate court, sending a very clear signal to all of those in the administration that if you take a leadership role on trying to strip away protections for people with preexisting conditions, you will be rewarded—in this case, rewarded with a lifetime appointment.

So we are about to vote on the architect of this administration's legal strategy to try to undo the most popular, most important protections in the Affordable Care Act, and it represents this rare opportunity to understand where Senators stand.

It is super easy. It takes no political risk to stand up and say you support protecting people who are sick and making sure insurance companies don't jack up their rates. As it turns out, it is a little bit harder to actually back up your words with actions, but this one isn't that hard. Voting against Chad Readler isn't that difficult, in part, because Senator BROWN, who is the Senator from Ohio who did not sign a blue slip for Chad Readler's nomination, has made it clear as early as 10 minutes ago that he is willing to support and sign a blue slip for a mainstream conservative nominee.

In this case, Democrats aren't saying we want a nominee to the Sixth Circuit who isn't one who could be charitably described as a conservative nominee. We just don't want a nominee who has made his mark trying to tear down protections for sick people in this country, but that is what happens when you get rid of the blue ship. Senator MCCONNELL and Senator GRASSLEY have gotten rid of this decades-old protection to try to make sure nominees to the Federal bench, to the appellate bench in this case, have the support of their home State Senators. When you do that, you tend to get a little bit more mainstream nominees.

Now that the blue slip is gone, now that Senator BROWN has no ability to weigh in on individuals who are going to be making law in his State, you get a much more extreme nominee like this.

So let's see what happens. I hope there are some Republicans who will stand up and decide they are going to put their votes where their mouths have been on the question of protections for people with preexisting conditions, but at the very least, the American public will get to see where we all stand on this very important question in a matter of hours.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, in the 116th Congress, I am once again chairing the Senate Armed Services Committee Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, which oversees our nuclear forces.

Over the coming months, I will be coming to the floor to discuss specific components of our nuclear deterrent and their contributions to the defense of this Nation.

Today, I rise to speak about the critical role strategic bombers play in our nuclear triad. The triad is known for its flexibility and resilience, and bombers contribute to this flexibility in important ways. They are highly visible, and they can be forward deployed. They can be used to signal resolve to our adversaries and commitment to our allies.

This benefit is not theoretical. Bombers have been used in exactly this way many times, particularly on the Korean Peninsula. Bombers are also recallable and, when armed with standoff weapons, they can offer the President a variety of tailored response options in a crisis.

As the oldest leg of our nuclear triad, bombers have a long and distinguished history. In some ways, the story of the strategic bomber begins in the great State of Nebraska.

In the early 1940s, Bellevue, NE, was home to the Martin Bomber Plant, which was located on the land that is now Offutt Air Force Base. The Martin plant, with the help of thousands of Nebraska workers, built and modified the Enola Gay and Bockscar. These two B-29 bombers went on to deliver the Little Boy and Fat Man nuclear bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending World War II and ushering in the nuclear age. The horrific destruction of these attacks established the deterrent power that has prevented conflict on a global scale ever since.

As ballistic missile technology evolved, the bomber continued to be the mainstay of our nuclear deterrent forces through the early 1970s. Although bombers carried the heavy load for many decades, today we no longer rely on them in the same way. Nuclear-armed bombers have not been on 24-hour ready alert status since the end of the Cold War in 1991, and the responsiveness that alert-status bombers provided now resides primarily with our ICBM forces.

The strength provided by the other legs of the triad have allowed us to take our nuclear capable bombers off alert and use them for conventional missions. When we send B-52 bombers to Afghanistan to complete a conventional mission, we exercise the triad's flexibility. When U.S. B-2 bombers struck targets in Libya, we utilized the triad's flexibility. These examples clearly demonstrate that the flexibility of the triad is not an abstract concept. It is something our forces use every single day.

Our current nuclear bomber force consists of 46 B-52 and 20 B-2 aircraft.

While we rely on this highly capable but aging fleet, we also look ahead to the future of the bomber force, and that is the B-21.

As the B-21 development progresses, it is important to remember the lessons learned from the last time we developed a nuclear bomber, the B-2. As the Cold War ended, nuclear tensions cooled and the need for an expensive nuclear-capable stealth bomber seemed to diminish. Even though the B-2 had already been developed and significant resources spent on research and development, Congress decided to reduce the final order from 132 aircraft to 20. In so doing, the per-unit cost of the airframe rose to \$2 billion. The Air Force has said it plans to buy at least 100 B-21s, but many in this Chamber believe more are likely required to meet the conventional mission the Nation expects our Air Force to perform.

The nuclear triad is the bedrock of our national security, and the airborne leg continues to contribute to the strength and resilience of our nuclear forces. It is our responsibility to ensure that this capability is modernized, particularly as the global security environment transitions to one of long-term strategic competition.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess under the previous order.

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

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:05 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and was reassembled when called to order by the Presiding officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD C. SHELBY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I want to start my remarks this afternoon by saying congratulations to our friend Senator RICHARD SHELBY, Alabama's longest serving U.S. Senator as of this Sunday.

Here in Washington, we know him as chairman of the all-powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, which holds the congressional purse strings, but Alabamians, from Huntsville to Gulf Shores, know him as a devoted public servant working for the good of all of his constituents and an invaluable Member of the U.S. Senate.

Senator SHELBY is a man of principles. He believes in smaller government, supports the Second Amendment, and works tirelessly for the military men and women from Alabama.

There is only one thing he is more proud of than his home State, and that may be the Crimson Tide football team and the number of their national championships.

I just wanted to start my comments this afternoon by saying congratulations to our friend Senator RICHARD SHELBY for 32 years of serving the people of Alabama.

#### NOMINATIONS

Madam President, we will continue to push through a long list of executive and judicial nominations pending before the Senate.

People may wonder, well, why are we making such an emphasis on nominations? That is mainly because of all of the foot-dragging and obstruction we have seen from our friends on the other side of the aisle. They have basically burned the clock and have caused many nominees to simply withdraw. There are not many people who can put their lives on hold and wait a year and a half for the Senate to act on their nominations, especially when it is not a controversial nomination in and of itself.

This is simply a continuing reaction to President Trump's election in 2016. Many of our colleagues simply haven't gotten over the fact that he won. They are just not willing to engage in the normal sorts of advice and consent that the Constitution calls for, nor will they let the President and his administration get the people they want on his team, even if there is not an extraordinary problem.

Under previous administrations, we know the process to confirm nominees is relatively quick and unremarkable and that cloture votes were rarely required. As soon as you start talking about cloture votes, people start falling asleep, but it is actually a pretty significant problem.

Cloture votes basically mean we have to burn the clock and go through the procedures—all of the different hoops that you have to jump through absent some consent or an agreement.

As you can see, under President Trump, the Senate has had to file for cloture 128 times, so it has caused an extended debate, even on uncontroversial nominees. What is worse, even after you vote to close, which is what cloture is, then you still have to burn 30 hours postcloture, which makes it very difficult for us to do anything else in the Senate other than to confirm uncontroversial nominees.

As you can see, when President Clinton was in office, in his first 2 years of office there were only eight cloture votes on nominees. Under President George W. Bush, No. 43, there were only 4, and, of course, under President Obama, there were 12. That is a far cry from the 128 nominees who were essentially obstructed by our colleagues across the aisle.

They aren't forcing these votes because these nominees are controversial or because they are unqualified. Just

look at one of the nominees we just confirmed as an example. Nearly 400 days after he was nominated, John Ryder was finally confirmed for a board position with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mr. Ryder was initially nominated on February 1 of last year—more than a year ago. Not long after he testified before the Committee on the Environment and Public Works, we saw unanimous support from the members of the committee—bipartisan support.

During simpler times, the process would have been pretty straightforward. He would have been confirmed by the full Senate without any valuable floor time. He probably would have been confirmed by consent or by a voice vote, which would not have burned all of this valuable floor time, which is necessitated when you have to file for cloture. It is now clear that these simpler, more civil, and more bipartisan times have gone out the window.

Our Democratic colleagues have forced cloture on this nominee. Again, it is not because he is not qualified and not because he is controversial but because they are literally using every trick in the book to bring the work of the Senate to a crawl.

It is not Republicans who are being hurt; it is the American people. We are here to serve the American people and not to engage in these sorts of political games that result in nothing.

Sometimes we have important battles, debates, and disagreements, but usually they are over important principles. But here, it is just about burning time and making nominees wait, sometimes for a year or more before their nomination is even voted on.

I am personally aware of a number of nominees who have said: Do you know what? No more. I have a life to live. I can't put my life on hold waiting for the Senate to vote on my nomination, even if it is not going to be controversial.

I am afraid we will see the Democrats' political theater continue. One of the nominees we will soon be voting on is John Fleming of Louisiana, who has been nominated as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

Mr. Fleming's nomination was first received by the Senate in June of last year. Again, the committee held a hearing and favorably reported out his nomination within 6 weeks. Here we are, 7 months later, and he still hasn't been confirmed because the only way our Democratic colleagues will allow that is by going through this long and laborious procedure of filing for cloture and burning hours on the clock.

Again, under previous administrations, a nominee for this sort of a position would be confirmed with little or no fanfare and certainly without sitting on the calendar for 7 months.

Again, this isn't about Republicans versus Democrats. Honestly, this is about punishing the American people

and these nominees who want to serve by keeping them hanging and forcing them to wait more than a year before they are confirmed. This, again, is part of the "Never Trump" syndrome, part of the Trump derangement syndrome that seems to be an epidemic here inside the beltway.

I personally see no reason these games should continue to play out, and that is why I am an advocate for the proposed rule changes to expedite the process.

These expedited changes we will make is something that, if the shoe were on the other foot and we had a Democratic President, Republicans could gladly live with. This isn't about gaining some advantage by a rules change; this is simply about returning the Senate to some sense of normalcy.

#### GEAR UP PROGRAM

Madam President, on another topic, this is a remarkable time for our Nation's economy. Sometimes with all of the noise, chatter, and just the chaos that is part of Washington these days, we forget the fact that our economy is doing so well that we are seeing a record number of people employed, and we are seeing the highest employment rate for African Americans and Hispanics at any time in recorded history.

I attribute some of this—not all of it—to the tax reform bill that we passed over a year ago. Since that time, 3 million jobs have been added here in America—3 million jobs.

Wages are on the rise. Labor is tight. It is hard to find people to work, particularly in places like West Texas in the Permian Basin around Odessa and Midland, which has the lowest unemployment rate in the country because of the energy boom there that has been long associated with that part of our State and that part of our country.

Workers are seeing more of their hard-earned money in their paycheck because tax rates are lower. As I said, unemployment hit its lowest rate in nearly 50 years. That is something to celebrate.

Today we find ourselves in the unique position of having more job openings than jobseekers. It is an indication of how great our economy is doing and a reminder that we need to continue to invest in our workforce.

One of the biggest reasons these jobs are unfilled isn't because there aren't willing candidates. Let me say that again. The reason these jobs are unfilled isn't because there aren't willing candidates. It is because the candidates who are available lack the right skills.

For many students, postsecondary education seems like a pipe dream. Many of my constituents in Texas come from families who have never attended college and, thus, are the first generation of young students who hope to achieve a higher education.

There is a great program that I am supporting. I introduced bipartisan legislation with our colleagues here called the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Program,

also known as GEAR UP. That program is working to change the landscape and the educational opportunity for many young people still in middle school and high school.

This grant program is designed to increase college and career readiness through a range of academic, social, and planning support.

Starting in seventh grade, you have to start making decisions about what your middle school and high school education will be. If you guess wrong and don't take the appropriate math class, for example, then you can't finish the curriculum you need in order to go to the college you want to go to.

One reason GEAR UP has been so successful is that it recognizes that college and career readiness begins early, not when you are graduating from high school but when you are in seventh grade, literally.

GEAR UP is also unique because it doesn't use a blanket approach to support students. What works well in one State or in one school district may not be the best in another, so local leaders and parents have the flexibility to cater to their students' needs.

The best part of GEAR UP is that it actually works. It is a government program that works. GEAR UP students graduate from high school at a higher rate than their peers, regardless of ethnicity or income, and they attend college at a higher rate.

Texans have benefited from \$885 million in GEAR UP grants over the last 20 years. We have seen incredible results, but I believe there are additional steps we can take to ensure that local leaders and parents have the increased flexibility they need to tailor the programs to the needs of these students.

Over the last few weeks, I have had a chance to travel my State and talk to students, teachers, administrators, and community leaders in Texas about the legislation I have mentioned, the GEAR UP for Success Act.

In Harlingen, for example, in the Rio Grande Valley, I held a roundtable with superintendents and community leaders from across that area to learn about the impact of GEAR UP there. They say that they have seen great results in terms of improved graduation and participation in postsecondary education, and they are full of ideas about how to build on the progress they have already seen.

I also got a chance to spend some time with the students themselves. As I mentioned, this program begins with seventh graders, and I had a chance to meet several members of the class of 2024—you heard that right, 2024—who have just begun their journey because they are in seventh grade. You can see the excitement in their eyes and that hunger for success.

Particularly in the Rio Grande Valley, with a large Hispanic population, as I have said, many students whose parents did not go to college realize that college and education generally is the key to the American dream. Be-

cause of GEAR UP, these students don't view college now as a farfetched fantasy. They view it as part of their life plan, and they are excited about it. That is no doubt, at least in part, due to the older students I was able to meet. We talked about where they were hoping to go to college and what they want to major in.

One of the neatest things about the GEAR UP program is that the older students will actually mentor some of the younger students in the GEAR UP program and talk about what a difference it made in their lives and in their education.

All of these students have bright careers ahead of them. One of them told me he wants to be a U.S. Senator. I said: You realize that you have to wait until you are 30 years old to do that. He is willing to wait. It was a pleasure to spend time with all of them.

Last month I was in my hometown of San Antonio at Gus Garcia Middle School, and I held another roundtable with students and school administrators to learn about how GEAR UP has impacted their communities. There was one student, in particular, whose life story illustrates just how much this program can help.

Francisco Hernandez told me that he and his family were once homeless, but with the support he received from GEAR UP and Sam Houston High School, he was able to turn his life around and make his dream of going to college a reality.

Not only is Francisco now a student at San Antonio College with a promising career ahead of him, he is also, as I suggested a moment ago, a mentor for younger students. Students like Francisco are a reminder of how important it is to support programs like GEAR UP.

These pieces of legislation, these programs, and these grants we vote on here in the Senate have an impact on the lives of real people, but they are also reminders of how we must find ways to do more and to better serve these students.

This bill, as I said, the GEAR UP for Success Act, will provide greater flexibility to school districts on how they use GEAR UP funds. In some instances, they told me that the local match was a prohibitive problem. So what we intend to do is to cut that local match requirement in half.

There is, as I said, no one-size-fits-all program to prepare all students for life after high school. Each school district knows its students' needs better than Washington ever could. So they should have the flexibility to design and implement programs that will work best.

This legislation will also improve GEAR UP research and evaluation at both local and national levels so we can figure out what the best practices are and what is working and what isn't, and it will reduce the administrative burdens for those who receive the grant so they can focus less on paperwork and more on successful student outcomes.

The young Texans I have heard from over the last few weeks are inspiring, and they are excited about their future. That is the way we want them to be. I hope Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY will include the GEAR UP for Success Act in their efforts to reauthorize the Higher Education Act this Congress so we can continue to support students like this across the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

NOMINATION OF CHAD A. READLER

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, it is very important that the American people know that Republicans are still trying to take away their healthcare. Last year, Republicans filed a lawsuit arguing that the entire Affordable Care Act should be invalidated, and now they want to give a promotion to the person who led that effort at the Department of Justice. That person's name is Chad Readler, currently a Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Justice Department.

Last year, he filed an argument on behalf of the Department of Justice to take away protections for people with preexisting conditions. The American Medical Association said that Mr. Readler's argument would "have a devastating impact on doctors, patients, and the American health system as a whole," that it "would cause 32 million people to become uninsured," and that it would double insurance premiums.

The American Medical Association was not alone here. Lawyers at the Justice Department refused to sign their names to Mr. Readler's brief. One senior career official actually resigned in protest, and Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER said that his arguments were "as farfetched as any I've ever heard."

On the same day that Mr. Readler filed his argument to take away people's healthcare, the White House nominated him to a lifetime appointment to the bench on the Sixth Circuit. They wanted to promote him because of his good work suing in Federal court trying to invalidate the entire healthcare system—the entire healthcare law.

We should not sign off on this nominee—not if we care about protecting the health of our constituents, especially those who have cancer, asthma, diabetes, or any other preexisting medical condition.

We should also be wary of putting someone on the Sixth Circuit who makes the kind of poor, farfetched argument that Mr. Readler made, because this isn't purely a question of public policy. If it were public policy, you would definitely say: Don't take 32 million people and take away their healthcare—right? If it were public policy, you would say: Don't do the thing that is going to double premiums.

This is about what kind of a lawyer he is. This is about what kind of a judge he would be. The White House may want to reward his efforts, but we don't have to.

If you look at Mr. Readler's record and feel that, OK, he tried to deport the Dreamers. Even if you concede past his defense of the Muslim ban or his discrimination against a gay couple who wanted to get married or even if you don't mind that he is trying to make it harder for people to vote or his argument to allow kids under 18 to be sentenced to death—even if none of that bothers you—it should bother you that a Senator in Mr. Readler's home State has not returned a blue slip. It should really bother you. If you say you are for protecting people with preexisting conditions, here is your opportunity.

It is one thing to say: Well, we would never do that. We would never take away protections for people with preexisting conditions. After all, we all know people with preexisting conditions.

I have no doubt that is the actual sentiment among Members of the Senate on both sides. Here is the thing. This week is the week to walk the talk. This week is the week to decide whether or not you are for protecting people with preexisting conditions, because you have a guy who led the effort to gut protections for people with preexisting conditions.

Mr. Readler is unqualified for other reasons, but now we have a litmus test on where you stand on preexisting conditions. It is not enough to say it in your campaign debate. It is not enough to say it in the hallway and say: Hey, we want to protect people.

Here is your moment. Someone who has dedicated some portion of his professional life to gut the American healthcare system is now being given a permanent job on the Sixth Circuit. Everybody should vote no.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. 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. MANCHIN. Madam President, I don't come to the floor that often to ask about or to talk about any person who is being recommended by our President, whether I agree or disagree. This is one time I feel very compelled to do so.

I rise today to urge my colleagues not to confirm Chad Readler to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I would say this: A vote for him, in my estimation, is a vote against every West Virginian and every American with a preexisting condition, and I will tell you why.

After 20 State attorneys general and Governors challenged the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act and its protections for people with preexisting conditions in *Texas v. United*

*States*, as Acting Assistant Attorney General, Readler refused to defend the Affordable Care Act. That is his job. That is the law of the land. He refused, basically, to protect and defend it, which resulted in putting nearly 800,000 West Virginians with cancer, heart disease, asthma, or diabetes and women who care to have a baby at risk of financial jeopardy if they get sick.

Readler was not just a participant but the chief architect of the Department of Justice's decision to not defend the current law in the case. Let me make sure we all understand how devastating this could have been but also the intent. Coming from the Assistant Attorney General, he was not just a participant, but he was the chief architect of the Department of Justice's decision to not defend—to not do his job, to not defend—the current law in the case.

He wrote and filed a brief arguing that the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate is unconstitutional, and that if the mandate is stricken as unconstitutional, the Affordable Care Act's protections for the people with preexisting conditions should also be stricken.

He is taking the position as one person, not as an elected official, saying that it is unconstitutional when we voted in this body not to repeal it. We voted in this body, representing the people of the United States, not to repeal it. He made a decision as one person, not an elected official, saying it is unconstitutional.

This brief was so controversial and inhumane that several career lawyers with the Civil Division refused to sign their name to this brief, and one senior career Department of Justice official resigned because of his decision.

After the Department of Justice's announcement, I introduced a resolution to authorize the Senate legal counsel to intervene in this lawsuit on behalf of the Senate and defend all Americans' right to access affordable health insurance. Because of Readler and the Department of Justice's decision to abandon its responsibility, the court ruled against Americans with preexisting conditions in December.

This misguided and inhumane ruling will kick millions of Americans and tens of thousands of West Virginians off their health insurance. So 800,000 West Virginians with preexisting conditions will be at risk of losing their health insurance, and the thousands of West Virginians who gained health insurance through the Medicaid expansion will no longer qualify. This ruling is just plain wrong, and it is rightfully being appealed to a higher court.

While I continue to fight to pass my resolution to defend Americans and West Virginians with preexisting conditions, I must commend our colleagues in the House who passed a similar resolution earlier this year that allowed their legal counsel to intervene. I wish we had both legal counsel from the House and the Senate intervening together.

In this body, I am known for examining judicial nominees fairly, based on their qualifications, temperament, and judgment, which I take very seriously, but I cannot stand idly by and allow the Senate to confirm a person who singlehandedly tried to rip insurance away from West Virginians and Americans when he had no authority to do so. He was not an elected official, not speaking on behalf of the law, not defending the law but trying to represent his own beliefs or political agenda.

