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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 12, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIANO ESPAILLAT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, in September 2017, Puerto Rico was hit by two major hurricanes, Irma and Maria, both of which caused catastrophic damage, displaced thousands of families, and killed almost 3,000 American citizens. Adding insult to injury, the Trump administration organized an embarrassingly slow and ineffective response during Puerto Rico's time of need.

Last July, FEMA released a report acknowledging many of their shortcomings in responding to Hurricane Maria. And I am sure we all remember images of the President tastelessly throwing paper towels at families during his relief visit, as if he were shooting free throws at a basketball game.

It has been a year and a half since Hurricane Maria, and Puerto Rico has made incredible strides to rebuild, but many, many families are still struggling. These are American citizens who pay taxes and who work hard, just like mainland Americans, but for some reason, the Trump administration is having a hard time empathizing.

When I think of all the ways the Trump administration has attacked low-income and working families, I can't say I am surprised.

Last week, The Washington Post reported that Puerto Rico was forced to start cutting its Nutrition Assistance Program, NAP, benefits. Puerto Rico's food assistance program is funded by a capped block grant separate from SNAP. While other Federal nutrition programs like WIC and school meals operate in Puerto Rico the same as in other States and territories, Puerto Rico remains disadvantaged because their Nutrition Assistance Program funds are static.

In order to receive nutrition assistance in Puerto Rico, you have to have a lower income—to receive less assistance—than someone who lives on the mainland. It also limits the program's flexibility to respond to changes in demand. When the hurricane struck, additional funds had to be given to NAP to accommodate more participants.

These forced cuts will reduce Puerto Rico's food assistance benefits by 25 percent for 1.3 million people. That is 43 percent of Puerto Rico's population. While it is true that this cut will restore the overall benefit amount to where it was before the hurricane, we must remember that these participants

often need more assistance, given the circumstances. It is not easy to rebuild your entire life on an empty stomach.

Mr. Speaker, on more than one occasion, House Democrats have asked for an additional \$600 million to help Puerto Rico through this rough patch, only to be shut down by the President and his misplaced, ill-informed prejudices toward Puerto Rico. Even Leader MCCONNELL seems to be helping the President do his dirty work by refusing to take up the supplemental appropriations bill that we sent to the Senate during the shutdown in January, probably because it would force them to address relief funds for Puerto Rico.

Pulling out the rug from beneath Puerto Rico does not solve the problem; it creates a bigger one. This won't disappear. That is why I urge my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to appropriate an additional \$600 million for Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program.

I also urge my colleagues in the House to support these funds and speak out on this issue. The least we can do is empathize with our fellow Americans who are recovering from a natural disaster.

It doesn't happen overnight. It doesn't take months. It takes years to recover from the devastation that Hurricane Maria caused, and Puerto Rico has continued to fight and advocate for disaster funds, unlike States on the mainland.

Time is running out, and we can't allow these cuts to continue. This is a moral question for all of us here in this Chamber. This is about how are we going to treat our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico.

It is all on us to act. It is all on us to end hunger now.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

□ 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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Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Agriculture Week, to celebrate American farmers and farm families.

This nationwide effort recognizes and celebrates the abundance provided by American agriculture. It also reminds citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us and plays a critical economic and food security role.

Thursday is National Ag Day, which began in 1973 as a way to increase public awareness of agriculture's role in society. National Ag Day encourages every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced; appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products; value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy; and acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, and fiber industries.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are fortunate to have more than 58,000 farmers. These men and women are the lifeline of the Commonwealth, as agriculture is our number one industry.

Our farmers produce a safe and abundant food supply, including our dairy farmers, who produce the milk that is stocked in the cases of our supermarkets and in lunchrooms across America.

My bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, would further expand milk choices in our schools. It would allow for whole milk, both flavored and unflavored, to be offered in school cafeterias.

Mr. Speaker, milk was once a staple in the diets of our students, but consumption in schools has dramatically decreased since the Healthy, Hunger-Free Act of 2010—which demonized milk fat, which is where nutrition and flavor is—was implemented.

Milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in the diets of many young Americans. We can provide the foundation for a solid, healthy lunch in our schools that also tastes great and students will want to drink.

When students don't consume milk, they are not getting nutrients such as calcium, potassium, and vitamin D.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, and National Agriculture Week is the perfect time to sign on to this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we know that farmers feed; nutrition matters; and agriculture plays a critical role in modern society. I would like to thank all Americans who work tirelessly in the ag sector. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank you.

CYBERSECURITY SKILLS INTEGRATION

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act.

As co-chair of the House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am

proud that we continue to provide the resources necessary to have a dominant and prosperous workforce. For instance, this past July, we authorized the Carl D. Perkins Act to advance career and technical education.

We must continue developing a 21st century workforce to meet the technical demands our country is facing now and into the future. That is why, together with my friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN, we have introduced a bill to help protect our sensitive data and critical infrastructure from bad actors.