This vote today will show Americans and West Virginians with preexisting conditions who is really fighting for them and all of us who believe strongly in their right to be able to care for themselves. A vote for Mr. Readler is a vote against people with preexisting conditions, and I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will join me in voting against his confirmation.

This is something I don't do often. I don't take it lightly. It is very serious. This gentleman has basically shown it is not about the law; it is not about the Constitution; it is about his politics and himself and not a man who should be sitting on a higher court.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, last week, I announced my intention to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 46. This is a resolution expressing disapproval of the President's February 15 proclamation of a national emergency. At that same time, I joined with my colleague, the Senator from New Mexico, along with the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, and the Senator from New Hampshire, Mrs. SHAHEEN, in the introduction of the Senate companion, S.J. Res. 10.

I want to take just a few moments this afternoon and speak to my rationale not only for my statements but for my support for terminating the national emergency. It is, certainly, not based on disagreement over the issue of border security on our southern border. I recognize full well, along with, I believe, all of our colleagues here, the situation on the border and the humanitarian issues that face us. The issue that faces us with the level of those coming across our borders is not a sustainable situation, and, certainly, the influx of drugs that we are seeing in this community must be addressed.

Rather, my concern is, really, about the institution of the Congress and the constitutional balance of powers that, I think, are just fundamental to our democracy. In my view, it really comes down to article I of the Constitution. Article I, section 7, clause 8 reads: "No

Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriation.”

This provision and the necessary and proper clause of article I, section 8, clause 18 and the taxing and spending clauses—article VIII, clause 1—are just generally regarded as the basis for the notion that the power to spend resides in the Congress. We say it around here—that the power of the purse rests with the Congress.

Of all of these three clauses that I have just articulated, the admonition that no money shall be drawn from the Treasury but in consequence of appropriation is probably the clearest expression of the Framers’ view that the executive has no power to spend money in a manner that is inconsistent with the intentions of the Congress.

Justice Story, in his 1883 Commentaries on the Constitution, characterized that clause as an important means of self-protection for the legislative department.

He went on to write:

The [legislature] has, and must have, a controlling influence over the executive power, since it holds at its command all of the resources by which the executive could make himself formidable. It possesses the power of the purse of the nation and the property of the people.

Again, he just very clearly articulates where these lanes of authority—these lanes of jurisdiction—reside.

This past weekend, on Sunday, a local newspaper, the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, published an editorial. In that editorial, it was argued that our colleagues here in the Senate should vote for the resolution of disapproval. The editorial is entitled: “A dangerous course: Congress shouldn’t cede power to president in border funding dispute.”

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner,  
March 3, 2019]

**A DANGEROUS COURSE: CONGRESS SHOULDN’T  
CEDE POWER TO PRESIDENT IN BORDER  
FUNDING DISPUTE**

(Editorial Board)

Two reasons for alarm exist regarding President Donald Trump’s declaration of a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border so that he can reallocate funds approved by Congress for other purposes.

First is the problem of potential precedent. Is building a wall at the border the type of situation envisioned by Congress when it approved the National Emergencies Act in 1976? Or is the president simply declaring a national emergency as a way to overcome a political dispute over a funding allocation?

If it is political dispute and is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, where the issue is almost certainly headed, how will Republicans in Congress who support the president’s emergency declaration react when—not if—a Democrat occupies the White House and uses the same national emergency logic to force actions on climate change that Republicans find objectionable?

That is one concern.

Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski earlier indicated she would support a disapproval resolution and Thursday joined fellow GOP Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, and two Democratic senators to introduce the resolution in the Senate. Sen. Dan Sullivan, Alaska’s other Republican senator, has not stated publicly how he will vote.

The Senate resolution is similar to one approved by the House on Tuesday. Rep. Don Young voted against the resolution. The National Emergencies Act requires that the Senate vote on the House resolution; a vote is expected within the next two weeks.

There is also an issue that is greater than that of border security. It is the issue of guarding against encroachment by one branch of government on the power of another.

Members of Congress should be asked these questions: Do you believe the president is properly exercising authority granted by Congress under the National Emergencies Act? Or do you think his emergency declaration is an unacceptable overreach by the executive branch?

Encroachment by one branch on another and the consolidating of power in one branch worried some of the Founders as they crafted our system of independent yet interlocking government branches. The Federalist Papers, the series of 85 writings that aimed to convince the public to support ratification of the Constitution, contain references to that concern.

James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 48, published Feb. 1, 1788, that “It will not be denied, that power is of an encroaching nature, and that it ought to be effectually restrained from passing the limits assigned to it. After discriminating, therefore, in theory, the several classes of power, as they may in their nature be legislative, executive, or judiciary, the next and most difficult task is to provide some practical security for each, against the invasion of the others.”

“Will it be sufficient to mark, with precision, the boundaries of these departments, in the constitution of the government, and to trust to these parchment barriers against the encroaching spirit of power?”

The concern appears again in Federalist No. 51, written by Madison and Alexander Hamilton and published Feb. 8, 1788: “The great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department, consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of the others. . . . Ambition must be made to counteract ambition.”

Congress, as a co-equal branch of government, should stand up for itself.

President Trump has said he will veto the resolution if it comes to his desk. And at this stage it appears unlikely that there are enough votes in Congress to override that veto.

What each member of Congress says and does in this funding dispute will reveal clearly how they view the law and the relationship between the legislative and executive branches.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, in support of the argument outlined in that headline, the News-Miner’s editorial board wrote the following:

Encroachment by one branch on another and the consolidating of power in one branch worried some of the Founders as they crafted our system of independent yet interlocking government branches. The Federalist Papers . . . contain references to that concern.

The editorial board goes on to refer to Federalist No. 51, which reads:

The great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same department, consists in giving to those who administer each department the necessary constitutional means and personal motives to resist encroachments of others. . . . Ambition must be made to counteract ambition.

When you translate that into just plain old English, it basically means Congress is a coequal branch of government, and, as such, Congress should stand up for itself. That really is the reason—the root—of why I have announced my support for this resolution of disapproval. I think it is fair to say that we all have disagreements around here about all sorts of things that are part of the appropriations process, and, certainly, the issue of border funding or just border security is no exception.

Even if the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process had run smoothly, which it certainly did not, think about how we got to where we are right now. The President submitted his budget last year. He requested money for barriers on the border and other aspects of border security. The request went through the appropriations process. I serve on that subcommittee. In the Senate subcommittee, we advanced out of the committee the President’s request. After 3 months of continuing resolutions, we ended up in a stalemate with the other body last year, calendar year 2018. In January, control of the other body changed. The stalemate continued until the lengthy negotiations concluded, which allowed both bodies to pass and for the President to agree to sign an appropriations package just several weeks ago in February.

Again, that appropriations package was, I think it is probably fair to say, the result of a great deal of back-and-forth between the House, the Senate, and the White House, but it was clearly something that did help to advance the priorities that the President had outlined with regard to the southern border.

I am quoting from a White House fact sheet here, which reads: “Secured a number of significant legislative victories that further the President’s effort to secure the Southern Border and protect our country.” Chief among those victories was “the bill provides \$1.375 billion for approximately 55 miles of border barrier in highly dangerous and drug smuggling areas in the Rio Grande Valley, where it is desperately needed.”

So we are where we were on February 15 when the administration recognized that significant gains had been made, but I think we all know that the President believes very, very strongly that there is more that should be done, that must be done, and that will be done to address that.

Clearly, there was a disagreement between the Congress and the President about how much could be spent on border security in 2019. I think, in fairness, sticking up for Congress’s power of the purse doesn’t necessarily mean that it comes at the expense of border security. I believe very strongly we can



address the President's concerns—the very, very real and legitimate concerns that need to be addressed—but that we don't have to do it at the expense of ceding that authority, of ceding that power of the purse, of ceding that article I power that we have here.

There are ways that the President can advance his issues, and he has done so. He, certainly, has the prerogative to ask for supplemental appropriations. He has identified additional funding that is outside of the national emergency designation, or declaration, if you will.

He has identified additional funding—close to \$3 billion—from other statutory authorities. These are the authorities under 10 U.S.C. 284(b), which is the counterdrug account, counterdrug funds. That will require a level of reprogramming through the appropriating committees, but that can be done outside of the national emergency. The other source of funding is the Treasury Forfeiture Fund through the Secretary of the Treasury under 31 U.S.C. 9705. So I think it is clear that there are avenues to enhance the funding opportunities to address the situation at the border.

The concern that many of us have raised is the designation in this third account—the designation of a national emergency—that would tap into funds that have already been designated for military construction projects, important construction projects that have been designated around the country. We certainly have many in my State of Alaska. We haven't seen the list that would perhaps outline with greater articulation where the Secretary of Defense might think it would be appropriate to delay some of these projects. But, again, I would just remind—these are projects that have perhaps already been delayed because of the Budget Control Act that has been in place for several years, so I think further delay for many of these projects would cause most concern.

So I come to the National Emergencies Act. I think there is a recognition that when this was adopted, was put into law, it was initially intended to rein in the President's ability to declare emergencies. But at the same time it authorized the President to declare national emergencies, it didn't ever clearly define the extent of that power. So that is an issue that I think we are dealing with right now. Implicit in this grant is the trust that the power will be used sparingly. I think that if you look back over the history, the 59 previous times these powers have been utilized, you can say they have been used sparingly. But also explicit is the authority for the Congress to terminate an emergency if the Congress believes it was imprudently declared, and that is basically where we are today.

Because Congress did not explicitly constrain the President's power to declare an emergency, many of the constitutional scholars—those who are

trying to game this out—believe the President will ultimately prevail in the litigation that we are entirely certain will be seen in the courts.

The question for us to consider in this body is not whether the President could have declared an emergency but whether he should have and, again, the question relating to the redirection of military construction funds from our bases around the country to the southern border. These are the questions we are currently debating. But in the final analysis, I look at the issue we have in front of us, and this is really a very challenging place for us as a Congress, to be debating the constitutional powers of the Congress against a legislative agenda—a strong legislative agenda and an important one that the President has. But I have come to be quite concerned about where we are when it comes to precedent and the precedent that we may see unleashed. In many ways, I view this as an expansion of Executive powers by legislative acquiescence.

If we fail to weigh in, if we fail to acknowledge that this designation has gone beyond that which has previously been considered, if we go around, effectively, the will of Congress, where will it take us next? I think we need to think about that because it is so easy to get focused on where we are in the here and now and the situation we are dealing with today, but when we are pushing out those lanes of congressional authority, I think we need to be thinking clearly about what that may mean for future administrations and for future Congresses.

As the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my focus is very often on the energy sector, on the energy space, and so I have asked, if we were in a situation with a new President, what could be invoked if a new President should decide to exercise his or her emergency authorities as they relate to energy? It is entirely possible that a future President could declare a national emergency related to global climate change, speaking to a humanitarian crisis and what it might mean for national security. In fact, one of our colleagues from Massachusetts has already said as much—that a national emergency could be declared as relates to global climate change.

You have to ask the question. What would stop a future President from declaring an emergency and then directing the military to spend billions of dollars on renewable projects or refugee assistance? What is to stop a future President from targeting the Nation's oil and gas supply by cutting off exports and shutting down production on the Outer Continental Shelf?

I think we would all say: Well, we don't need to worry about that happening with our current President; he is not going to do any of those things. But the authorities technically would exist for all of them, and so it is concerning. It is concerning to me that a future President could use that to

drive their agenda—again, without the consent of the Congress.

So I repeat—I am concerned that, as a Congress, as a legislative body, we would stand back and we would acquiesce in the use of a national emergency to resolve a disagreement between the executive and the legislative branches over the appropriate level of funding for a situation that likely exceeds what can be spent in our current fiscal year.

I know there will be continued discussion not only here in the Senate, in the Congress, but certainly around the country about these matters. I know some of my colleagues are interested in revisiting the scope of the National Emergencies Act, and that is clearly worth considering. But I firmly believe that one can be strongly for border security and at the same time question whether the administration has overreached in using the National Emergencies Act in the way that it has, and I find myself in that camp. That is why it is with great resolve that I support the adoption of the resolutions of disapproval.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF CHAD A. READLER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I come to the floor to oppose the nomination of Chad Readler to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this nomination as well.

We have learned that both Senators from Ohio—one a Democrat and one a Republican—had previously proposed mutually agreeable candidates to fill the Sixth Circuit Court position, but despite that prior support, the Trump administration instead nominated somebody who did not have the support from both Senators, which is a device we use to try to encourage nominations that are not way out of the mainstream. We want judicial nominees who are not on the far right nor on any other extreme. Yet this administration decided to ignore that bipartisan support and nominated Mr. Readler for the position on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Readler, unfortunately, has a record that falls well out of the judicial mainstream. I am very concerned about the kind of judicial reasoning and findings he will make as a member of the Sixth Circuit, if he is confirmed.

He has been the Trump administration's point man at the Department of Justice to try to destroy the Affordable Care Act and eliminate the protections the Affordable Care Act has brought to tens of millions of Americans, including protections for people with pre-existing health conditions—whether it



be a child with asthma, or somebody with diabetes, or anybody who has a preexisting condition health condition. Before the Affordable Care Act was passed, insurance companies would say either we are not going to insure you because you are going to be too expensive to treat or we will provide coverage but only at this price, and then they would quote a price the person couldn't possibly afford.

The Affordable Care Act did away with that discrimination based on preexisting conditions. Yet at the Department of Justice, this nominee, Mr. Readler, was the point person in trying to reimpose discrimination based on preexisting conditions.

Why do we say that? Because over the last couple of years there was a lawsuit filed in the State of Texas. It was filed by the attorney general of the State of Texas and a number of other attorneys general from other States around the country—Republican attorneys general—that went after the Affordable Care Act. They argued that once the Congress passed legislation eliminating the penalties for the mandates, all the rest of the law collapsed. It is a position most legal scholars from all sides of the political spectrum think is an absurd legal conclusion that will not stand the test of time or the test of the courts in the long run.

Despite the fact that the conclusion was way out of the mainstream and directed more out of a political charge to try to undo the Affordable Care Act, nevertheless, Mr. Readler filed the case on behalf of the Justice Department—not in support of the Affordable Care Act, which would be the usual practice of the Department of Justice in protecting the laws of the United States, but deciding, first of all, not to protect it and, secondly, to actively go after the Affordable Care Act and side mainly with the positions of Republican attorneys general who were trying to destroy the law.

This was a very unusual position to take, and many of the career attorneys at the Department of Justice decided not to sign their names to the brief that was filed. They did not want to be associated with a brief that they thought was more a political document than a legal document. In fact, one very respected career attorney at the Department of Justice resigned in protest.

Even our colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, said this about the brief that was filed by the Justice Department: It is "as far-fetched as any I've ever heard."

Despite the fact that this was a legal position far out of the mainstream—authored by Mr. Readler from his post at the Department of Justice—nevertheless, he went ahead and filed that brief. It is totally inconsistent with the position others claimed they were taking with respect to protecting people with preexisting health conditions. In fact, President Trump tweeted repeatedly that he wanted to protect people with preexisting health conditions.

Many of our Republican colleagues in this Chamber in the Senate, and in the House, said they don't like some parts of the Affordable Care Act, but they want to protect people with preexisting conditions from discrimination by insurance companies. Yet the Texas lawsuit dismantles the Affordable Care Act top to bottom, including getting rid of provisions that protect people with preexisting conditions.

I think it is important to remind people what that means because it means children with expensive, chronic medical conditions will no longer be able to get that kind of coverage.

We also know that before the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies had arbitrary annual caps early in each year. So if a child had a chronic condition and the costs of helping that child, providing medical attention to that child, began to build up, they would sometimes hit that cap before their fifth birthday, and then the family would be on its own. People were paying health plans for coverage and services they needed, only to discover in the fine print that coverage really wasn't there for them when they needed it, and women who became pregnant found that their insurance plans would not cover any of their prenatal care or deliveries. Many of our fellow Americans were diagnosed with cancer only to discover that their plans did not cover chemotherapy.

When the Texas attorney general, with a cohort of other Republican attorneys general, filed that lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act, they filed a lawsuit that put a dagger in the heart of the consumer protections and patient protections we had in the Affordable Care Act. It was Mr. Readler who didn't come to the defense of the law for the Department of Justice but in fact went after the Affordable Care Act and sided with the attorneys general in Texas.

Indeed, there was a U.S. district court judge in Texas who went along with these legal arguments. What that means is, the case is now traveling through the Federal court system. It will go to the circuit courts and may end up at the Supreme Court. So I would hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who say they want judges who are going to do the right thing and call the balls and strikes as they see them and who have also said they support protections for people with preexisting health conditions would be nervous about putting someone on the court who says the law requires them to take the opposite position of what our colleagues say they support right now.

As we approach this vote, make no mistake, in many ways, this is a vote on the future of protections for people with preexisting health conditions.

Unfortunately, Mr. Readler has also taken a position on discrimination issues that is very troublesome on other fronts, specifically with respect to LGBT rights. Under his leadership,

in his office, the Department of Justice submitted a brief in the case of *Zarda v. Altitude Express*. In that case, Zarda, who was an employee, alleged that his company had fired him because of his sexual orientation, and the Department of Justice did not take the side against the right of employers to discriminate based on sexual orientation. What they argued was that title VII of the Civil Rights Act does not cover discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Fortunately, in a rare en banc decision, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals held that the LGBT community is protected as a class under the Civil Rights Act, but, unfortunately, because of a circuit split surrounding this issue, it is likely to go up through the court system and find its way to the Supreme Court. The position he took on behalf of the Trump Justice Department is a telltale sign of where Mr. Readler stands on questions of whether the law protects people who have been discriminated against.

I should say this is not a new issue. For many of us, there have been efforts in Congress to address this issue. In my State of Maryland, in 2001, we passed an anti-discrimination act that says it is illegal to discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation in housing, in employment, and in public accommodations. I recall that the bill was filibustered late into the evening by Republican State legislators, but fortunately for Marylanders it passed.

I am also concerned about Mr. Readler's record in taking the side of tobacco companies during his time as a partner at Jones Day, specifically R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Like many of us here, I have worked for many years—first, in the Maryland State Legislature and since then in the U.S. Congress—to curb tobacco use, especially among young people. I hope we all agree we don't want young people to get hooked on tobacco products or to get hooked on nicotine, which we know is very bad for their health and could very likely kill them in the long run. Yet Mr. Readler took the position of the tobacco companies, defining this issue simply as one of the need to have somebody who would stick up for special interests even when it was against the public health interests of the American people.

He represented the tobacco giants in a number of cases—product liability cases and commercial speech cases. In one example, the city of Buffalo, up in New York, passed a ban on tobacco ads within 1,000 feet of facilities frequented by children, like schools, playgrounds, and daycare centers. The purpose of that local ordinance was, of course, to prevent kids from seeing these ads and saying: Hey, that looks like something I want to do. Let's try this tobacco product. Maybe it is a candy-flavored tobacco product, maybe it is another tobacco product. The whole point of the ordinance was to protect the health of kids. Yet Mr. Readler fought against that local ordinance.

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, which is an organization that rarely, if ever, gets involved in judicial nominations, has found the position Mr. Readler took on behalf of these tobacco companies so far out and so extreme that they have taken the position of opposing the nomination.

So whether it is fighting to dismantle protections for people with preexisting conditions, as Mr. Readler did from his perch in the Trump Department of Justice, or whether it is the positions he took as a lawyer for the tobacco industry, trying to knock down local ordinances and other laws to protect kids from tobacco and getting addicted to nicotine, or the position he has taken not to prevent discrimination but to say our laws do not protect people against basic forms of discrimination, in my view, Mr. Readler is disqualified from taking a position on a court where the goal of every justice, regardless of who appoints them, should be justice itself and making sure everybody who comes before that court gets a fair shake. They should not be positions based on the power of a special interest like the tobacco lobby, and it should not be a decision based on political slogans or political promises. Rather, it should be based on the law itself. So I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination.

Even among nominees who are very far to the right and who take a very restricted view of our rights and liberties, this is a nominee who finds himself way outside the mainstream.

I urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination of Mr. Readler.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to announce my opposition to the nomination of Chad Readler to be a Judge on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As the Acting Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Civil Division, Mr. Readler was both a lead attorney and policy adviser in the Department's decision not to defend the Affordable Care Act, including its provisions protecting individuals with preexisting conditions.

Rather than defend the law and its protections for individuals with preexisting conditions, such as asthma, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease, Mr. Readler's brief in *Texas v. United States* argued that they should be invalidated.

I strongly objected to DOJ's position to not defend the law, and it is telling that this position also concerned some other career attorneys in the Department. In fact, three career attorneys withdrew from the case rather than support this position, and one of those attorneys eventually resigned.

In my view, the Justice Department's severability argument is wrong and implausible. On June 27, 2018, I wrote to Attorney General Sessions and urged the Justice Department to reverse course and to defend the law's critical protections for individuals with preexisting conditions. Even the Justice Department acknowledged that it was

"rare" for the government to refuse to defend the laws of the United States against constitutional challenges.

I have continuously stressed the importance of protecting Americans who suffer from preexisting conditions, including 45 percent of Maine's population: 590,000 Mainers. In July 2017, I voted to block several proposals to repeal the ACA, which I feared would reduce protections for individuals with preexisting conditions. In October 2018, I voted to overturn a Trump administration rule that expands the duration of short-term health insurance plans, which could deny coverage to people with preexisting conditions.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. 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. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to finish my comments before the vote. I expect it to take not more than about 3 or 4 minutes.

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

#### NOMINATION OF ALLISON JOAN RUSHING

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I come to the floor to thank my colleagues who voted and who will be voting to move forward the nomination of Allison Joan Rushing to be the U.S. Circuit Court judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Ms. Rushing has a great history in North Carolina. She is actually from East Flat Rock, NC. Both of her parents were educators who taught in the North Carolina public school system. She received her degree with honors from Wake Forest, and she received her law degree from Duke University. She now has over 11 years of experience practicing law and is really considered one of the fast-rising stars of the legal profession.

I have had the opportunity to get to know Ms. Rushing through the nomination process, and I know she is going to do a great job as a circuit court judge on the Fourth Circuit.

From the ABA, she has received from a substantial majority a "qualified" rating and from a minority a "well qualified" rating. She is clearly qualified to do this job. She is young. She is bright. She is a topnotch litigator, and I look forward to casting my vote here in a couple of minutes. Again, I think my colleagues will also be casting a vote in support of confirming this nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rushing nomination?

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 35 Ex.]

#### YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

#### NAYS—44

Baldwin	Harris	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Jones	Schumer
Brown	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Udall
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	

#### NOT VOTING—3

Heinrich	Sanders	Sinema
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### 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 bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, David Perdue, Roy Blunt, John Cornyn, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, John Boozman, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Steve Daines, James E. Risch, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, John Thune, Pat Roberts, Jerry Moran.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 36 Ex.]

#### YEAS—53

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	McSally	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Enzi	Murkowski	Young
Ernst	Paul	

#### NAYS—45

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—2

Sanders	Sinema
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, in California, several counties and cities are suing the big oil companies to hold them liable for the damages that climate change is causing to the infrastructure out there. As judges consider these cases, one thing they will be asked to keep in mind is Big Oil's history of deception and lies.

A group of scientific experts filed this friend-of-the-court brief out in the Ninth Circuit, carefully charting that history, that pattern of deception and

lies. The group of scholars and scientists chronicled how the fossil fuel companies had actual knowledge of the risks of their products and had taken "proactive steps to conceal their knowledge and discredit climate science" while at the same time taking steps based on that science to protect their own assets from the impacts of climate change.

It is a 51-page document, so let me cut to the chase. Big Oil knew for a very long time that the production and burning of fossil fuels would be disastrous for the planet. Yet they did everything in their power to confuse the public, undermine the scientific evidence of the dangers, and prevent action to stave off this worldwide problem. The brief makes a fascinating read. Here are some highlights.

Way back in 1959, when I was a kid and Dwight Eisenhower was President, Columbia University held a symposium attended by oil industry executives to mark the 100th anniversary of the petroleum industry. At that event, the legendary Dr. Edward Teller, a physicist, warned the industry about global warming. He said:

[A] temperature rise corresponding to a 10 percent increase in carbon dioxide will be sufficient to melt the icecap and submerge New York. . . . [T]his chemical contamination is more serious than most people tend to believe.

In 1959, A few years later, in 1965, at the American Petroleum Institute's annual meeting, API president Frank Ikard briefed the Big Oil trade group on a report from President Johnson's Science Advisory Committee that predicted significant global warming by the end of the century, caused by fossil fuels, and warned that "there is still time to save the world's peoples from the catastrophic consequence of pollution, but time is running out." The American Petroleum Institute, 1965.

API then commissioned a Stanford Research Institute report on the climate problem which was made available to its membership in 1968. The report said:

[R]ising levels of CO<sub>2</sub> would likely result in rising global temperatures. . . . [T]he result could be melting ice caps, rising sea levels, warming oceans, and serious environmental damage on a global scale.

Then, in 1969, Stanford produced a supplemental report for the American Petroleum Institute. As the authors of this brief tell the Ninth Circuit, "The report projected that . . . atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations would reach 370 [parts per million] by 2000—exactly what it turned out to be." That was 1968 and 1969, very clear warnings that have come to pass.

Big Oil did not just rely on the American Petroleum Institute to do its research on climate change. Ed Garvey was an Exxon scientist at the time. Mr. Garvey said:

By the late 1970s, global warming was no longer speculative.

Did you get that? "By the late 1970s, global warming was no longer speculative," said the Exxon scientist.

The issue was not were we going to have a problem, the issue was simply how soon and how fast and how bad was it going to be. Not if.

Indeed, Exxon did a lot of climate research, and they understood the science well. A 1979 internal Exxon study found that:

[The] increase [in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration] is due to fossil fuel combustion . . . and the present trend of fossil fuel consumption will cause dramatic environmental effects before the year 2050.

Meanwhile—back to the American Petroleum Institute—they had put together a task force on what they called the CO<sub>2</sub> problem. In 1980, Dr. John Laurman told this API task force that "foreseeable temperature increases could have major economic consequences [and] globally catastrophic effects." The American Petroleum Institute, 1980.

Back at Exxon, Roger Cohen, the director of Exxon's Theoretical and Mathematical Sciences Laboratory, warned in 1981—the next year—about the magnitude of this problem.

[I]t is distinctly possible that [Exxon's planning] scenario will later produce effects which will indeed be catastrophic (at least for a substantial fraction of the earth's population).

In 1982, Roger Cohen reiterated his warning:

Over the past several years a clear scientific consensus has emerged regarding—

This is 1982—

the expected climatic effects of increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

He continues:

[There is] unanimous agreement in the scientific community that a temperature increase of this magnitude would bring about significant changes in the earth's climate.

Unanimous agreement in the scientific community.

In 1982, Exxon's own scientist said this, but almost four decades later, the Trump administration pretends that we just don't know. Well, we do know.

Back to the brief. In 1982, an internal Exxon corporate primer said that, in order to mitigate the effects of global warming, "[there is a need for] major reductions in fossil fuel combustion. . . . [T]here are some potentially catastrophic events that must be considered. . . . [O]nce the effects are measurable, they might not be reversible."

So on into the late seventies and the early eighties, they knew.

This is from a 1998 report by Shell Oil's Greenhouse Effect Working Group:

Man-made carbon dioxide, released into and accumulated in the atmosphere, is believed to warm the earth through the so-called greenhouse effect. . . . [B]y the time the global warming becomes detectable it could be too late to take effective countermeasures to reduce the effects or even to stabilise the situation.

So, long story short, Big Oil knew, API knew, Exxon knew, Shell knew. They knew, but Big Oil also realized that understanding climate change meant limiting carbon emissions, and that meant less oil sales. So they

began to tell something very different than what they knew to the public.

A 1998 Exxon internal memo acknowledged that the “greenhouse effect may be one of the most significant environmental issues for the 1990s,” but Exxon’s position would be to try to “[e]mphasize the uncertainty in scientific conclusions regarding the potential enhanced Greenhouse effect,” and that became the drumbeat of the industry: minimize the danger—the one they knew—that the greenhouse effect may be one of the most significant environmental issues for the 1990s but, instead, undermine the science.

So the industry set up front groups with innocuous-sounding names like the Global Climate Coalition or the Information Council on the Environment to do this PR work for it. The scientific brief notes this bit of industry propaganda from 1996 from the so-called Global Climate Coalition: “If there is an anthropogenic component to this observed warming, the GCC believes that it must be very small.”

Well, here is what an earlier draft of the same document said: “[The] scientific basis for the Greenhouse Effect and the potential impacts of human emissions of greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> on climate is well established and cannot be denied.”

They just weren’t telling the truth. They knew, and they said things they knew were not true.

Money poured from the oil industry into these denialist groups. In 1991, the so-called Information Council on the Environment launched a nationwide campaign with one goal, to “reposition global warming as theory (not fact).” This thing they said was well established and cannot be denied, they decided to reposition as theory, not fact.

The polluters kept this up all the way through the 1990s. A 1998 American Petroleum Institute strategy memo tells what they wanted people to believe, even though they knew it wasn’t true. They said: “[It is] not known for sure whether (a) climate change is actually occurring, or (b) if it is, whether humans really have any influence on it.”

Again, well established, cannot be denied on the one hand and not sure whether it is occurring or whether humans have anything to do with it on the other hand.

Here is Martin Hoffert, who was an Exxon scientist for 20 years. He said:

Even though we—

“We,” meaning the Exxon scientists.

Even though we were writing all these papers . . . [saying] that climate change from CO<sub>2</sub> emissions was going to change the climate of the earth . . . the front office—

The front office said otherwise.

. . . the front office which was concerned with promoting the products of the company was also supporting people that we call climate change deniers.

So even as they spun this massive fraud out to the public, Big Oil internally took the evidence of climate change seriously. They took the evidence of climate change seriously enough to factor it into their own plan-

et. So while they were telling the public “This isn’t for real, and we don’t have anything to do it with, and the science isn’t secure,” they were doing their own planning based on that very science.

For instance, in designing and building the Sable gas field project off the shores of Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mobil, Shell, and Imperial Oil explicitly told their own engineers about sea level rise. They said that “[a]n estimated rise . . . due to global warming, of 0.5 meters may be assumed.”

Big Oil protected its own assets against predicted sea level rise based on this science, while, at the same time, funding a massive campaign of deception to fool the public and policymakers about this science. They protected themselves, and they connived to prevent the public from taking steps to protect itself.

There are some unsung heroes in this climate battle. Among them number the dedicated and assiduous group of scholars and scientists who track this climate denial apparatus that this industry built. Many of them are the authors of this brief, such as Robert Brule, Justin Farrell, Benjamin Franta, Stephan Lewandowsky, Naomi Oreskes, and Geoffrey Supran. They are just a few. There are many, many others who are watching, examining, reporting, and subject to a peer review chronicling the climate denial apparatus set up by the oil industry to fool the public. They patiently and thoroughly assembled in their brief a record of industry malfeasance, and they are helping to make sure that the long history of industry deception is part of the court’s official record.

I thank them for their work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The majority leader.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Readler nomination expire at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

##### NOMINATION OBJECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request relating to the nomination of William R. Evanina to be Direc-

tor of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, PNI92.

When I noticed my intention to place a hold on this nominee back in June of 2018, I made it very clear to the public and to the administration my reasons for doing so, and I put my statement of those reasons in the RECORD. I have done that consistently, not only since the rules of the Senate require every Member to do that, but even before that rule was ever put in place.

I continue to experience difficulties obtaining relevant documents and briefings from the Justice Department and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, ODNI, related to 2016 election controversies. On several occasions, Deputy Attorney General, DAG, Rod Rosenstein has personally assured me that the Senate Judiciary Committee would receive equal access to information provided to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, HPSCI, with regard to any concessions in its negotiations regarding pending subpoenas from that committee. However, I and the Judiciary Committee have not received equal access.

For example, on August 7, 2018, I wrote to the Justice Department and pointed out that the House Intelligence Committee had received documents related to Bruce Ohr that we had not received. The Department initially denied those records had been provided to the House Intelligence Committee. After my staff confronted the Department, we eventually received some Bruce Ohr documents. In that 2018 letter I have referred to, I asked for documents based on my equal access agreement with Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein, and I have not received a response to date.

I have since learned that the Justice Department has taken the position that Director Coats has prohibited them from sharing the requested records with the committee.

In addition to the records request, in May 2018, the Director of National Intelligence and the Justice Department provided a briefing in connection with a pending House Intel subpoena to which no Senate Judiciary Committee member was invited.

Thus far, the committee’s attempts to schedule an equivalent briefing have been ignored.

The administration’s continued, ongoing, and blatant lack of cooperation has forced my hand. I must object to any consideration of this nomination.

In the authorizing resolution that created the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, SSCI, the Senate explicitly reserves for other standing committees, such as the Senate Judiciary Committee, independent authority to “study and review any intelligence or intelligence-related activity” and “to obtain full and prompt access to the product of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of a department or agency,” when such a

matter “directly affects a matter otherwise within the jurisdiction of that committee,” S. Res. 400. As I understand it, the information at issue here falls into that category.

Thus, unfortunately, I must object to any consideration of this nomination. My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Mr. Evanina in any way. This objection falls squarely on the administration's continued failure to uphold their end of the agreement. The executive branch must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

#### TRIBUTE TO BILL BAIRD

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this year, the University of Pikeville in my home State will mark its 130th year of service to students in the mountains of central Appalachia. For more than half of that time, a member of the Baird family has served the school, its community, and most importantly, its students. After three decades of service, Bill Baird recently retired from the UPIKE board of trustees. In recognition of his legacy of leadership, mentorship, and accomplishment, UPIKE President Burton J. Webb awarded my friend with the inaugural Baird Family Service Award. So, I would like to take a moment today to pay tribute to Bill Baird and his family for their steadfast contributions to eastern Kentucky.

Bill's family is deeply rooted in this region with history going back nearly a century. His father, William J. Baird II, grew up on a farm in the Bluegrass State before attending Berea College. In 1947, William hung a shingle, founding Baird & Baird law firm. Outside of his professional success, William dedicated much of his life to philanthropy and leadership, serving on the board of trustees of Pikeville Community College for nearly three decades. In gratitude for his service to the Pikeville community and the central Appalachian region, William received an honorary doctor of humanities degree in 1977 from Pikeville College, UPIKE's name until 2011. Bill's mother, Florane, attended the Pikeville Collegiate Institute, a high school that later became part of the modern UPIKE. Through her care and compassion for the community, Florane also received an honorary doctorate from Pikeville College. Bill lovingly remembered them both as service-oriented people, and their influence, paired with a deep faith, inspired his work for the Pikeville community and the school.

Working in the mines while studying at Pikeville College, Bill graduated in 1966. He later earned admission to the bar and served our country in the U.S. Army. Reentering private life, Bill worked at the family law firm and was eventually joined by his brothers, Charles and John, and members of the family's next generation.

Even as he worked full time at Baird & Baird, Bill seemed to find extra

hours in the day for his community. With leadership roles at UPIKE, in his church, and at Westcare of Kentucky—a substance abuse treatment facility—Bill constantly gave of himself to others. He coached the local high school's softball team for nearly two decades and the UPIKE team from 1994–2004, even receiving admission into the university's athletic hall of fame. After he retired from the practice, Bill hardly slowed down. He did so much pro bono work that he quipped, “Some people say I'm the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day.”

When asked about his impact on the school, the chairman of UPIKE's board said Bill gave “of his time, talent, and treasure to the university at a level few have ever given, and he has done so with an unmatched sense of love and care.” A great deal of Bill's support focused on first-time college students from the local community to foster the potential of Pikeville families. In addition to creating the award named in the Baird family's honor, the board of trustees also unanimously voted to establish the Bill Baird Family Scholarship to improve student retention and to help provide for students who may struggle to afford their education.

Bill's not the only impressive member of his household. Kaye, his wife, spent much of her career contributing to the community, helping lead organizations like the chamber of commerce, the school board, and the Christian Appalachian Project. Excelling as an educator, she touched the lives of numerous eastern Kentucky children and earned her place in the inaugural class of UPIKE's Distinguished Educators Hall of Fame.

Bill and Kaye have done so much for their community, with compassion, philanthropy, and leadership. I am so proud to pay tribute to the Baird family. They have earned our thanks and have made a lasting impact on this region. I am glad the Baird family name has rightfully earned a place of honor at UPIKE, and I ask each of my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating Bill and Kaye for a lifetime of dedicated service to Kentucky.

The UPIKE Magazine published a profile on Bill's contributions to the school. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the UPIKE Magazine, Fall 2018]

THE BAIRD FAMILY LEGACY: BILL BAIRD  
HONORED FOR EMBODIMENT OF SERVICE

(By Mark Baggett)

“Our dad was a great teacher in treating people right,” says Bill Baird about his father, William J. Baird II, and about the heart of the Baird family's long legacy of support for UPIKE students.

Among the many stories of the family's support, a remarkable statistic stands out: A Baird has been serving at UPIKE for over half of the 129 years of its existence. During the 2018 opening convocation ceremony, President Burton J. Webb, Ph.D., honored

UPIKE Trustee Emeritus Bill Baird with the inaugural Baird Family Service Award, in recognition of his remarkable impact on the lives of others through steadfast service to the university, to the Appalachian region and to all humanity.

“In 2019, we will celebrate 130 years of service in the mountains of Central Appalachia,” says Webb. “During that span of time few families have impacted the college more than the Baird family. Bill Baird has taken the legacy of servant leadership from his mother, father, and brother even further. He has been a softball coach, a friend of the university and an ardent supporter of the university for decades.”

After more than 30 years of distinguished service Bill Baird retired from the UPIKE Board of Trustees, which was also served by Bill's father and brother, Charles. In recognition of Bill Baird's indelible contributions, the board voted unanimously to establish and fund the Bill Baird Family Scholarship to improve student retention by filling financial gaps for students.

“You pick up the need down here,” says Bill Baird. “There is a gap between the educated part of the community and the working class such as the retired coal miners or people on fixed incomes.”

UPIKE Board Chairman Terry L. Dotson has witnessed the fruits of Bill Baird's selflessness for decades.

“The entire Baird family is a treasure to Eastern Kentucky and to the University of Pikeville,” Dotson says. “Bill is an exceptional person in every way. He is someone every good person strives to be. Bill cares about all things—his church, family and community. He has been a special board member who has fully given of his time, talent and treasure to the university at a level few have ever given, and he has done so with an unmatched sense of love and care. Bill is my friend and has served our board with distinction.”

Dotson's sentiments are echoed by UPIKE Trustee Richard A. Sturgill. “Bill Baird has been an inspiration to me and many others in the UPIKE community. His unwavering positive attitude, his willingness to encourage and mentor the students and his ability to always stand up for what is right has been steadfast. I am thankful to call him my friend,” says Sturgill.

Bill Baird says the university and medical and optometry colleges are “miracles.”

“UPIKE is a light on the hill to this city, the region and even nationally. To me, what we are is the answered prayers for the many people who laid the foundation for this place by praying for years. These are people who have sacrificed and dedicated themselves to the university.”

Humbly, Bill Baird deflects the spotlight to his parents. His father, who died in 1987, was raised on a Kentucky farm and was a graduate of Berea College and Duke Law School (a classmate of Richard Nixon). He also founded in 1947 the Baird & Baird law firm in Pikeville where Bill Baird and his brothers (Charles and John) as well as children, grandchildren and in-laws also practice. Bill Baird's mother Florane Justice Baird, who died in 2011, also had strong Pikeville roots: She attended the Training School for grades 1–8 in Pikeville (which operated in the original college building) and then the Pikeville Collegiate Institute for high school, before going to the University of Kentucky.

“My parents were very service-oriented people,” says Bill Baird. “They were giving, caring people who gave back to their community.”

Bill Baird started at Duke University as an undergraduate and says he “made an A in fraternity and an A in football,” and soon he

returned to the Pikeville area and worked in the mines, graduated from Pikeville college in 1966. He was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1969 and served in the U.S. Army from 1969–1971.

A life-transforming event happened to him in the spring of 1973 when he heard the Rev. Ben Sheldon, who was then a Presbyterian pastor in Washington, D.C., preach in Pikeville.

"He started preaching the gospel of God's love," Baird says of Sheldon, who later became a pastor in Pikeville. "I felt a personal love that He died for me. It was God's timing."

Baird went on to practice law in Pikeville, joking that "in Hatfield and McCoy country, folks can be litigious here." He now describes his role as a "sometime" attorney, not full-time nor part-time, who does pro bono work and helps fill in for other attorneys at court appearances. "Some people say I'm the only retired person they know who comes in to the office every day," he says.

He followed up on his short "athletic" career at Duke by coaching softball at Pikeville High School from 1986–2004 and at the university from 1994–2004. Today one of the family's scholarships is dedicated to athletics, and Bill Baird himself is a member of the university's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Much of the family's UPIKE support is described by Bill Baird as meeting the needs of first-time college students who come from the community. He says he hopes the scholarships will address larger gaps as well.

To meet additional need in his region, Bill Baird has been actively involved in several faith-based groups and community support programs. He has supported the Fellowship of Christian Athletes program, provided devotional Bibles to coaches and is Board Chairman of WestCare of Kentucky, Inc., which is involved in treatment of substance abuse.

Today, the Baird Family Circle is one of the granite inlays of Benefactor's Plaza on campus. Acknowledging the recent service award and scholarship fund honoring him at UPIKE, Bill Baird says, "Christ made the difference in my life. He gave me an opportunity to serve in this way."

He praises this year's fellow recipients of the Baird Family Service award, UPIKE Trustee Gregory Pauley and his wife, Kathryn, characterizing them as "wonderful, caring people," whose mobile home park neighborhood ministry is just the kind of generosity and service embodied by the Baird legacy.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 34, the motion to invoke cloture on Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be U.S. circuit judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 35, the confirmation of Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

I was necessarily absent but, had I been present, would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 36, the motion to invoke cloture on Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.●

#### TRIBUTE TO LINDSAY NOTHERN

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I honor my communications director Lindsay Nothern for his dedication of more than 20 years to Senate service.

Lindsay has been a valued member of my staff since we both started Senate service in 1999. When I was sworn in as a U.S. Senator, my communications director refused to hire a press secretary immediately because she wanted to bring Lindsay onto the staff, and he was not available for a few months, so she did double duty until he was able to join my staff, and I have always been grateful for her insistence that we wait for him. His instincts and media savvy have been spot-on so many times over the two decades he has been with me.

Lindsay's strategic view of how activities and policy initiatives are presented has been instrumental. From press secretary, he moved to serving as communications director in 2011. While Lindsay may not be an Idahoan by birth, he has certainly earned his Gem State stripes through his depth and breadth of knowledge about the State. His experience as a journalist has served him well, first in reporting and managing the news from the journalist side and then from the other side as a press secretary and media representative. His prior work includes serving as press secretary for former Idaho Governor Phil Batt, who initially dubbed Lindsay as "Scoop," and campaign press secretary for Congressman MIKE SIMPSON in Congressman SIMPSON's first House campaign.

Lindsay is unfailingly one of the most pleasant people I have ever encountered. He can be counted on to be a great sounding board and listener, regardless of his personal opinions. I trust him to represent me to Idahoans throughout the State and know that he will always leave a meeting with a handful of new friends. That includes those who show up angry and unannounced in my office, demanding a meeting. Lindsay has demonstrated patience, commitment, and empathy in meeting for hundreds of hours with those who have taken issue with some aspect of government, the administration, or me. He is also a great encourager among staff, helping them to know their good work is valued and appreciated.

Several issues have become close to Lindsay's heart—among them, domestic violence prevention and awareness. Somewhere in my office archives, there is a photo of Lindsay in women's heels as he took part in a "walk a mile in her shoes" event, representing the office. That was not a comfortable experience for his feet, but he has been a strong advocate in helping me find ways to illuminate and bring awareness to domestic violence matters.

Thank you, Lindsay, for your 20 years of dedicated service to our Nation and the people of Idaho, and thank you for your continual assistance and friendship over the years. Congratula-

tions on this milestone of public service for the betterment of Idaho and our Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO JULIE BROOKER

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, today I would like to recognize Julie Brooker, my central Nebraska director of constituent services who retired at the end of February.

Julie Brooker's service in the U.S. Senate began in 1997 and has spanned three U.S. Senators from Nebraska: former Senator Chuck Hagel, former Senator Mike Johanns, and myself.

Before her longtime work as a Senate staffer, Julie was a committed and hardworking volunteer on a number of political campaigns.

She was well known as someone willing to haul yard signs all over Nebraska's huge third district.

You see, a commitment to helping and serving others ran in Julie's family.

Julie's dad, Gordon, served faithfully as a local volunteer firefighter, and her mom, Doralene, served on both the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors and the Nebraska Public Power District Board.

Their example instilled in her lessons in treating people with kindness, listening to others' concerns, and lending a helping hand.

If you were planning a run for office in Nebraska, Julie Brooker was someone you needed to go see.

When I decided to run for U.S. Senate, Julie was one of the first people I visited with, and she was so very generous with her time and her advice.

During her Senate career, Julie sacrificed many days, nights, and weekends to serve the people of Nebraska well.

She was renowned for driving whichever U.S. Senator she was serving at the time all over the third district.

In every county, Julie had many friends. Her genuine interest in others and friendly, approachable demeanor were always on display.

Over the years Julie worked in my office, I was always completely confident that she was representing me well and that my constituents in Kearney and throughout the central region of the State were in the very best of hands.

Whether it was through her tenacity in helping resolve casework, her willingness to meet with any Nebraskan who crossed her path, or her ability to provide tough news in compassionate ways, Julie has always had a servant's heart.

Serving Nebraskans wasn't a job for Julie, it was a calling. She loves Nebraska, and she loves Nebraskans.

I want to thank Julie's husband, Jim, for loaning Julie to the people of central Nebraska for so many years.

I am also so very grateful to Julie's kids and grandkids for sacrificing time with her so that she could put the time and energy she had into this service to the people of Nebraska.



The city of Kearney, the State of Nebraska, and the U.S. Senate are better because of Julie's wonderful work throughout the years.

She is a dedicated, committed person who focused on making life better for Nebraskans.

She is truly one of a kind.

I congratulate Julie on her remarkable career in public service. I thank her for her many years of service to our State and to our people, and I wish her a retirement full of joy and fulfillment.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO ANN MITCHELL

• Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, today I wish to recognize Ann Mitchell for her 20 years of outstanding dedication and visionary leadership as president and CEO of Montgomery Hospice. I am grateful to Ann for her tireless efforts to provide quality and compassionate end-of-life care and services to residents of Montgomery County, MD.

Ann understands that the experience of people who are dying is extremely personal and that each of us has a cultural identity that is part of our character. When people are in their final weeks of life, Ann believes that it is paramount that each of us is cared for with a deep respect for our cultural identity.

Ann considers herself a global citizen, as she grew up in seven countries around the world. She celebrates diversity and recognizes the value that a multicultural team brings to end-of-life care. Ann has worked diligently to make Montgomery Hospice diverse at all levels, including in senior management, and firmly supports inclusion and equity initiatives.

Montgomery Hospice is well-known for its inpatient hospice, "Casey House"; its comprehensive "Hospice at Home" service; and its compassionate "Bereavement Care" service. All Montgomery Hospice services support its mission "To Gentle the Journey" for the dying residents of Montgomery County, MD.

A trustee of Smith College, Ann graduated with a major in economics from Smith. She earned a master's in public health at Yale University. For the past 20 years, Ann has led Montgomery Hospice strategically in service to its patients, employees, and volunteers.

I have known Ann for over 20 years, and I can personally attest to the dedication and compassion she has brought to her job. It has been an honor to support her efforts as she enlisted many in our community in her important work. She has been totally committed to her mission of ensuring that every individual in her care is treated with the utmost respect and dignity, and our community is stronger and better because of her work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing all that Ann Mitchell has done to make a difference in the lives of others.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

##### REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 OF MARCH 8, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela, is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2019.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 5, 2019.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1112. An act to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-474. A communication from the Chief of the Planning and Regulatory Affairs Branch, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Eligibility, Certification, and Employment and Training Provisions of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008" (RIN0584-AE54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-475. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to transnational criminal organizations that was declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-476. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-477. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Libya that was originally declared in Executive Order 13566 of February 25, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-478. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Uniform Mortgage-Backed Security" (RIN2590-AA94) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-479. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Minnesota; Commercial and Industrial Solid Waste Incineration Units and Other Solid Waste Incineration Units Negative Declarations for Designated Facilities and Pollutants" (FRL No. 9990-45-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-480. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Ohio Permit Rules Revisions" (FRL No. 9990-44-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-481. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Tennessee; NO<sub>x</sub>



SIP Call and CAIR” (FRL No. 9990-32-Region 4) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-482. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Michigan Minor New Source Review Rescission” (FRL No. 9990-43-Region 5) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-483. A communication from the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2019 Trade Policy Agenda and 2018 Annual Report of the President of the United States on the Trade Agreements Program; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-484. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Finalizing Medicare Regulations under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003 For Calendar Year 2018”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-485. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Identification of Quality Measurement Priorities—Strategic Plan, Initiatives, and Activities”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-486. A communication from the Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, transmitting a report relative to the Annual 2018 Session of the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-487. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Limited Population Pathway”; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-488. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Gamma-Linolenic Acid Safflower Oil” ((21 CFR Part 573) (Docket No. FDA-2017-F-4511)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-489. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements” (RIN0937-ZA00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-490. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2019 Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustments for Ethics in Government Act Violations” (RIN3209-AA45) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-491. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-631, “District Government

Employee Residency Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-492. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-608, “Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-493. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-609, “Employment Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Offenses, and Stalking Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-494. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-610, “Language Access for Education Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-495. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-611, “Disabled Veterans Homestead Exemption Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-496. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-612, “East End Grocery Incentive Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-497. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-613, “Safe Disposal of Controlled Substances Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-498. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-615, “Principle-Based Reserves Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-499. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-616, “Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-500. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-617, “Opioid Overdose Treatment and Prevention Omnibus Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-501. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-618, “Gas Station Advisory Board Abolishment Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-502. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-619, “Community Health Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-503. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-621, “LGBTQ Health Data Collection Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-504. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-622, “Insurance Modernization and Accreditation Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-505. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-623, “Safe Fields and Playgrounds Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-506. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-624, “School Safety Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-507. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-632, “Economic Development Return on Investment Accountability Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-508. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-633, “Wage Garnishment Fairness Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-509. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-634, “Performing Arts Promotion Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-510. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-635, “Repeat Parking Violations Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-511. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-636, “DC Water Consumer Protection Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-512. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-637, “Athletic Trainers Clarification Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-513. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-638, “Hyacinth’s Place Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-514. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-639, “Local Jobs and Tax Incentive Amendment Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-515. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-640, “Students in the Care of D.C. Coordinating Committee Act of 2018”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-516. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report

on D.C. Act 22-641, "New Communities Bond Authorization Temporary Amendment Act of 2018"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-517. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-642, "Community Harassment Prevention Temporary Amendment Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-518. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 22-643, "Power Line Underground Program Certified Business Enterprise Utilization Temporary Act of 2019"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-519. A communication from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pacific Island Pelagic Fisheries; False Killer Whale Take Reduction Plan; Closure of Southern Exclusion Zone" (RIN0648-XG781) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 4, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-520. A communication from the Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Passenger Equipment Safety Standards; Standards for Alternative Compliance and High-Speed Trainsets" ((RIN2130-AC46) (49 CFR Parts 229, 231, 236, and 238)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 1, 2019; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-10. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Maine urging the United States Congress to pass legislation to support Federal Employees in Maine affected by the federal government shutdown; to the Committee on Appropriations.

H.P. 280

Whereas, the longest partial shutdown in the history of the United States government began on December 22, 2018; and

Whereas, the federal government shutdown is affecting approximately 800,000 federal employees; and

Whereas, in Maine the workers currently affected are employees of the Department of Homeland Security, which includes airport screening personnel and members of the United States Coast Guard, and employees of Acadia National Park; and

Whereas, those federal workers who have not been furloughed are obliged to work without pay; and

Whereas, the federal government shutdown is also having an affect on other industries in Maine, such as tourism, and small businesses that depend upon federal regulation and loan processing; and

Whereas, as the federal government shutdown continues, there is potential for many social and housing services in the State to be negatively affected; and

Whereas, it is important for the economic health of the State that the federal government shutdown cease as quickly as possible; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That We, your Memorialists, on behalf of the people we represent, take this

opportunity to respectfully request that the United States Congress take immediate steps to reach a compromise and end the partial shutdown of the Federal Government and restore financial security to the lives of citizens; and be it further

*Resolved*, That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each Member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

### 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:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. JONES):

S. 645. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the inclusion of homeschooled students in Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps units; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 646. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require a full military honors ceremony for certain deceased veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 647. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on certain trading transactions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. UDALL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 648. A bill to ensure the humane treatment of pregnant women by reinstating the presumption of release and prohibiting shackling, restraining, and other inhumane treatment of pregnant detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 649. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to obtain the consent of affected State and local governments before making an expenditure from the Nuclear Waste Fund for a nuclear waste repository, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 650. A bill to assist entrepreneurs, support development of the creative economy, and encourage international cultural exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. ROBERTS):

S. 651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. UDALL, Mr. CARPER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 652. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to continue selling the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Semipostal Stamp until all remaining stamps are sold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 653. A bill for the relief of Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 654. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a pilot program to develop and provide to States and transportation planning organizations accessibility data sets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 655. A bill to impose additional restrictions on tobacco flavors for use in e-cigarettes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 656. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to address certain issues relating to the extension of consumer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 657. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to establish requirements with respect to prescription drug benefits; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 658. A bill to provide for an accelerated approval pathway for certain drugs that are authorized to be lawfully marketed in other countries; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 659. A bill to provide for certain additional requirements with respect to patent disclosures; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 660. A bill to address abuse of the Food and Drug Administration's citizen petition process by brand drug manufacturers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 661. A bill to provide for enhanced protections for vulnerable alien children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. COONS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 662. A bill to provide access to counsel for unaccompanied alien children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 663. A bill to clarify the status and enhance the effectiveness of immigration courts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 664. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to clarify the requirements for meeting the definition of the term "employee", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. UDALL, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 665. A bill to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries caused by underride crashes, to improve motor carrier and passenger motor vehicle safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BENNETT (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 666. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants to organizations for the provision of transition assistance to members and former members of the Armed Forces who are separated, retired, or discharged from the Armed Forces, and spouses of such members, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. TOOMEY):

S. 667. A bill to impose sanctions with respect to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. MCSALLY):

S. Res. 93. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 2, 2019, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. JONES, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNETT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 94. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the Department of Justice should protect individuals with pre-existing medical conditions by defending the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) in *Texas v. United States*, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.), in which the plaintiffs seek to invalidate

protections for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 95. A resolution recognizing the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 148

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 148, a bill to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 172

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) were added as cosponsors of S. 172, a bill to delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021.

S. 208

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 208, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit certain retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service or Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 225, a bill to provide for partnerships among State and local governments, regional entities, and the private sector to preserve, conserve, and enhance the visitor experience at nationally significant battlefields of the American Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War, and for other purposes.

S. 279

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 279, a bill to allow tribal grant schools to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

S. 289

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 289, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to support rural residency training funding that is equitable for all States, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes.

S. 349

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 349, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to request nominations for, and make determinations regarding, roads to be designated under the national scenic byways program, and for other purposes.

S. 362

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 362, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform taxation of alcoholic beverages.

S. 378

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 403

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to encourage the research and use of innovative materials and associated techniques in the construction and preservation of the domestic transportation and water infrastructure system, and for other purposes.

S. 407

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 407, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the qualifying advanced coal project credit, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 514

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 514, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the benefits and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 521

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 521, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 529

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 529, a bill to establish a national program to identify and reduce losses from landslide hazards, to establish a national 3D Elevation Program, and for other purposes.

S. 560

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 560, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require that group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans provide coverage for treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 567

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 567, a bill clarifying that it is United States policy to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

S. 599

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 599, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens associated with criminal gangs, and for other purposes.

S. 600

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 600, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a working group to study regulatory and legislative improvements for the livestock, insect, and agricultural commodities transport industries, and for other purposes.

S. 604

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 604, a bill to limit the authority of States to tax certain

income of employees for employment duties performed in other States.

S. 628

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 628, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include biomass heating appliances for tax credits available for energy-efficient building property and energy property.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 638, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to designate per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act of 1980, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 9

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution calling on the United States and Congress to take immediate action to address the challenge of climate change.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 93—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2, 2019, AS "GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE DAY"

Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. MCSALLY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 93

Whereas March 2, 2019, marks the 90th anniversary of President Calvin Coolidge signing an Act of Congress that approved and funded the first Gold Star pilgrimage to enable Gold Star mothers and widows to travel to the gravesites of their loved ones who died during World War I;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 2, 2019, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Day";

(2) honors and recognizes the sacrifices made by the families of veterans and members of the Armed Forces who gave their lives to defend freedom and protect the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Families Remembrance Day—

(A) by performing acts of service and good will in their communities; and

(B) by celebrating the lives of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice so that others could continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

### SENATE RESOLUTION 94—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SHOULD PROTECT INDIVIDUALS WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS BY DEFENDING THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (PUBLIC LAW 111-148; 124 STAT. 119) IN TEXAS V. UNITED STATES, NO. 4:18-CV-00167-O (N.D. TEX.), IN WHICH THE PLAINTIFFS SEEK TO INVALIDATE PROTECTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TESTER, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. JONES, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. COONS, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. SMITH, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. UDALL, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 94

Whereas, in 2010, Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) (in this preamble referred to as the "ACA");

Whereas, prior to the enactment of the ACA, individuals with pre-existing medical conditions were routinely denied health insurance coverage, charged exorbitant rates for health insurance coverage, exposed to unreasonable out-of-pocket costs for health care, or subject to lifetime limits on health insurance coverage;

Whereas the ACA instituted comprehensive protections for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, including—

(1) the protection commonly known as "guaranteed issue", which requires health insurance companies to issue a health plan to any applicant regardless of health status or other factors, under section 2702 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-1);

(2) the protection commonly known as "community rating", which prohibits health insurance companies from varying premiums within a geographical area based on gender or health status and limits the ability of health insurance companies to vary premiums based on age, under section 2701 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg); and

(3) the prohibition on discrimination based on health status, which prohibits excluding from a health plan benefits for pre-existing medical conditions or establishing eligibility rules based on pre-existing medical conditions, under sections 2704 and 2705(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg-3, 300gg-4(a));

Whereas, on June 7, 2018, pursuant to section 530D of title 28, United States Code, then Attorney General Jefferson Sessions, under the direction of the President, notified Congress that the Department of Justice—

(1) would not defend the constitutionality of the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage under section 5000A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as added by the ACA; and

(2) would argue that certain provisions of the ACA, including the provisions protecting an estimated 133,000,000 individuals in the United States with pre-existing medical conditions, are inseparable from the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage;

Whereas the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas—

(1) issued an order declaring that—

(A) the requirement to maintain minimum essential coverage is unconstitutional; and

(B) the remaining provisions of the ACA, including protections for individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, are inseparable from that requirement; and

(2) invalidated the remaining provisions of the ACA;

Whereas the decision of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas was stayed and is pending appeal before the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit;

Whereas the refusal of the Department of Justice to defend the ACA, as even then Attorney General Sessions acknowledged in his notice to Congress, contravened the Executive Branch's "longstanding tradition of defending the constitutionality of duly enacted statutes if reasonable arguments can be made in their defense";

Whereas reasonable arguments can be made in defense of the ACA, as evidenced by an amicus brief filed by legal experts, including experts who supported other legal challenges to the ACA; and

Whereas, by arguing that the guaranteed issue, community rating, and other protections prohibiting discrimination are inseparable from the remaining provisions of the ACA and therefore the remaining provisions of the ACA are invalid, the Department of Justice is risking vital protections for the estimated 133,000,000 individuals in the United States with pre-existing medical conditions: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the Department of Justice should protect individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, including by reversing its position and defending the critically important provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; 124 Stat. 119) in *Texas v. United States*, No. 4:18-cv-00167-O (N.D. Tex.).

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 95—RECOGNIZING THE 198TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

#### S. RES. 95

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander in Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, "It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . in imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.";

Whereas the Greek national anthem, the "Hymn to Liberty", includes the words, "most heartily was gladdened George Washington's brave land";

Whereas the people of the United States generously offered humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on Russia;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that "if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been" and "no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks";

Whereas hundreds of thousands of the people of Greece were killed during World War II;

Whereas Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state;

Whereas Greece is a strategic partner and ally of the United States in bringing political stability and economic development to the Balkan region, having invested billions of dollars in the countries of the region and having contributed more than \$750,000,000 in development aid for the region;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Secretary of State Michael Pompeo hosted Acting Greek Foreign Minister George Katrougalos in a United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue on December 13, 2018, that underscored Greece's importance to the United States as a pillar of stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas the eastern Mediterranean trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus is increasingly important to United States interests, and each country's strong relationship with the United States, as well as the prospect of an Eastern Mediterranean pipeline enabling safe transmission of gas to Western Europe, is critical to security and energy stability;

Whereas the United States was the honored country at Greece's premier Thessaloniki International Fair on September 8-16, 2018;

Whereas Greece received worldwide praise for its extraordinary handling during the 2004 Olympic Games of more than 14,000 athletes and more than 2,000,000 spectators and journalists, a feat the Government and people of Greece handled efficiently, securely, and with hospitality;

Whereas Greece, located in a region where Christianity meets Islam and Judaism, maintains excellent relations with Muslim countries and Israel;

Whereas Greece remains an integral part of the European Union;

Whereas the Government of Greece has taken important steps in recent years to further cross-cultural understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation in various fields with Turkey, and has also improved its relations with other countries in the region, including Israel, thus enhancing the stability of the wider region;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the people of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2019, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 198th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed; and

(3) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 198 years ago.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of William Ro Evanina, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, dated March 5, 2019.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. FISCHER. Mr. President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Examining the electricity sector in changing climate."

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Post-Hanoi: Status of the North Korean Denuclearization effort."

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Vaccines save lives: What is driving preventable disease outbreaks?"

## COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on the nomination of Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security.

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, and Mark T. Pittman, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

## SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Does America have a monopoly problem: Examining concentration and competition in United States economy."

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 05, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "States roles in protecting air quality."

## MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1112

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1112) to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to strengthen

the background check procedures to be followed before a Federal firearms licensee may transfer a firearm to a person who is not such a licensee.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

## EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2, 2019, AS "GOLD STAR FAMILIES REMEMBRANCE DAY"

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 93, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 93) expressing support for the designation of March 2, 2019, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 93) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

## ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 6; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Reader nomination under the previous order.

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

## ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator PORTMAN and Senator BROWN.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

## OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I have come to the floor of the Senate today to talk about the opioid crisis, to talk about what is happening out there in our communities and how some of our Federal legislation is working, and to talk about some good news, which is that there is some improvement in terms of the overdose deaths we have seen in this country, but also a warning that although we are finally making progress on the opioid crisis, we are also seeing other drugs, such as pure crystal meth, coming from Mexico and other drugs beginning to take hold in our communities.

So let me start, if I could, by talking a little about what the opioid crisis has been and what we are doing to address it.

You recall that the last data we had, which is for 2017—over 70,000 Americans lost their lives to overdoses. The No. 1 drug, the No. 1 killer, has been fentanyl, which is a synthetic opioid that, about 4 or 5 years ago, hit our communities hard. Year after year, for 7 or 8 years now, we have seen increases every single year in the number of people who die from overdoses, which is one way to measure it. Another way to measure it is just the number of people addicted. That is a harder figure to find, but that has also increased year to year.

It is devastating communities. The No. 1 cause of death in my home State of Ohio is opioid overdoses. Among Americans under 50, it is now the No. 1 cause of death in America.

It also has had many impacts on our health system and on our criminal justice system. Go to the emergency rooms. Look at our jails that are filled with people whose crimes somehow relate to opioids. Often, these are property crimes—people doing something to get the money to pay for their drugs.

Look at the impact it has had on our families. The foster care system is overwhelmed. I was with some juvenile court judges today from Ohio who were telling me that they can't find sponsors, that they can't find foster parents because the system is overrun with kids whose parents are addicted to opioids, and they cannot go home, but they need a loving family.

It has impacted our economy because so many people are now out of work altogether, aren't even looking for work, and don't even show up in the unemployment numbers. If you look at the labor force participation rate being so low—in other words, the number of people working—the unemployment rate today would not be 4 percent; it would be more like 8 percent if you just went back to a normal level. And a lot of that, based on studies done by the Department of Labor and Brookings and others, shows that the opioid crisis is driving that.

It has impacted us in so many ways. Here is the exciting news: After 7 or 8 years of increases every year in the number of people whose hopes are lost,



whose lives are lost, we are seeing—at the end of 2017 and into 2018, the initial numbers we have—some improvement. It starts from an unacceptably high number, so this is not something we should start congratulating ourselves about, but it is much better, finally, to see this trend start to reverse.

Preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and their National Center for Health Statistics points to a promising, although very modest, downturn. They measure drug overdose deaths in 12-month periods, ending in any given month. The last data we have regarding predicted deaths was between September 2017 and March 2018, and during that time period, we saw the number of deaths fall from about 73,000 Americans to 71,000 Americans.

So there is still a crisis that we face as a country, but it shows that in many States, including Ohio, we are beginning to see a little progress. Again, this follows a time period where we saw a big increase due to this fentanyl—the synthetic drug that is 50 times more powerful than heroin—causing so many of those overdoses.

In fact, in my view, we were beginning to make progress through some Federal, State, and local policies and also the innovative work of the non-profits that were working in our communities. We had begun to see progress on treatment and prevention and recovery and providing more Narcan, and then this influx of fentanyl hit us and overwhelmed the system. Now we are beginning to see—even with the fentanyl still out there—that we are beginning to make progress.

In Ohio—fentanyl hit our State particularly hard. We had a record 4,800 overdose deaths in 2017, which was a 20-percent jump over 2016's toll. So it has been tough for 8 years in a row.

What I can report today is that now we are seeing a little progress. We saw a 21-percent drop in overdose deaths in the first half of 2018. Again, we have not yet gotten all the numbers for 2018. When we have all those, I will come back to the floor and talk about them. But for the first half of 2018, we are getting the numbers in now at about a 20-percent drop.

That was the biggest drop in the Nation, by the way, during the period from July 2017 through June 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control. So that is good, because Ohio has been in the middle of this. Other than West Virginia, we probably have had the highest number of overdose deaths on average in the last several years.

Separately, preliminary data from the Ohio Department of Health shows a 34-percent decrease in overdose deaths from January to June 2018. Again, those first 6 months, we saw a little decrease, finally—34 percent. That is progress—again, from a high starting point, but I believe we are headed in the right direction.

Some people have asked me “Are we ever going to see the end of this cri-

sis?” and I have always said yes. There is a light at the end of the tunnel because we know what we need to do.

We need to have better education and prevention programs to keep people from falling into addiction in the first place. We need to stop the overprescribing from our doctors so that people aren't inadvertently, because of an accident or an injury, taking prescription pain pills and then becoming addicted and then moving to heroin and fentanyl and so on and often to overdoses.

We need to do much more in terms of treatment and getting people into longer term recovery because we know initial treatment is important. In fact, essential to getting people through the process of coming out of their addiction is that they have to go through a painful process and then go into a treatment program. We have also found that longer term recovery programs are key to people's success—getting back on their feet, getting back to their families, and getting back to work.

One of the reasons we have made progress is because, as I said earlier, at every level of government, there has been movement, and there has been progress made. Here in Washington, in the Congress, we have done things that are historic. As an example, never before have we funded recovery—until just a few years ago. We have never had this much focus on providing the funds for Narcan to be used to help our first responders and others use this miracle drug to reverse the effects of an overdose. We have never spent so much money on prevention and education. And, of course, we have never spent so much money on treatment.

Several years ago, some of us came together, knowing this crisis was building, and said: How do we create legislation here in Washington that can make a difference? Some said it is not really a Federal role. My view was that the Federal Government has a big role here because it is a national emergency, a national crisis, but we ought to take the best information from around the country, find out what the best practices are, and then help the States by providing funding to leverage additional funding at the local level, the State level. That was called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. We spent 3 or 4 years putting it together. We had five conferences here in Washington. Senator WHITEHOUSE on the other side of the aisle and I are the coauthors of that legislation.

The first year, we got some money from Congress—\$181 million—to support these treatment programs, education programs, treatment and recovery programs together, Narcan for our first responders—181 million bucks. The next fiscal year, we got \$267 million to fund these same programs. The next year, 2018, we got \$608 million. In 2019, this year, we got \$647 million. So we have increased the funding and increased the commitment. Why? Be-

cause it is working. Because we can all go home now and look at our States and see where some of this funding is going and show that through innovation, through doing things differently, we are beginning to make a difference.

Let me give the best example, perhaps, that I see around the country; that is, instead of saving someone's life with Narcan and having that person overdose sometimes again and again—first responders will tell you that they find it frustrating to save the same people again and again and not find any route to success. You want to get these people into treatment. So what we have funded through CARA—the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act—are these rapid-response teams. So when somebody overdoses from fentanyl, they don't just go back home or go back to the old community or the old gang. Instead, somebody visits—a law enforcement officer, a social worker, a treatment provider. They knock on the door and say: We want to get you into treatment. We want to help you. We are here to help. We are not here to arrest you; we are here to help you.

The success rate is phenomenal—maybe greater than you would think—because a lot of these people, particularly right after overdosing and having Narcan applied, saw their lives flash before their eyes, and they are looking for some help. Probably 8 out of 10 people are not getting into treatment, so they are looking for an avenue to treatment.

In some places in Ohio, there has been as much as an 80-percent success rate in getting those people who were virtually a zero-percent success rate before into treatment programs. Again, they have to be the right programs, and there has to be that longer term recovery in order to ensure success, but programs like those are beginning to turn the tide.

Over the past several months, I have been around the State of Ohio—as I have done the last several years—and I met with local leaders to find out what is really going on and how the money is being spent.

A couple of weeks ago, I met local leaders and participants in the Pathways Achieving Recovery by Choice program. That is a voluntary recovery program for incarcerated women with substance abuse disorders and many with co-occurring mental health issues as well. These are women behind bars who volunteer to go into this program. All of them are numerous repeat offenders. In other words, these are women whose chances of being back in the system after they get out is extremely high. The program director said it is virtually 100 percent because they have been arrested numerous times, and they keep coming back again and again into the system.

This program that I got to see received a grant from the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of \$881,000 so that this program could last not just



1 year but several years. They put it in place. They are providing treatment and recovery services for these women and teaching them not just about how to avoid going back to the old neighborhood and getting back in trouble again but also how to establish their lives in a productive way—going back to work, getting back with their families.

It was great to hear from Dr. Patrice Palmer, who runs the program, and also Franklin County Commissioner Marilyn Brown, Sheriff Dallas Baldwin, and others about how this is helping residents get what they need—the treatment and recovery services they need, the housing they need—but most importantly, get them to rebuild their lives and not come back into the system. I mentioned earlier that the recidivism rate is virtually 100 percent for this group. In other words, 100 percent of them are going to come back into prison based on the record. This program has got that down to 20 percent. In other words, 80 percent of these women have gotten out, gotten into the programs they need, gotten back on their feet, gotten a job, and found an apartment. Eighty percent of them are back in our communities as productive citizens. That, to me, is what this is all about.

I spoke to a number of the participants in the program, and they were optimistic because it is a very upbeat program. I was asked to give a quote, and I gave a Winston Churchill quote about how when you fall down, the most important thing is getting back up. That is more important than success without having failures. I talked about the fact that I have been to a lot of these programs around the State, and I have seen where people find—for the first time in their lives, in many cases—the kind of meaning in their lives and the kind of hope for the future that let them get back on track.

I talked to Nina Davidson. She is a repeat offender. Nina said what all the women said. She said: I don't want to go back to jail. She doesn't want to keep living that life. She has been in and out of jail many times. Pathways has helped her change her thinking, and that is what it is all about—changing the thinking and therefore changing lives and saving lives.

Earlier this year, I met with law enforcement, local officials, and members of the Hamilton County Heroin Coalition to find out how they are using these Federal funds.

Again, I am here talking to my colleagues, Republican and Democrat alike, saying that we need more money, and they want to know where it is going. Is it working?

Well, I just talked about one that is working in Columbus. It is also working in Hamilton County, which is the Cincinnati Federal area. They have received Federal funding through the CARA legislation and also the 21st Century Cures law—again, something this Congress passed on a bipartisan basis.

The county has received a \$500,000 CARA grant for an innovative program to help those with substance abuse and mental health disorders get help instead of going through the criminal justice system. They also got \$50,000 for a prevention grant for a group called PreventionFirst!, which is a group I founded more than 20 years ago, about 25 years ago in Cincinnati. It is still there helping to prevent drug abuse. They are doing a good job. They have also received money through the 21st Century Cures Act. In fact, in the last 2 years, Ohio has received 26 million bucks a year from the Cures legislation that goes straight to the State, and the State decides how it is given out to good groups and organizations around the State.

The Cures funding and the CARA funding, as I see it, is working. It is expanding Medicaid-assisted treatment. It is helping first responders—these are our EMS, our firefighters—who are out there trying to save lives. They need the training on Narcan. They need the funding.

It has also helped with regard to closing the gap for those who are seeking treatment. I mentioned earlier the gap between Narcan being applied and somebody getting into treatment. There is also a gap, unfortunately, between people in treatment and getting into longer term recovery. Often, there is a waiting period there, and people fall back into their addiction. These gaps can be closed, and when they are and when it is a comprehensive, seamless program, the results are amazing.

During our meeting in Hamilton County, Newtown, OH, Police Chief Tom Synan told me that fentanyl continues to be the deadliest drug in greater Cincinnati. He wants us to implement quickly two pieces of legislation. One is called the STOP Act, which this Congress passed to keep fentanyl from flowing freely into our communities.

In August 2016, we had 174 overdoses in 6 days—174 in 6 days. It was what they called a bad batch. It was fentanyl being mixed with heroin. That drew national attention to the crisis. That is when we started working on this STOP Act, which is to say, let's stop this stuff from coming in through the U.S. mail system, which is where most of it comes, and from China, which is where most of it comes. We passed that legislation, and it is helping because it requires the U.S. Postal Service to actually screen through these packages to get the information to know what is a suspect package to help Customs and Border Protection pull these packages off and begin to pull some of these drugs out of our communities, which, at a minimum, increases the cost of this drug on the street, which is important.

We also have the other legislation. I see that my colleague SHERROD BROWN is on the floor today. The INTERDICT Act helps because it gives those same people more funding for the screening

they need once they have identified a package that is suspect. That combination is making a difference right now. President Trump signed that law in October of last year after about 2 years of hard work and investigation by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. It is making a difference, but, as Police Chief Tom Synan said, we have to implement it and implement it quickly.

I spoke today to the Secretary of Homeland Security. She talked about the INTERDICT Act. She wants to push those quickly, and we need to, because those will continue to make a difference. But they are starting to work, and that is part of the reason we are seeing some progress.

I recently toured the jail in Butler County, OH, to see firsthand how they are using their Federal funding. They got about \$800,000 in a CARA grant. I met with Scott Rasmus, the executive director of the Butler County Mental Health and Addiction Recovery Services Board, Sheriff Jones, and other community leaders about how they are using this funding to close the gaps that often occur with treatment. Again, they are doing what I talked about earlier, with these rapid response teams that ensure, that, yes, they are saving people's lives with Narcan, but then getting them into a treatment program that works for them.

In January I was in Portsmouth, OH, one of the hardest hit areas of our State. Portsmouth, OH, has been the subject of a lot of attention by the media—a lot of attention because they were hit so hard by the heroin crisis that followed the prescription drug crisis.

I met there with law enforcement and local officials from Adams County, Lawrence County, and Scioto County. They have received \$525,000 in grants from the Cures Act, and they are using it to help to address every aspect of addiction, including the gaps in treatment I talked about. They funded a re-entry project, the Hughes Re-Entry Center, which provides longer term assistance through outpatient services, assisted housing, and working with the Community Justice Center to close the gaps occurring when people get out of prison and getting them into programs that will help them to avoid getting right back into prison again.

Lastly, I want to highlight a recent visit I made to the Oasis House. Oasis is a safe house in Dayton, OH. It provides a supportive environment and recovery services to women who were trafficked or abused, and it helps them get back on their feet through counseling, drug treatment, or other social services. I was there last month and had the opportunity to visit with the women. It is a Christian, nonprofit organization—a faith-based group—that runs these safe houses. Most of these women are victims of human trafficking. These women are often homeless. Every single one of them I talked to was also an addict or a recovering

addict. They have been through a lot—a lot of trauma—and they need the help, but the good news is they are getting the help, and there is hope.

At my visit to the safe house, I met these incredibly courageous women who have taken these steps voluntarily to get their lives back together, using faith and using, in some cases, treatment programs. The funding they are getting is coming through the Montgomery County ADAMHS Board, the alcohol and drug board, and that funding comes from the CARA legislation and the Cures legislation. Again, seeing in action what is actually happening on the ground gives me hope that we are beginning to make progress.

I met with the safe house “Mom.” She is the resident mother, as she calls herself, of this house. She is there to take care of concerns that women have. She is a recovering addict herself. She is a domestic violence survivor. Oasis House saved her life, and now she is giving back by helping current Oasis clients to be able to help save their lives. I want to congratulate Cheryl Oliver, their executive director, for all of the great work they are doing. The bravery of these young women was inspiring and, again, it is great to see firsthand how this is making a difference in their lives.

We have recently seen this issue of trafficking arise in connection with a sex trafficking ring in Florida. We are told that illicit spas—like those in Florida that you have probably heard about in the media in the last week or so—can sometimes be hubs of human trafficking, where women, often imported from foreign countries, are brought in to America. They are often induced through fraud, fear, or some other type of coercion to perform sex acts for money, and that is what investigators believe happened here. They believe that the women in these spas were from foreign countries, and that they were induced into this through coercion. There is more information coming out. They don’t have all of the details yet. The investigation continues, but they suspect the managers at these day spas were trafficking these women, and, therefore, they arrested the owners at several of these day spas. It is another disturbing reminder that human trafficking continues to exist right here in this country in this century, and we must stay vigilant in our efforts to combat this horrific crime.

In my last 8 years here in the Senate, it has been one of our top priorities to pass legislation to combat human trafficking. We have passed bills into law to get better data on sex trafficking here in the United States, to ensure that victims are treated as victims and not as criminals, to increase Federal penalties on johns, and to enact a zero-tolerance policy on human trafficking and government contracts.

I am proud to say that, with Senator BLUMENTHAL, we cofounded and co-chaired the human trafficking caucus here. We started off with a couple

Members, and now we have a couple dozen Members of this body who work day in and day out to say: How can we do more to help?

One thing we found through our research was that online sex trafficking is growing dramatically and is one reason you see the increase in sex trafficking here in this country and around the world.

After 18 months of investigation—particularly into backpage, which was the commercial site that had probably three-quarters of the trafficking on it—we passed a law called the SESTA legislation, which ensures that these websites that knowingly engage, facilitate, or promote trafficking are held accountable for what happens on their platforms. It is about time. We should have done it a long time ago.

Having passed that legislation, backpage is now shut down, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported to us that probably about two-thirds of these online websites that sell women and children online have now been discontinued. Again, we haven’t solved the problem. It is still very much out there. Other websites will crop up on the dark web as well, but we have made progress by focusing on the issue in a bipartisan way. Numerous websites have been shut down, as we have been told by the experts. I will quote the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: “Since the enactment of SESTA and the government’s seizure of Backpage, there has been a major disruption in the online marketplace.”

As we talked earlier—whether it is the SESTA legislation that is now working, whether it is the CARA legislation and the Cures legislation on the opioid crisis—that we are making a difference. The funding that has been provided by this body and by the House—after careful research to figure out what works and what doesn’t work and sending it to evidence-based programs—is working. We cannot take our eye off the ball. We cannot stop now. If we do, we will just see this problem crop up in different ways.

I mentioned that as we are making progress on opioids, law enforcement and those who are in the trenches—treatment providers—are talking about the fact that other drugs are beginning to rise, particularly crystal meth. So we can’t stop. We have to continue.

These programs are making a difference, helping people to get their lives back on track and helping to save their lives. The Federal Government continues to have a role here to be better partners in this effort with States, local governments, and nonprofits that are out there doing their best and, ultimately, with our families. That is what this is all about, giving people hope and saving lives.

I yield back my time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I thank my friend from Cincinnati for

his work on both the issues he spoke about—both, on sex trafficking, which is a terrible affliction in our country and especially in Ohio, and on the issue of opioid deaths. We lose almost 100 people a week in Ohio to overdoses, and more than 11 a day on opioid overdoses. So I thank my colleague from Cincinnati for that.

#### GM CLOSURES

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this week, General Motors is set to lay off thousands of workers in Lordstown, OH, and around the country. Tomorrow is the day that most of the first shift lose their jobs. Several months ago, the second shift lost their jobs. A couple years ago, the third shift lost their jobs. That totals about 4,500 human beings with families.

What is the President’s response? He boasts nonsense and rubs salt in these workers’ wounds. Last week, as if he didn’t know about Lordstown and other places, he said: We have car companies opening up in Michigan and Ohio and Pennsylvania and so many other places.

I don’t know where those mystery factories are in Ohio that the President brags about. They aren’t in Lordstown, where people are about to lose those jobs. President Trump’s remarks, his uncaring feelings, and his ignorance of even knowing what has happened in Ohio—the State he seems to boast about and credit for his victory—are a slap in the face to the workers, and there is the fact that he has done nothing to help.

Think about the workers who are out of a job at the end of the week. Think about their families. Think about the other families in Lordstown who are about to lose customers.

Senator PORTMAN and I spent a lot of time working with General Motors, visiting a restaurant near the plant and talking to the workers there who know their jobs are affected as fewer Lordstown workers come to that restaurant. Multiply that with hardware stores, police and fire jobs and teacher jobs and all that afflicts the Mahoning Valley when GM does what it does.

Remember what Donald Trump promised people in communities like Youngstown. He said that he would fight for them, that he would fight for their jobs. Last year, he told the people of Mahoning Valley—Mahoning Valley is Youngstown, Warren, Lordstown, and that area: “Don’t move.”

These are the President’s words:

Don’t move, don’t sell your house. We’re going to fill up those factories or rip them down and build new ones.

He said:

We never again will sacrifice Ohio jobs and those in other states to enrich other countries.

Think about that. The President of the United States comes in, in the midst of these GM layoffs, and says: Don’t sell your house. Don’t move. We are going to fill those factories up. If

we don't fill them up, we are going to rip them down and build new ones.

He went on to say: Workers will come back. Jobs will come back from these countries.

Then, even when I called and talked to him about the second-shift layoff, he didn't even know about it. I am not sure what his staff is telling him. Maybe FOX doesn't cover these stories, but the mainstream media does. These are real stories. These aren't political opinions. Some 4,500 people lost their jobs, and the President doesn't seem to know or care.

Those weren't the only promises he made. Over and over, Candidate Trump and then-President Trump promised American autoworkers that he would fight for their jobs.

In Warren, just a few miles from Lordstown, in 2016, he said: "If I'm elected, you won't lose one plant, I promise you that." "If I'm elected, you won't lose one plant, I promise you that."

In Michigan in the fall of 2016—another State with a lot of auto jobs—he said: "We will bring back your auto manufacturing business like you have never seen it before."

In February 2017, he promised again: "A lot of jobs are going to be coming back into Ohio and Michigan and Pennsylvania and all the places that have been hurt so badly."

In March 2017, he said: "The assault on the American auto industry, believe me, is over."

Last year, after GM announced the layoffs, he said: "Ohio is going to replace those jobs like in two minutes." "Ohio is going to replace those jobs like in two minutes."

First of all, why would he say this stuff? Second, does he not ever follow the news? Does his staff not tell him what has happened in the seventh largest State in the country and the State that he in part credits for his election? He lost the popular vote by 3 million votes. He won the electoral college because of Ohio and because of two or three other States. But wouldn't he know that a valley of 450,000 people, just during the time since the election, has lost 4,500 jobs just in that plant alone, and another 5,000 manufacturing jobs that make the components that go into the Chevy Cruze, and another 5,000 to 6,000 to 8,000 to 10,000 jobs? Nobody knows for sure how many they will lose in restaurants, hardware stores, and car dealerships and cuts in public dollars because the local governments have lost tax revenue so there are fewer police and fire and street cleaners and people who work in the cities, the counties, and the school districts.

The workers who are going to be out of a job by this week are still waiting. These people trusted him. President Trump did really well in the election in this valley of 450,000 people. He did really well.

He did really well. He did better than Republicans ever do, but what did he do for them after he made those prom-

ises? I am going to make a statement that is provably true but almost doesn't even make sense that it could be true. His tax bill says: If you do your production in Lordstown, OH, you pay a 21-percent tax rate, but if you move your production to Mexico, you pay a 10.5-percent tax rate.

In other words, because of Trump's tax law that, frankly, was written down the hall in Senator MCCONNELL's office but with the President's signature on it, these companies get a 50-percent-off coupon for moving overseas. Think about that. If these companies move overseas, they get a 50-percent-off coupon on their taxes.

I talked to the President about that. I asked him to reconsider that law, and he said: "Where did that law come from?"

I said: "Well, Mr. President, it was in your tax bill, and you signed it."

Then I talked to him about the American Cars, American Jobs Act and how he can fix this. Here is what the bill does. Customers who buy cars made in the United States get a \$3,500 discount at the dealership. If the American car is electric or a plug-in hybrid, they get an even bigger discount. These are the cars GM said it was going to start making instead of the Cruze. There is no reason they can't make them in Lordstown instead of Mexico.

Second, companies that cut the number of American jobs they had on the day the GOP tax bill passed, if they move those jobs overseas, they lose their tax breaks. Under my bill, the American Cars, American Jobs Act, they lose their tax breaks, they lose that 50-percent-off coupon, and then that money they have to pay because they lose their tax break goes to car consumers at the dealerships, meaning they will buy more American cars. So what will happen is it will actually do what Candidate Trump said he wanted to do and promised that he would do, and that is to bring American jobs back.

This President who says: "I am the workers' best friend, and I fight for these jobs," that is phony populism. Do you know something? Populism is never racist. Populism is never anti-Semitic. Populism doesn't divide people. Populism doesn't push people down to lift people up. Populism doesn't give tax cuts to rich people and then turn around and cut Medicare and Head Start. Populism fights for people and fights to lift up all workers. That is what we are not seeing here now.

I am calling on the President, again, to try keeping his promises and actually fight for autoworkers, fight for these communities like Lordstown, and help us pass the American Cars, American Jobs Act, end the tax cut for corporations to shut down American plants and move jobs overseas, and take this 50-percent-off coupon away that some of the richest people and biggest corporations in this country enjoy when they send jobs overseas because if you love your country, you fight for the people who make it work.

## NOMINATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, the last vote we took today was about Americans' healthcare. It was about consumer protections for preexisting conditions that are at risk because of partisan judges.

The Presiding Officer was running for the Senate at the time and wasn't in this body, but I assume she knows, and all of us remember the day when the repeal of the Affordable Care Act failed.

The people on that side of the aisle, the Republicans, were all voting to take away consumer protections for preexisting conditions. That was part of the vote for the repeal. Among other things, it was to cut people off Medicaid, many of whom were getting treatment for opioid addiction, and it was to take away the consumer protections for preexisting conditions. That is when people can't get insurance because they are sick or they get their insurance canceled because they are too expensive. They are sick, their insurance is too expensive, and the insurance companies come down on them.

So the stage was set. The Republican Members who said they wanted to preserve preexisting conditions, many of them ran their campaigns on—because they knew the voters were very upset with Republicans for trying to take away the consumer protections on preexisting conditions, they ran their campaigns on that issue. So the Republicans quickly flipped and said: Well, we are going to protect you too.

Well, tomorrow is the day we have a chance to really protect the consumers with preexisting conditions and to keep the protections for consumers with preexisting conditions. The problem is, they can't do it in Congress. They can't take it away because voters don't like it if they take away the protections so they do it through the Federal judiciary. That is how they work around here.

These partisan judges who are voted out of here—maybe the worst one yet is from Columbus, OH, named Chad Readler. Last summer, Readler did what three career attorneys with the Department of Justice refused to do—he filed a brief challenging the law protecting Americans with preexisting conditions.

He was the person in the Trump administration who was the point person for taking away the consumer protections protecting Americans against losing their insurance because of a preexisting condition.

Do you know what? After he filed that brief, the very next day the lights went on. The very next day, Chad Readler was nominated for a lifetime appointment to the Sixth Circuit Court—the next day.

He did his work for the insurance companies. He did his work for the Trump White House. He did his work for the Republican majority who is going to take away any consumer protections. What is his reward? I guess

you can't say "payoff" because there were no dollars actually exchanged, but the reward that this party—the Senate majority leader down the hall and the President of the United States—gave the guy who wants to take those protections away and do the bidding of the insurance company is a lifetime—I don't know, \$180,000, \$200,000-a-year, whatever it is—Federal judgeship. It is for life. Mr. Readler is in his forties, so lifetime could be a very long time.

The arguments he made were unprecedented. Three career attorneys withdrew from the case after Readler made that decision. One went so far as to resign in objection to the Department of Justice's unprecedented actions.

Our Republican colleague Senator ALEXANDER from Tennessee called Readler's arguments as farfetched as he had ever seen. This is a Republican saying that the Trump White House's Department of Justice Chad Readler's, Acting Assistant Attorney General, logic was as farfetched as he had ever seen.

We saw what happened with the Texas decision in December, going along with Readler's arguments and threatening the healthcare coverage of 20 million Americans; that is, 20 million people because of a decision he made.

Judges are deciding the fate of Americans' healthcare right now. Judges are. It is not their elected body. It is judges who are taking away healthcare. The elected officials failed to take it away. They tried. They tried, and they tried. They did it 50 times in the House. They tried in the Senate. We defeated it by one vote. The Vice President was here on behalf of the President just in case he had to break the tie. He didn't have to because we defeated it by one vote. He didn't get to break the tie.

Now it is judges. Judges decide right now. We can't afford to put one of the White House's ringleaders in the fight to dismantle healthcare protections on the bench for life.

It is not just healthcare. It is LGBTQ rights. It is women's rights. It is voting rights. Judges make decisions right now that eliminate and limit Americans' rights for a generation.

On these issues, the President's nominees for the Sixth Circuit, Chad Readler and the other one, Eric Murphy, have a proven record of fighting to strip Americans of their rights.

Get this. Chad Readler not only supported the death penalty for minors, for 16-year-olds, as a private citizen, he took it upon himself to pen an op-ed saying he wanted to allow the execution of 16-year-olds—the execution of 16-year-olds. Think about that.

Apparently, he thinks it is OK for a mistake someone makes as a child to not only get them locked up for life but to actually take away their life altogether. What kind of person writes an editorial calling for the execution of 16-year-olds, and we are going to put him on the Federal court for life?

At a time when we are taking important bipartisan steps forward on sentencing reform, how do you turn around and put someone on the bench for life who supports executing children? A 16-year-old is still a teenager, a child, in our State, in our country, and in our society.

During his nomination hearing, Readler stood by his op-ed. He refused to disavow his support for using the death penalty on high schoolers.

As for Eric Murphy, he argued against marriage equality in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges case. That is why Jim Obergefell has spoken out against his nomination.

He worked to restrict access to contraceptives for women, and my favorite, he defended Big Tobacco because those companies were doing such useful things for our country. As a lawyer, he defended Big Tobacco.

He also defended Ohio's voter purge. Think about the anniversary we will mark this week. This Thursday will mark 54 years, to the day, since Bloody Sunday.

Last weekend, my wife Connie and I were in Selma and walked across the Selma bridge. For me, it was the fifth time. I took my teenage daughters once. I took my mother, who was born in a small town in the South and taught me about civil rights. My wife and I went. We went back again this year to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

I listened to their stories. Women and men were beaten, their blood was spilled, and their homes were broken into. Why? Because people of color couldn't vote in many places in this country, and Alabama was one of those places. They were willing to suffer and, in some cases, die so they could have a right to vote. That was only a half century ago. That happened only 54 years ago.

Judges around this country, all the way to the Supreme Court, are systematically dismantling those rights. Without question, they are taking away people's right to vote by voter suppression. We can't let the sacrifices of the foot soldiers in Selma be in vain.

It is pretty despicable that a bunch of Members of Congress who have health insurance are willing to take it away for millions of people. That is pretty despicable. It is also despicable that Members of this body are going to mark this anniversary by putting another judge on the bench for life who will work to undo that legacy, who will likely be another judge ruling to send us back to those days, and who will rubberstamp modern-day poll taxes and literacy tests. They will not exactly do poll taxes and literacy tests, but they will find plenty of ways to take voters off the rolls.

We know the Governor's race in Georgia was essentially stolen from the African-American woman who was the nominee because of the sitting Secretary of State—oh, yes, who happened to be running for Governor. We know

that. We know the election in Georgia was stolen. We know voters were purged prior to that election by the Secretary of State, who happened to be running for Governor.

I ask my colleagues, if you will not listen to me, listen to those foot soldiers in Selma, listen to the civil rights leaders who ask you to reject these judges.

I yield the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:52 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 6, 2019, at 10 a.m.

## NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

### INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ANDELIZ N. CASTILLO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, VICE ELIOT PEDROSA.

### OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

DALE CABANISS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JEFF TIEN HAN PON.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BRENT R. BUNN, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRIAN TODD UNDERWOOD, TERM EXPIRED.

### THE JUDICIARY

ROBERT J. COLVILLE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE ARTHUR J. SCHWAB, RETIRED.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TIMOTHY J. DOWNING, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SANFORD C. COATS, RESIGNED.

MICHAEL BLAINE EAST, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE SCOTT JEROME PARKER, RESIGNED.

### THE JUDICIARY

STEPHANIE L. HAINES, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA, VICE DAVID S. CERONE, RETIRED.

JASON K. PULLIAM, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE SAM SPARKS, RETIRED.

MATTHEW H. SOLOMONSON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE EMILY CLARK HEWITT, RETIRED.

DAVID AUSTIN TAPP, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE LYNN JEANNE BUSH, TERM EXPIRED.

### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS, UNITED STATES ARMY, AND APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO THAT POSITION UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 7036 AND 7073:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. THOMAS L. SOLHJEM

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. TELITA CROSLAND  
BRIG. GEN. DENNIS P. LEMASTER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE DIRECTOR, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD, AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10506:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. DANIEL R. HOKANSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 601 AND 10505:

*To be lieutenant general*

LT. GEN. TIMOTHY J. KADAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. LEON N. THURGOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. CHARLES A. FLYNN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

*To be lieutenant general*

MAJ. GEN. WALTER E. PIATT

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. MARK E. MORITZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. CHRISTOPHER A. ASSELTA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. MICHAEL T. CURRAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. LESLIE E. REARDANZ III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. KENNETH R. BLACKMON  
CAPT. ROBERT C. NOWAKOWSKI  
CAPT. THOMAS S. WALL  
CAPT. LARRY D. WATKINS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. SCOTT K. FULLER  
CAPT. MICHAEL J. STEFFEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. PAULA D. DUNN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE NAVY RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be rear admiral (lower half)*

CAPT. PAMELA C. MILLER

## IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

LATOYA D. SMITH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

*To be colonel*

LISA MARIE AHAESY

## IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

RUBIROSA B. BAGO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

MEGHAN C. GERRITY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

DANIEL M. JANSSEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

RANDOLPH POWELL

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

MICHAEL J. PROKOS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

DAVID L. JOHNSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

JAMES L. POPE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

*To be major*

ANTHONY BELLOFIGUEROA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be major*

SEAN R. RICHARDSON

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be major*

KATTONNA C. ALLEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

ANGELO N. CATALANO

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

*To be lieutenant colonel*

CHARLES J. CALAIS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

*To be colonel*

ROBERT T. EVANS

## IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

*To be lieutenant commander*

EDWARD M. PRENDERGAST

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

BRENTONE E. HELBIG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be commander*

THOMAS L. HINNANT III

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

SANJAY SHARMA

## CONFIRMATION

Executive Nomination Confirmed by the Senate March 5, 2019:

## THE JUDICIARY

ALLISON JONES RUSHING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT.

## WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 5, 2019 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

CALVIN R. TUCKER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2023, VICE CAROLYN L. GALLAGHER, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 16, 2019.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LEE ARTHUR HOWE III

**HON. JOSEPH D. MORELLE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. MORELLE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of the 25th district, Lee Arthur Howe, III. Mr. Howe passed away on January 8, just 2 months shy of his 87th birthday. Mr. Howe graduated with his master's in education from Fredonia State Teacher's College before spending two years in the army during the Korean War. After an honorable discharge, he moved to Rochester in 1955 to begin his devotion to public education. He began teaching 6th grade at Lincoln Avenue School, known today as Sutherland High School. His promotion to principal came in 1962, and he would serve in that role at three other elementary schools until his retirement in 1988.

The oldest son of a Baptist preacher, he moved to different towns around Western New York along with his mother and three brothers. While he was young, he developed two life-long loves: jazz, especially big band jazz, and making those around him howl with laughter. He learned the trumpet and played it at every opportunity. He served as a first chair trumpet for the Perinton Concert Band for many years, entertaining countless big band concert fans all around the Rochester region.

Mr. Howe was beloved by his family, and whenever he went, music and laughter followed him. He was a gentle man, who took more pride in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren than he did in his own accomplishments. Patient beyond words, a trait that is vital to being as avid of a golfer as he was in his retirement, he was able to enjoy his life to the fullest.

While I am saddened by Mr. Howe's passing, I am proud to have represented a man who brought so much joy to so many people for so many years. My heart is with his entire extended family.

DESTANIE ALLEN

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Destanie Allen for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Destanie Allen is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Destanie Allen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and

develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Destanie Allen for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

OATH CEREMONY ON MARCH 8, 2019

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and sincerity that I take this time to congratulate twenty-five individuals who will take their oaths of citizenship on March 8, 2019. This memorable occasion will be held at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in Hammond, Indiana.

America is a country founded by immigrants. From its beginning, settlers have come from countries around the world to the United States in search of better lives for their families. Oath ceremonies are a shining example of what is so great about the United States of America—that people from all over the world can come together and unite as members of a free, democratic nation. These individuals realize that nowhere else in the world offers a better opportunity for success than here in America.

On March 8, 2019, the following people, representing many nations throughout the world, will take their oaths of citizenship in Hammond, Indiana: Saudi Elizabeth Gonzalez-Martinez, Clemence Ingabire Andrew, Avelina Garcia, Maria Del Carmen Trevino, Simona Podlecki, Fatoumata Diallo, Lorena Garcia-Vargas, Thu Le Coultas, Gustavo Lopez Lemus, Piotr Henryk Ozimek, Maria Del Pilar Parent-Quintana, Patricia Aguirre, Alyda Frederika Willemina Veenendaal, Khristine Mascardo Bernier, Gurpreet Kaur, Nada Jovanoski, Anaya Alvarez Lucila, Patricia Bugayong Fry, Miguel Avila, Nelly Berenguel Ramirez De Vargas, Elaine Criselda Dequina Moline, Dipika Darji, Adriana Albertina Martinez, Carmen Mendoza De Garcia, and George Vlahos.

Although each individual has sought to become a citizen of the United States for his or her own reasons, be it for education, occupation, or to offer their loved ones better lives, each is inspired by the fact that the United States of America is, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country “. . . of the people, by the people, and for the people.” They realize that the United States is truly a free nation. By seeking American citizenship, they have made the decision that they want to live in a place where, as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, they can practice religion as they choose, speak their minds without fear of punishment, and assemble in peaceful protest should they choose to do so.

Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating these individuals who will become citizens of the United States of America on March 8, 2019. They, too, are American citizens, guaranteed the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We, as a free and democratic nation, congratulate them and welcome them.

SUPPORT OF S. 47, JOHN D. DINGELL, JR. CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND RECREATION ACT

**HON. DOUG COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 47, John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This legislation is critical to public lands management, and contains numerous important provisions.

This legislation protects three historic sites in my home state of Georgia—the Ocmulgee National Monument, Fort Frederica National Monument, and Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield Park. By doing so, the Natural Resources Management Act will provide Georgians with increased opportunities to appreciate our public lands.

Importantly, the Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act also includes the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act—legislation I have been working on for years.

I introduced the Open Book for Equal Access to Justice Act with my friends Representatives COHEN, CHENEY, and PETERSON, and Senators BARRASSO and COONS. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation reinstates needed transparency and accountability requirements to ensure that the Equal Access to Justice Act is helping individuals, retirees, veterans, and small businesses as intended.

I want to thank my Senate colleagues for including the Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act in S. 47.

My legislation requires the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) to develop an online searchable database that includes information on the number, nature, and amount of the awards, claims involved in the controversy, and other relevant information.

Agencies would be required to provide information requested by ACUS for the development and maintenance of the database.

As made clear in report language in previous years, it is our intent that ACUS take appropriate measures to ensure that individual-specific healthcare information, such as an individual's diagnoses and treatments, is not contained in the database.

This legislation ensures appropriate protections are in place, while facilitating critical public and Congressional oversight.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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



I am encouraged that S. 47 passed the House, and I look forward to its implementation.

DANIEL BURNETTE

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Daniel Burnette for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Daniel Burnette is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Daniel Burnette is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Daniel Burnette for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.  
EDWARD ZIGLER

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary life of Dr. Edward Zigler. Dr. Zigler, often called the "Father of Head Start" was a legendary figure, and a force for good. He was also a dear friend whose counsel I relied on over the years to inform my work in Congress.

He was a giant in the field of psychology and social policy, conducting some of the most important research in developmental science and creating the "whole child" approach to education. Dr. Zigler helped to create the Head Start program, which has served over 35 million children and families across the country. He was a teacher, researcher, scholar, and mentor who helped to shape some of the most important family and child legislation considered in Congress.

Dr. Zigler believed that science should serve the public interest. His contributions are without parallel, from serving as the first director of the U.S. Office of Child Development—which would later become the U.S. Administration for Children and Families—to advising on child and family policy to officials in nine consecutive White House administrations. At every step, he strived and succeeded in making the lives of countless children better because he understood that their wellbeing was directly linked to their family and community. Dr. Zigler will live on in those he prepared to carry on his work, and in the children whose lives he helped to shape.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating the life of Dr.

Edward Zigler. Through boundless wisdom, he charted a vision for how to best help children and families that shaped child nutrition, health, injury prevention, and so much more. His impact spanned decades, and will last well into the future. He will be dearly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BAYARD  
RUSTIN STAMP ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Bayard Rustin Stamp Act. This bill would direct the United States Postmaster General to issue a forever stamp to commemorate the life and work of Bayard Rustin.

Born March 17, 1912, Bayard Rustin became one of the most important leaders in the 20th century civil rights movement. At a young age, Rustin learned the values of nonviolence and peacekeeping from his grandparents' Quaker faith, and he would continue to build these values into his life as a civil rights movement leader.

Rustin attended City College of New York, where he joined a progressive club that aimed to remedy racial issues during turbulent times. His time with the club was short lived, but it inspired him to join the Fellowship of Reconciliation, an organization that became a champion for labor rights, equity and world peace.

His time with the Fellowship of Reconciliation led Rustin to become a leader in the 1947 "Journey to Reconciliation," where white and black people across the South rode buses together to challenge segregation laws, a precursor to the Freedom Rides.

Rustin was an advisor in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s inner circle as he advocated pacifism and nonviolence for achieving equal treatment for African Americans. He applied his brilliant strategic mind to the use of aggressive, peaceful action in the civil rights movement and throughout his life as an activist.

His most important role was as the chief organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, D.C., the largest demonstration ever organized at the time, in which a quarter of a million people turned out to demand civil rights for African Americans.

In the years after the civil rights movement, Rustin used his background as a gay man to inspire others to advocate for and to achieve LGBT rights. He remained a strategist and public speaker for workers' rights movements, including co-founding the A. Philip Randolph Institute for black trade union members. Rustin committed to promoting social good, and advocating for the disenfranchised, until his death, in 1987.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

CHRISTIAN CASTILLO

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Christian

Castillo for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Christian Castillo is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Christian Castillo is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Christian Castillo for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING CAROLINE  
BUECHNER AS THE SANTA ROSA  
COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

**HON. MATT GAETZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Caroline Buechner as the Teacher of the Year for Santa Rosa County, Florida.

Ms. Buechner is the Choral Music Educator at Navarre High School. She has served the Santa Rosa County School District with exceptional passion and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

It is recognized that the teaching profession is one of the most difficult yet rewarding professions in existence. Ms. Buechner has continued to exceed all expectations and proves her devotion to her profession in a multitude of ways.

During Ms. Buechner's 9 years at Navarre High School, she has impressively grown the choral program from 80 members, to over 200 members.

Ms. Buechner exhibits her passion every day in her actions. Her unmistakable love for her job provides a strong foundation for her ability to successfully engage and encourage her students.

Ms. Buechner instills a love of music in each and every one of her students. She sets high expectations yet provides the necessary tools and support for her students to successfully meet those expectations. She encourages students to challenge themselves and enables them to attain their fullest potential.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Caroline Buechner for her accomplishments and her profound commitment to the Santa Rosa County School District. I offer my gratitude for her service and wish her all the best for continued success.



COMMEMORATING THE  
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF AWARE-  
NESS FOR CYCLIC VOMITING  
SYNDROME

**HON. DARIN LAHOOD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, today I would like to recognize the International Day of Awareness for Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome (CVS).

CVS is a rare condition that impacts both children and adults, causing severe nausea attacks that can last between several hours and several days. The cause of CVS is still unknown. Through research and education in the United States and in over thirty other countries, the Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Association (CVSA) is working to develop a cure for those affected by CVS. Founded in 1993, CVSA started modestly with eighteen families and a few medical professionals. All those involved were dedicated to working towards a cure for the debilitating condition and through their hard work the organization has grown into an international coalition fostering research and providing resources and support for families suffering with CVS.

The Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome Association advocates tirelessly to make others aware of how challenging CVS can be, and how important it is to find a cure. With assistance from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the American Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society, the CVSA produced the necessary guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of both pediatric and adult CVS and in 2012, supported a breakthrough in treating CVS with the establishment of the first emergency room protocol model.

As we recognize the International Day of Awareness for CVS, I know they will continue to advocate for the advancement of medical procedures, continued research and public awareness for this disease and the patient community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I was unable to be on the House floor on February 25, 2019 for the vote on H.R. 539. My flight from Oregon was delayed because of weather conditions. If I had been present for the vote, I would have voted in favor of the Innovators to Entrepreneurs Act. This bill would expand the National Science Foundation's Innovation Corps program to give scientists and engineers the tools to commercialize their research. I support this effort to help researchers bring their innovations to market, and I commend the House on the bill's passage.

JUAN CONTRERAS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Juan Contreras for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Juan Contreras is a student at Lakewood High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Juan Contreras is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Juan Contreras for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING SUGAR LAND'S  
NEW FIRE CHIEF

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doug Boeker for his recent promotion to the position of Fire Chief of the Sugar Land Fire Department.

Chief Boeker has admirably served the Sugar Land community for the past 27 years, joining the Sugar Land Fire Department after graduating from a fire academy in 1992. He helped establish the Sugar Land Fired Up 5K and leads youth outreach programs through Shattered Dreams, Decisions Matter and Crad Wars. In addition Boeker implemented the Senior Fires and Falls safety prevention program and a critical ambulance service established after our Sugar Land population rapidly grew. While these accomplishments are unparalleled by most, Boeker didn't stop there. He has also served as the chief executive officer of NexGen Group, the general manager of Intercare Health Services and as the fire commissioner for the Harris-Fort Bend Emergency Services District No. 100. His service to our community is exceptional.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Fire Chief Doug Boeker on his promotion. We thank him for his dedication to keeping Sugar Land safe.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 31ST AN-  
NIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT  
POGROMS

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, today, we commemorate the 31st anniversary of the

Sumgait pogroms, which saw the murder, abuse, and eventual expulsion of Armenian Christians living in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh solely based on their Armenian identity. The Azeri government cannot be allowed to continue denying its role in instigating these atrocities and allowing them to continue, especially in light of similar efforts to target Armenians by Azerbaijan today. I hold memories of the Sumgait victims close to my heart, they motivate me to fight for the rights for Armenians and all people.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA ZONING COMMIS-  
SION HOME RULE ACT

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Zoning Commission Home Rule Act. This bill would give the District of Columbia the authority to appoint all members of the D.C. Zoning Commission (Commission). Currently, the Commission consists of two federal officials (the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS), or their designees), and three mayoral appointees, subject to D.C. Council approval. The federal officials are members even though the Commission has no authority over federal property.

Land use is a quintessential local matter in our country. Despite the D.C. Home Rule Act, which gave the District jurisdiction over its local matters, 40 percent of the members of the Commission are federal officials, who are unaccountable to the more than 700,000 residents who live in the District. The federal government would lose nothing as a result of this bill because the federal government's land-use interests in the nation's capital are protected by federal law and federal agencies.

The Commission creates the zoning maps and regulations, which must "not be inconsistent with the comprehensive plan for the national capital." The mayor is responsible for the local elements of the comprehensive plan, subject to Council approval. The National Capital Planning Commission (NCP), which is the central federal planning agency for the federal government in D.C. and approves federal projects here, is responsible for the federal elements of the comprehensive plan. This bill would not alter the comprehensive plan process or the authority of NCP and the Commission.

This bill would immediately remove the AOC and the Director of the NPS from the Commission, and the Commission would, at least initially, consist solely of the three mayoral appointees. The District would have the authority to reconstitute the membership of the Commission through local legislation.

This is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

GABY PERLERA ESCOBAR

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Gaby Perlera Escobar for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Gaby Perlera Escobar is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Gaby Perlera Escobar is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Gaby Perlera Escobar for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH 1ST KOREAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KOREAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

**HON. JIMMY GOMEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the March 1st Korean Independence Movement. One hundred years ago, Korea was not a free nation but lived under the rule of Japan. March 1st commemorates the start of Korea's independence movement from Japanese colonialism and 100 years ago from this day, the people of Korea united to fight for their freedom.

On March 1, 1919, a group of incredibly brave individuals banded together across the nation and declared their freedom in a proclamation of Korean Independence. These individuals started a movement that not only extended throughout the Korean peninsula, but across the world. In the struggle for freedom, many Koreans were imprisoned and killed. Today we recognize the Koreans who courageously fought to defend their home, people, and heritage.

As the Member of Congress representing California's 34th District and home to the largest Korean population in the country, I would like to recognize this significant day and all those who fought for independence. I ask all Members to join with me in celebrating the centennial of the March 1st Korean Independence Movement.

NATURAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. PAUL COOK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 26, 2019*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise along with my colleagues, Congressman RUIZ and Congressman CALVERT to speak to S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act and a provision that I introduced as part of the California Desert Protection and Recreation Act of 2019, specifically Section 1457 as it relates to the designation of the Whitewater River as a Wild and Recreational River.

The City of Banning and the Community of Banning Heights, which are in the district of Mr. RUIZ, receive a vital source of water from a flume that conveys water from the headwaters of the Whitewater River, which is located in my district.

In 1913, the State of California recognized the appropriate state water rights that the City of Banning and Banning Heights Mutual Water Company use to divert water from the headwaters of the Whitewater River into the San Geronio watershed. In 1918, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior approved the right-of-way for the diversion structures and the flume that carries the water to the City and to Banning Heights. These communities have relied on this water for over a century—water that is critical for drinking, cooking, washing, and fire control. The two communities own the water rights, which provide 100 percent of the water for the community of Banning Heights and approximately 30 percent of the water for the City of Banning.

In designating the Whitewater River as a Wild and Recreational River, we speak with one voice in saying that we do not wish in any way to interfere with these historic rights. We recognize that the downstream portions of the Whitewater River already have the necessary flows for the Wild and Recreational designations and that additional flows are not needed to maintain or enhance these designations. As the primary sponsor of the legislation containing the Whitewater designation in the House, I in particular, wish to underscore this as a matter of legislative history and Congressional intent. We ask that the Forest Service and the BLM in implementing the Wild and Recreational River designations heed this Congressional intent and incorporate it into any land management plan amendment and other implementing documents.

We also want to be sure that the United States Forest Service—specifically the San Bernardino National Forest—heeds the instructions from the FY19 Interior Appropriations bill (P.L. 116-6) that reminds the Department of the Interior and the Forest Service of the states' jurisdiction over water law and expect that all applicable laws will be followed when considering a request for a permit or permit renewal.

The U.S. Forest Service, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Land Management, and other agencies should not now, or in the future, point to the designation of the Whitewater River as a Wild and Recreational River as a justification to require the City of Banning or the Banning Heights Mutual Water Company to relinquish their state-granted

water rights nor should such agencies require the removal of diversions at the headwaters of the Whitewater River and the flume that are necessary for these communities to receive water appropriated to them by the State of California.

YENSI GRANILLO ESTRADA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yensi Granillo Estrada for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Yensi Granillo Estrada is a student at Jefferson Jr/Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yensi Granillo Estrada is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yensi Granillo Estrada for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MOVE  
AMERICA ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Move American Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation will spur private investment in airports, ports, transit, freight and passenger rail, bridges, flood projects, inland and coastal waterway improvements, wastewater and sewage facilities, and broadband infrastructure.

The Move America Act will bring billions of dollars of investment to state and local governments to help grow and repair America's aging infrastructure. The legislation creates Move America Bonds, which provides states the ability to issue tax-exempt bonds in partnership with private entities to expand infrastructure investment. The legislation also allows states to trade in some or all of their bond allocation for Move America Credits, which can be used to help finance individual projects, or be allocated to state infrastructure banks or infrastructure revolving funds. To be clear, this legislation is not a panacea to solve all of our infrastructure needs, we need more direct funding. The Move America Act is an important aspect of our strategy to rebuild and renew America. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass it into law.

CELEBRATING THE LIFETIME OF EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY AND EDUCATION OF JESSE BERNARD BILBERRY, JR.

### HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I join former Congressman Cleo Fields and the entire Baton Rouge community today in honor of Reverend Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr. Rev. Bilberry has spent the entirety of his life dedicated to educational and community development. Revered as a trailblazer throughout his lifetime, Rev. Bilberry most recently retired after 34 years of pastoral service at Mt. Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

Rev. Bilberry was born on May 12, 1929 in Marion, Louisiana the oldest of ten children of Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Sr. and Joe B. Bilberry. He was baptized at the age of 14 at the Bloomberg Grove Baptist Church in Farmerville, Louisiana. Rev. Bilberry went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree from Southern University and A&M College. An Army veteran, Rev. Bilberry was honorably discharged from the United States Army after serving from August 18, 1951 to July 21, 1953.

After Rev. Bilberry's return from the Army, he went on to marry Verta Lee Hamilton on December 23, 1953. The couple has one daughter, Cassandra Gail.

Rev. Bilberry began a new chapter in life after marriage that started his esteemed trajectory in educational and community development. He began his career as the principal of Tensas Rosenwald High School in St. Joseph, Louisiana from 1956 to 1969. During this time, he completed his Master of Education from Louisiana State University in 1957. He was also awarded the Human Rights Award for Creative Leadership in Education in 1968.

In 1969, Rev. Bilberry took his talents back to Southern University where he served as the Freshman Complex Director until 1971. He then implemented and directed the inaugural Office of High School Relations at Southern from 1971 to 1973. The following year, Rev. Bilberry was promoted to Director of Admissions of Southern University, where he served this role until 1984.

During his early years as Director of Admissions for Southern, Rev. Bilberry first became acquainted with Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in 1975. He was later ordained a Deacon and asked to serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. By 1981, he became an Associate Minister.

Rev. Bilberry retired from Southern University and the State of Louisiana in 1984. That same year, he accepted the pastorate of Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church. Rev. Bilberry continued his studies of the church and graduated from Christian Bible College in 1988 with a Master of Theology and a Doctorate of Theology in 1990.

Throughout his lifetime, Rev. Bilberry has received numerous awards and recognition, including Minister of the Year in 1989 from the Early Risers Kiwanis Club, two-time recipient of the M.S. Tally Walk on the Water Award from the Department of Christian Education in 1991 and 1992, and the Frontiersman Award

from the Sunday School Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. in 1993 for his work leading a mission trip to Dominica, West Indies.

Rev. Bilberry has also dedicated his time to a plethora of scholastic and service-oriented organizations, including the Southern University and A&M College Board of Supervisors, supervisor and instructor for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education, and a member of East Baton Rouge Parish Ministers Conference, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Society.

Rev. Bilberry's trajectory in leadership continued as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Crestworth Learning Academy, President of the Fourth District Missionary Baptist Association, and State Director of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist Congress of Christian Education.

Rev. Bilberry has led a life of exemplary service, leadership, and compassion that has resonated throughout the entire Baton Rouge community and the state of Louisiana. His lifetime body of work should be well known and celebrated not only by those he has influenced throughout the years, but by all who seek to make a difference in this world through the vocation of ministry and education.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and work of Rev. Jesse Bernard Bilberry, Jr. and wish him luck in his retirement.

### CONGRATULATING DR. STEPHEN BASH ON HIS RETIREMENT

### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Stephen Bash for his retirement. Dr. Bash currently serves as Professor of Pediatrics, Section of Cardiology, in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria.

Dr. Bash has had a long and distinguished career as a doctor. He graduated from Indiana University Medical School in 1967 and began his medical career with an internship at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Dr. Bash then returned to Indiana where he completed his Pediatric Residency and a Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship at Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. Academia has also been an important aspect of Dr. Bash's career as he worked as an instructor at the Fort Wayne Family Practice Residency and an assistant professor at the University of Illinois. Additionally, Dr. Bash served our country honorably as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy and was a visiting cardiology consultant for the Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital in Saudi Arabia. Dr. Bash is part of several professional societies and has received several awards for his work. I would like to wish Dr. Bash well as he begins his well-earned retirement and thank him for his many contributions to medical research.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Dr. Stephen Bash that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dr. Stephen Bash on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country.

MIGUEL GARCIA

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Miguel Garcia for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Miguel Garcia is a student at Pomona High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Miguel Garcia is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Miguel Garcia for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

### MEMORIAL HERMANN KATY HOSPITAL EARNS 'A' RATING

### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital for earning an 'A' rating from The Leapfrog Group's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grade.

Memorial Hermann Katy was one of only 855 hospitals in the United States given an 'A' rating from the Leapfrog Group, a national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers. The Hospital Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harmful incidents among patients in their care. By consistently striving for and achieving excellence, Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital has set the bar high for hospitals around the country.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital for being recognized with an 'A' rating along with 855 other hospitals across our great nation. Thank you for your dedication to providing quality care to our Katy community.

### IN RECOGNITION OF LOUIS J. GOODMAN, PH.D., CAE

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Louis J. Goodman, Ph.D., CAE, as he retires after 22 years at the helm of the Texas Medical Association.

In his role as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Goodman has

helped to strengthen the Texas Medical Association as it has grown more than 50 percent since 1997. Today the organization, our nation's largest state medical society, represents nearly 53,000 physician and medical student members—including myself.

A committed leader, Dr. Goodman has spent more than three decades serving the Texas Medical Association and its members since he first joined the staff in 1987. He previously held positions with the American Medical Association and the former Michael Reese Medical Center in Chicago. In the span of his career, Dr. Goodman has published more than 100 professional articles and papers.

Dr. Goodman also holds the appointment of Adjunct Professor of Public Health at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, is an honorary member of the American Medical Association, treasurer of the Physician Advocacy Institute and past president of The Physicians Foundation, the American Association of Medical Society Executives, and the Texas Society of Association Executives. Dr. Goodman serves on the executive committee of the Texas Civil Justice League, the TMA Insurance Trust Board of Trustees, and is chairman of The Coalition of State Medical Societies.

As Dr. Goodman retires from a distinguished career, I thank my friend for his steadfast service to Texas and wish him the best of luck in the chapters to come.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF DEB WARNER

#### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Deb Warner, who retired from CenterState CEO on February 15, 2019. Throughout her career, Ms. Warner has utilized her policy expertise to empower local businesses in the Central New York region.

Beginning her career in advocacy at the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce in 1982, Ms. Warner took leading roles in implementing the Ambassador Committee, the Buy Local Committee, and the Total Quality Management training program. Following the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce's merge with CenterState, Ms. Warner shifted her focus to growing the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) industry in Central New York. Most notably, Ms. Warner successfully advocated before members of Congress from both sides of the aisle to designate Central New York as an FAA UAS Test site and create the NUAIR Alliance, a non-profit aimed at operating and overseeing UAS testing.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the career of Deb Warner. Over the course of her 30 year career in advocacy, Ms. Warner has been a powerful promoter of our region. Her insight has left a permanent impact on Central New York's economy and has helped lead local industries to great success.

YANIRA ALVARADO ISLENOS

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Yanira Alvarado Islenos for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Yanira Alvarado Islenos is a student at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Yanira Alvarado Islenos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Yanira Alvarado Islenos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE BICYCLE COMMUTER ACT

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Bicycle Commuter Act of 2019. This bipartisan legislation will reinstate the bicycle commuter tax benefit, modify the benefit to be used in concert with parking and transit benefits, and expand the bicycle benefit to include bikeshare.

The bicycle is the most efficient form of urban transportation ever devised. Cycling reduces carbon emissions, provides enormous physical and mental health benefits, and is one of the most cost-effective modes of transportation available. Communities across the country have realized these benefits and substantially invested in building better bike networks and improving facilities for biking to work. Across America, more than 100 communities of all sizes have installed or permitted bikeshare systems, supporting a nationwide network of nearly 5,000 stations, more than 100,000 bikes, and more than 120 million trips since 2010. These investments are one of the reasons that rates of biking to work have nearly doubled since 2000 while driving and public transportation rates have increased by 16 percent and 26 percent, respectively.

Despite these impressive developments, there is currently no commuter tax benefit for biking to work. Public Law 115-97 suspended the bicycle commuting reimbursement benefit through 2025, taking away a valuable financial incentive for people who choose to bike to work. The Bicycle Commuter Act reverses the benefit's suspension, changes the structure of the benefit to be more flexible to, and adds bikeshare as eligible for the benefit. Employees don't commute the same way every day and our commuter tax benefits should reflect that. The Bicycle Commuter Act provides the flexibility that people need while also

incentivizing a clean and healthy mode of transportation: the bicycle.

#### CONGRATULATING DR. JITENDRA SHAH ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Jitendra Shah for his retirement. Dr. Shah currently serves as the Director of the Pediatric Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at the Children's Hospital of Illinois at St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Dr. Jitendra Shah has had a long and distinguished career as a doctor, which began after he graduated from the Medical College at Maharaja Sayajirao University in Baroda, India in 1969. Following graduation, Dr. Shah completed an internship and his residency at Shree Sayaji General Hospital in Baroda, India, the Albert Einstein Medical Center and Philadelphia General Hospital in Pennsylvania. Dr. Shah did a fellowship in Pediatric Cardiology at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia, and then led research at the Congenital Heart Disease Research & Training Center's Hekteon Institute for Medical Research in Chicago, Illinois. He has also served in the academic world, most recently as Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria. Dr. Shah is a part of many scientific organizations and has received two teaching awards for his time in academia. I would like to wish Dr. Shah well as he begins his well-earned retirement and thank him for his many contributions to medical research.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Dr. Jitendra Shah that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dr. Jitendra Shah on his retirement and thank him for his service to the Peoria community.

#### HAYLEE LAITURI

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Haylee Laituri for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Haylee Laituri is a student at Standley Lake High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Haylee Laituri is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Haylee Laituri for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**SAN JACINTO COLLEGE WINS EXCALIBUR AND MEDALLION AWARDS**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Jacinto College for earning the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Houston Chapter's 2018 Excalibur Award and the 2018 National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 4 Medallion Award.

San Jacinto College was awarded a Silver Excalibur Award from PRSA and a Bronze Medallion Award from NCMPR. The Excalibur Award is given to recognize extraordinary professional accomplishments in the execution of public relations programs while the Medallion Award is given to those who express outstanding achievements in the areas of marketing and communication at community colleges. It is thanks to the tireless efforts of the faculty and students that the college received these prestigious awards. These awards highlight San Jacinto College's ongoing effort to recruit bright minds and future leaders to their institution.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to San Jacinto College for earning PRSA's Houston Chapter's 2018 Excalibur Awards and the 2018 National Council for Marketing and Public Relations District 4 Medallion Awards. We know we will be seeing even more accolades for San Jacinto College in the future.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. FRANKEL. Madam Speaker, on roll call vote 100, 101, 102, and 103 I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea," "yea," "nay," and "yea."

**INTRODUCTION OF STOP UNDERRIDES ACT OF 2019**

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Stop Underrides Act, a bipartisan, bicameral bill I introduced earlier today along with my colleague on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Representative MARK DESAULNIER from California, and in the Senate, Senators KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND and MARCO RUBIO, to prevent deadly truck underride crashes.

An underride crash is when a car collides with a truck and goes underneath the body of the truck. Modern car safety features are designed to ensure that a passenger can walk away from a crash where the vehicle hits a solid wall at 35 miles per hour. In an underride

crash, the first part of a car coming into contact with a truck body is the windshield, and as a result, a car's safety features are rendered useless. When a car collides with a truck, it will keep moving forward, and decapitation is a serious threat at 35 miles per hour.

While large trucks have been federally required to have rear underride guards since 1953, there is no requirement to adequately maintain rear underride guards and they often fail. In addition, underride guards are not federally required to be on the sides or front of trucks. Too many lives have been lost or forever altered by these preventable crashes and the time has come for Congress to act.

The Stop Underrides Act does just that—lays out a path to bring an end to these terrible and all too often fatal accidents by requiring all large truck trailers to have front, side, and rear underride guards.

These guards, if installed, would have likely prevented the death of Michael Higginbotham, who was killed in an underride crash in Memphis and whose parents, Randy and Laurie Higginbotham, have been urging Congress to take action on this long overdue issue.

This is common sense legislation that will save lives. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of the Stop Underrides Act.

**NEVEAH PADILLA**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Neveah Padilla for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Neveah Padilla is a student at Jefferson Jr./Sr. and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Neveah Padilla is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Neveah Padilla for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF OCONTO**

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Oconto's sesquicentennial.

Nestled on the coast of Green Bay, the City of Oconto is the home to thousands of Wisconsinites. The city hosts thirty-three sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in its 150 years, it has seen tremendous growth and prosperity.

First settled by the Copper Culture People over 6,000 years ago, Oconto is rich with history and culture. The Copper Culture People, rightfully named for their role as some of the earliest copper workers in the Americas, made a variety of tools and ornaments, many of which can still be found today in Oconto at the Copper Culture State Park. When Jesuit missionaries arrived in Oconto in the mid-1600s, Oconto became vital in building the trade relationships that helped so-called "New France" to prosper. The Copper Culture People, along with ancestors of the Menominee who had settled there, traded beaver and other furs for various goods and tools with the European settlers.

Oconto experienced a population boom during the 19th and 20th centuries. Located directly on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, Oconto became a hub for the growing commercial lumber and fishing industries. Americans were in search of a beautiful place to earn a living and raise a family, and this wonderful city in Northeast Wisconsin offered them just that.

Today, several industries have expanded and are expected to continue to grow, creating new jobs and boosting the local economy. Oconto's small-town fishing lifestyle has continued to play a crucial role in the economy, attracting anglers from across the United States fishing for walleye at its Breakwater Park on the Bay.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the City of Oconto on 150 years of community, industry, and success. As citizens committed to preserving the vibrant history of their home and watching it grow and prosper, the people of Oconto truly embody what it means to be a Wisconsinite: to strive forward. I wish them another 150 years of prosperity.

**THANKING JAMES "BUCK" GILCREASE FOR HIS SERVICE TO ALVIN ISD**

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank James "Buck" Gilcrease on his years of dedication and service to the students and faculty of Alvin ISD.

Since assuming the Superintendent position in 2014, James has overseen the opening of seven new schools in the district. James led the district through multiple successful bond elections which were needed because of unprecedented population growth. During his tenure, seven new schools were opened by Alvin ISD. Even though James is retiring, he plans to continue his legacy advocating for the advancement of our children's education.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, thank you again to James "Buck" Gilcrease for his years of dedication and commitment to academic excellence at Alvin ISD. While we are sad to see him leave Alvin ISD, we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I was not present for votes from February 25th through February 28th due to my father's passing. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call Nos. 88, 89; YEA on Roll Call No. 94; YEA on Roll Call No. 95; NAY on Roll Call No. 99; and NAY on Roll Call No. 103.

## HONORING ARCHIE ARCHULETA

**HON. BEN MCADAMS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. MCADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of Utah's finest. On January 25th, Utah lost Archie Archuleta—a longtime community activist. Archie was a shining beacon of hope, leading by example on how to be a champion for marginalized groups and for the causes of civil liberties and peace in the State of Utah. He believed that "truth needs witnesses" and each person's voice matters.

Archie was born near Grand Junction, Colorado, the child of farm workers who picked sugar beets, lettuce and other crops. After getting his bachelor's degree in education, he came to Salt Lake to teach elementary school. He met the love of his life, Lois, and together they raised five children.

Archie served as president of the Coalition of La Raza for nine years and for his work on behalf of the Latino Community, he was recognized by many for his efforts.

I'll always remember Archie's calls and visits to my office to share his thoughts and advice. He cared deeply about our community and worked hard to make all of us better. I was inspired by Archie's fiery speeches at public rallies and humble mentorship in more private moments.

Archie was someone bigger than life—a man who left his mark on so many of the people with whom he came in contact. We mourn his passing but celebrate the legacy of this fierce advocate and gentle teacher.

## CONGRATULATING DR. RICHARD PEARL ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CHERI BUSTOS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Richard Pearl for his retirement as Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Dr. Pearl is currently the director of Surgical Simulation at the Jump Simulation and Education Center at OSF HealthCare and is completing a long career of service through medicine.

Dr. Richard Pearl began his distinguished career after he received a medical degree from Wright State University in 1980. Dr. Pearl

first gained experience as a Surgical Intern at Madigan Army Medical Center prior to completing his residency at Harvard Surgical Service in Boston, and a fellowship focused on Pediatric Surgery in Toronto, Canada. In addition to these outstanding achievements, Dr. Pearl honorably served our nation as a Colonel in the U.S. Army. He began his military service as an infantry officer and helicopter pilot before joining the Army Medical Corps. In the Army Medical Corps, Dr. Pearl served in Operation Desert Storm as Deputy Commander of a Combat Support Hospital and Commander of a Forward Surgical Team in Saudi Arabia and Iraq. This extraordinary service earned Dr. Pearl many recognitions and accolades, including three Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit and the Air Medal for Valor. I would like to wish Dr. Pearl well as he begins his well-earned retirement.

It is because of dedicated leaders such as Dr. Richard Pearl that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dr. Richard Pearl on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country.

## KATY HIGH SCHOOL DEBATER MAKES HISTORY

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chandler Scott of Katy, TX for advancing to the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Congressional Debate.

Chandler is the first UIL Congressional Debate qualifier in the history of Katy High School. In the competition, Chandler will play the role of a mock legislator. Students work hard to prepare their bills and resolutions, which they then debate with their competitors as they work toward passing laws. Although he has already made history, Chandler says that there is no added pressure on his performance. Instead, he is proud to represent his school at the competition. Chandler, whose mother is a 1984 refugee from Afghanistan, says her work ethic and perseverance helped shape him into the person he is today.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Chandler Scott of Katy, TX. We are proud of this accomplishment and wish him well at the contest.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LAW PROFESSOR THOMAS L. SHAFFER

**HON. PETER T. KING**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Notre Dame Law School Professor Thomas L. Shaffer, a true icon who passed away last week. Tom Shaffer was a teacher, mentor and friend to generations of Notre Dame Law students. I was privileged to be one of those stu-

dents whose life and career benefitted so much from that experience.

Tom Shaffer began his teaching career at Notre Dame in 1963 after graduating from the Law School two years earlier. Besides his ability in the classroom Professor Shaffer served as Dean from 1971–1975 and was a renowned legal ethics scholar and prolific legal author having written more than 300 scholarly works.

Most important was Tom Shaffer's lasting impact on so many students to whom he imparted his dedication to strong legal thinking and analysis founded on ethics and moral responsibility.

Tom Shaffer was a good man and that goodness is being reflected in the outpouring of statements from so many of his former students since his death. All of us have Tom Shaffer in our thoughts and prayers and send our sincerest condolences to his wonderful wife Nancy and their children and grandchildren.

Professor Tom Shaffer R.I.P.

## IN HONOR OF MARGIE WILSON BRIDGES

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Margie Wilson Bridges, a constituent who passed away on January 4, 2019. The daughter of the late T.B. and Lorene Morris Wilson, she was also preceded in death by her infant brothers, Thomas Daniels Wilson and Steven Morris Wilson. She is survived by her cherished husband of fifty-six years, Gary Bridges and her beloved children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was devoted to her family, and her warmth and compassion were without measure. She is remembered for the many and generous contributions she made to her family, friends, and her community. Margie Wilson Bridges will be deeply missed by all whose lives were touched by her remarkable presence.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 25, 2019 I am not recorded on two votes because I was unavoidably detained due to weather impacting my commercial flight.

If I had been present, I would have voted: yes, on Roll Call 88 and on Roll Call 89.

## FINDLAY NAMED TOP MICROPOLITAN COMMUNITY

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Findlay, Ohio for being recognized as



the Top Micropolitan Community in the United States for the fifth year in a row. The issuing magazine, *Site Selection*, announced the 2019 award by describing Findlay as “being propelled into superstar status.”

To be considered, a micropolitan city must have a population ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Over 500 of these cities were evaluated on business growth and economic sustainability. With Findlay’s 23 projects that met *Site Selection*’s criteria, it surpassed the competition and secured the “five-peat.”

Fostering a cooperative environment between the community, business, and local government has allowed for continued economic growth in Findlay. This success would not be possible without the commendable efforts of the Findlay government, the Findlay-Hancock County Economic Development office, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the entire Findlay community.

Madam Speaker, Findlay has routinely served as an example of what a strong community and a commitment to its prosperity can do by implementing their renowned “Findlay Formula.” This formula continues to pay dividends and serves as an example to cities across the country.

I congratulate Findlay for another year as the nation’s top-ranked Micropolitan Community.

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#### AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY HEALTH

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics who prepared this statement for me in acknowledgement of Black History Month.

Minority populations, especially the African American population, continue to remain in relatively poor health when compared to the majority population, and also continue to be underserved by the health care system.

One of the biggest health challenges facing our country today is obesity, and the African

American community is especially at risk. In a 2015–2016 study by the CDC, the report found non-Hispanic black (46.8 percent) adults had a higher prevalence of obesity than non-Hispanic white adults (37.9 percent).

Compared to other states, Illinois’ obesity rate is a significant area of concern, with 31.1 percent adults having obesity. This statistic is higher than the U.S. median.

Illinois has the twenty-seventh highest adult obesity rate in the nation, and the seventh highest obesity rate for youth ages 10 to 17.

Chicago’s African American community is the demographic with the highest obesity rate at 39.8 percent.

With such a high percentage of the African American community falling in the obese category, the demographic runs a higher risk for obesity-related conditions, including heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer that are some of the leading causes of preventable, premature death. Compared to the general population, African Americans are disproportionately affected by diabetes.

Adult Illinoisans with hypertension is 32.32 percent, while 11 percent have diabetes—both illnesses directly related to obesity.

13.2 percent of all African Americans aged 20 years or older have diagnosed diabetes.

African Americans are 1.7 times more likely to have diabetes as non-Hispanic whites.

African-Americans are significantly more likely to suffer from blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure in African Americans. African Americans are twice as likely to be diagnosed with diabetes as Caucasians.

Approximately 4.9 million African Americans over 20 years of age are living with either diagnosed or undiagnosed diabetes.

African Americans constitute more than 35 percent of all patients in the U.S. receiving dialysis for kidney failure, but only represent 13.2 percent of the overall U.S. population.

High blood pressure is the second leading kidney failure among African Americans, and remains the leading cause of death due to its link with heart attacks and strokes.

With these troubling statistics, where do we go from here? Awareness, education, and ac-

cess are the keys to changing our nation’s health. And food and nutrition practitioners play a very important role in leading the health revolution.

Obesity is partially attributed to poor nutritional intake and has been implicated as a contributor to cancer, heart disease, stroke, and diabetes. Food and nutrition practitioners have an opportunity and an ethical obligation to positively influence the health care experience of individuals.

These experts have the power to influence factors affecting health disparities at the individual and the population level, including programs such as SNAP, WIC, adult care food programs, and other nutrition programs. By connecting with individuals who are most at risk, food and nutrition practitioners can make a huge change when it comes to the health of African Americans, as well as all Americans.

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#### CELEBRATING THE DANVILLE- BOYLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 5, 2019*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Danville-Boyle Chamber of Commerce 100-year celebration.

I am proud to represent the City of Danville and Boyle County in Congress. Danville is one of the most vibrant communities in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, boasting a family-friendly environment with many thriving businesses. Danville has been named the Most Beautiful Small Town in America and one of the best places to retire in America. This would not be possible without the great work of the Danville-Boyle Chamber of Commerce, which has supported the local business community for 100 years.

I want to congratulate the Danville-Boyle Chamber of Commerce for their success and commitment to the Danville community over the last century. Here’s to the next 100 years.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

**Routine Proceedings, pages S1635–S1669**

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-three bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 645–667, and S. Res. 93–95. **Pages S1659–60**

**Measures Passed:**

**Gold Star Families Remembrance Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 93, expressing support for the designation of March 2, 2019, as “Gold Star Families Remembrance Day”. **Page S1663**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the continuation of the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–4) **Page S1657**

**Readler Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit. **Pages S1652–54**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 36), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1653**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 4 p.m., on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. **Page S1654**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. **Page S1663**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 53 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 35), Allison Jones Rushing, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit. **Pages S1635–45, S1645–52, S1669**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Andeliz N. Castillo, of New York, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

Brent R. Bunn, of Idaho, to be United States Marshal for the District of Idaho for the term of four years.

Robert J. Colville, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Timothy J. Downing, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Michael Blaine East, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Stephanie L. Haines, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Jason K. Pulliam, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Matthew H. Solomson, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

David Austin Tapp, of Kentucky, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

8 Army nominations in the rank of general.

12 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, and Navy. **Pages S1668–69**

**Nomination Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

Calvin R. Tucker, of Pennsylvania, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2023, which was sent to the Senate on January 16, 2019. **Page S1669**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:**

**Pages S1657, S1663**

**Executive Communications:**

**Pages S1657–59**

Petitions and Memorials:	Page S1659
Additional Cosponsors:	Pages S1660–61
Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:	Pages S1661–62
Additional Statements:	Page S1657
Notices of Intent:	Page S1662
Authorities for Committees to Meet:	Pages S1662–63

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today.  
(Total—36) **Pages S1652–53**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 6, 2019. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1663.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine United States European Command and United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2020 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, USA, Commander, United States European Command and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Supreme Allied Commander Europe, and General Stephen R. Lyons, USA, Commander, United States Transportation Command, both of the Department of Defense.

### ELECTRICITY SECTOR IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the electricity sector in a changing climate, after receiving testimony from Lisa Jacobson, Business Council for Sustainable Energy, and Joseph T. Kelliher, NextEra Energy, Inc., both of Washington, D.C.; Kenneth B. Medlock III, Rice University James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Houston, Texas; Ethan Schutt, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Anchorage; and Susan F. Tierney, Analysis Group, Inc., Denver, Colorado.

### AIR QUALITY AND COOPERATIVE FEDERALISM

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety concluded a hearing to examine states' role in protecting

air quality, focusing on principles of cooperative federalism, after receiving testimony from L. David Glatt, North Dakota Department of Health, Bismarck; Becky W. Keogh, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Little Rock; and Craig Holt Segall, California Air Resources Board, Sacramento.

### NORTH KOREA DENUCLEARIZATION EFFORTS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee received a closed briefing on the status of the North Korea denuclearization effort post-Hanoi from Stephen E. Biegun, Special Representative for North Korea, Department of State.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Joseph V. Cuffari, of Arizona, to be Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator McCally, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### VACCINES

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine vaccines, focusing on preventable disease outbreaks, after receiving testimony from John Wiesman, Washington State Secretary of Health, Olympia; Saad B. Omer, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia; Jonathan A. McCullers, University of Tennessee Health Science Center Department of Pediatrics, Memphis; John G. Boyle, Immune Deficiency Foundation, Towson, Maryland; and Ethan Lindenberger, Norwalk, Ohio.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Sean D. Jordan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, and Mark T. Pittman, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### CONCENTRATION AND COMPETITION IN THE U.S. ECONOMY

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine concentration and competition in the United States economy, after receiving testimony from Robert B. Reich, University of California, Berkeley; Joshua D. Wright, Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University Global Antitrust Institute, Arlington, Virginia; John E.

Kwoka, Jr., Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts; and A. Douglas Melamed, Stanford Law School, Stanford, California.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee held closed hearings on intelligence matters, receiving testimony from officials of the intelligence community.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 53 public bills, H.R. 1494–1546; 2 private bills, H.R. 1547–1548; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 171, 173–179 were introduced. **Pages H2365–68**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H2370–71**

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 172, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 116–16). **Page H2352**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Ted Lieu (CA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2325**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:12 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H2326**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H2326–27, H2341**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:09 p.m. and reconvened at 4 p.m. **Page H2327**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*Streamlining Energy Efficiency for Schools Act of 2019:* H.R. 762, to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to provide for the dissemination of information regarding available Federal programs relating to energy efficiency projects for schools; **Pages H2328–29**

*Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act of 2019:* H.R. 347, to extend the authorization of the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act of 1978 relating to the disposal site in Mesa County, Colorado; **Pages H2329–30**

*Reauthorizing the West Valley demonstration project:* H.R. 1138, to reauthorize the West Valley demonstration project; **Pages H2330–32**

*Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act:* H.R. 1381, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 416 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 104; **Pages H2332–35, H2340–41**

*Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Health Professionals Act:* H.R. 1271, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school; and **Pages H2335–37**

*Designating the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation:* S. 49, to designate the outstation of the Department of Veterans Affairs in North Ogden, Utah, as the Major Brent Taylor Vet Center Outstation, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 417 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 105. **Pages H2337–40, H2341**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 5:31 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H2340**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 8:58 p.m. and reconvened at 9:31 p.m. **Page H2352**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified the Congress that the national emergency with respect to Venezuela that was declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015 is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2019. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–19). **Page H2327**

**Senate Referral:** S. 252 was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H2327.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yeas-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2340–41 and H2341. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 1—For the People Act of 2019 (Subject to a Rule).

## Committee Meetings

### FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2019

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 1, the “For the People Act of 2019”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 1, the “For the People Act of 2019”. The rule provides two hours of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 116–7, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. Section 2 of the rule makes in order only those further amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report and amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the rule. Each such amendment printed in part B of the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the report or against amendments en bloc as described in section 3 of the rule. Section 3 of the rule provides that the chair of the Committee on House Administration or her designee may offer amendments en bloc at any time consisting of amendments not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. Section 4 of the rule provides, upon the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment, a final period of general debate, which shall not exceed 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on House Administration. The

rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Section 5 of the rule provides that it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of March 8, 2019, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV, and that the Speaker or her designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or his designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this section. Testimony was heard from Chairman Lofgren, Chairman Takano, and Representatives Rodney Davis of Illinois, Suozzi, Lesko, Green of Texas, Davidson of Ohio, Meng, Hice of Georgia, Meadows, Pressley, and Rouda.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the military services’ prevention of and response to sexual assault, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* to hold hearings to examine the state of the American maritime industry, 10 a.m., SH–216.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* to hold hearings to examine the economic benefits of highway infrastructure investment and accelerated project delivery, 10 a.m., SD–406.

*Committee on Finance:* to hold hearings to examine protecting Americans from abuse and neglect in nursing homes, 10:15 a.m., SD–215.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John P. Abizaid, of Nevada, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Matthew H. Tueller, of Utah, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iraq, both of the Department of State, 10 a.m., SD–419.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold a hearing to examine recommendations to reduce risk of waste, fraud, and mismanagement in Federal programs, 9:30 a.m., SD–342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold an oversight hearing to examine Customs and Border Protection’s response to the smuggling of persons at the southern border, 10 a.m., SD–226.

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Library of Congress, 10:30 a.m., SR–301.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* to hold hearings to examine small business and the American worker, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs*: to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

*Special Committee on Aging*: to hold hearings to examine the complex web of prescription drug prices, focusing on patients struggling with rising costs, 9:30 a.m., SD-138.

### House

*Committee on Appropriations*, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Public Witness Hearing—Tribal Programs", 9 a.m., 2007 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, oversight hearing on the Office of Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Electronic Health Record Modernization and Information Technology Oversight", 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Protecting Student Borrowers: Loan Servicing Oversight", 10:30 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing entitled "Member Day", 10:30 a.m., HT-2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Public Witness Hearing—Tribal Programs", 1 p.m., 2007 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on U.S. Central Command, 3 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

*Committee on Armed Services*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Outside Perspectives on Nuclear Deterrence Policy and Posture Update", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

*Committee on the Budget*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2020 Budget: Member's Day", 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Labor*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 582, the "Raise the Wage Act", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Strengthening Our Health Care System: Legislation to Lower Consumer Costs and Expanding Access", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, hearing entitled "Inclusion in Tech: How Diversity Benefits All Americans", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Full Committee, business meeting on the Views and Estimates of the Committee

on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and International Terrorism, hearing entitled "The Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen: Addressing Current Political and Humanitarian Challenges", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "The Way Forward on Border Security", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled "Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey", 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Reform*, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled "Examining PFAS Chemicals and their Risks", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "GAO's 2019 High Risk Report", 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Science and Technology", 2 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, business meeting on the Committee's Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2020, 10:45 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "Rebuilding America: Small Business Perspective", 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled "U.S. Maritime and Shipbuilding Industries: Strategies to Improve Regulation, Economic Opportunities, and Competitiveness", 10 a.m., 2253 Rayburn.

*Committee on Ways and Means*, Full Committee, business meeting on the Views and Estimates Letter to the Committee on the Budget, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "Our Nation's Crumbling Infrastructure and the Need for Immediate Action", 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

### Joint Meetings

*Joint Hearing*: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 10 a.m., SD-G50.



*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 6

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 6

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Chad A. Readler, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 4 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Chad A. Readler, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Eric E. Murphy, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of H.R. 1—For the People Act of 2019 (Subject to a Rule).

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