Our legislation directs the Department of Education to create a comprehensive grant program that integrates cybersecurity education into new and established postsecondary CTE programs.

With more than 16 critical infrastructure sectors in our country, we must prepare our next generation of learners to have the most sophisticated and comprehensive educational programs to protect our Nation's most dire assets, systems, and networks.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank Mr. LANGEVIN for his work and leadership on this issue.

EPA'S DECISION ON REDWOOD CITY SALT PONDS

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

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged, but not surprised, that the political appointees in the EPA's Washington, D.C., office have decided that the Redwood City salt ponds in my district do not include waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.

This administration has completely hijacked the jurisdictional process away from the experts on the ground, putting politics ahead of science. No surprise.

Stunningly, after experts at the EPA's Region 9 had drafted a determination in 2016 that came to a completely opposite conclusion, the EPA trampled on that evidence-based determination.

The administration was, no doubt, counting on the fact that the draft would not be released to the public. Well, I am not willing to allow that to happen.

Let the RECORD reflect that, after being designated an EPA special case, Region 9 experts conducted an extensive review of the property and finally concluded that 1,270 acres within the Redwood City salt ponds property are, in fact, waters of the United States for the following reasons.

First, the tidal channels within the property were part of the traditionally navigable waters of the San Francisco Bay and were not converted to "fast land" or "dry solid upland" prior to the enactment of the Clean Water Act. This is because waters that have been severed from tidal influence but are regularly inundated are not fast lands.

Secondly, the salt ponds in their current condition have been shown to be navigable in the past and could be used in interstate or foreign commerce with reasonable improvements, such as removing levees. In fact, large portions of former salt ponds in proximity to the site have been restored to tidal marshes.

Third, the salt ponds are impoundments of water otherwise defined as waters of the United States.

Finally, the salt ponds have significant nexus to the traditionally navigable waters of the adjacent San Francisco Bay, providing food and habitat to certain species of microorganisms, invertebrates, and birds.

The most recent EPA determination directly contradicts the findings of Region 9 experts, but it is completely in line with this administration's record of gutting environmental protections in the name of corporate interests.

I realize that this administration struggles to recognize any body of water that is not a murky, scum-filled swamp, but I refuse to let this 180-degree political flip-flop occur without public disclosure. Believe me, the decision by Administrator Wheeler is a flop. That is why I am submitting this draft determination in its entirety for the public record.

DRAFT REDWOOD CITY SALT PONDS JD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document constitutes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) determination of the federal jurisdictional status of the Redwood City Salt Ponds for purposes of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This CWA jurisdictional determination applies to the Redwood City Salt Ponds property ("Redwood City Salt Ponds" or "the Property") depicted in Figure 1. The Property is approximately 1,365 contiguous acres adjacent to Westpoint Slough, a part of San Francisco Bay, located near Seaport Boulevard, Redwood City, San Mateo County, California. Within the boundaries of the subject area, approximately 95 acres of the Property are not "waters of the United States" where they are above the High Tide Line on the outer side of the perimeter levees bounding the Property, and above the Ordinary High Water Mark on the levee interiors. These non-jurisdictional areas consist of levees, building pads and other features converted to fast land before passage of the CWA.

The remaining estimated 1,270 acres within the subject area are "waters of the United States" as defined by the CWA, because: (1) the tidal channels within the Redwood City Salt Ponds were part of the traditionally navigable waters of San Francisco Bay, and were not converted to fast land prior to enactment of the CWA; (2) the salt ponds in their current condition have been shown to be navigable in fact, and are susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce with reasonable improvements; (3) the salt ponds are impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States; and (4) the salt ponds have a significant nexus to the traditionally navigable waters of the adjacent San Francisco Bay.

Complete text can be found on <https://speier.house.gov/media-center/press-releases>

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD DALE NICHOLS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I speak today about the passing of the great Kansan and former Member of the United States Congress, my friend, Mr. Richard Dale Nichols.

Dick was born in southeast Kansas and honorably served his country in World War II as a member of the United States Navy. Upon returning to Kansas, he attended Kansas State University and was a fellow Beta Theta Pi fraternity brother.

After graduation, Dick entered the banking industry and, ultimately, settled down in McPherson, Kansas, where he served as president and then as chairman of the board for Home State Bank & Trust.

In 1990, Dick was elected to the United States Congress, representing the Fifth Congressional District of Kansas. Two years later, following the census, Dick's district was eliminated, and he returned to life as a businessman, but he never gave up his passion and love for our country.

Dick served as president of the Kansas Bankers Association, was active in the local Chamber of Commerce, and was a fellow Rotarian. He was a proud husband, father, and grandfather, and his outgoing, optimistic personality gained him new friends wherever he traveled.

I had the opportunity to get to know Dick and will always be grateful for the time and energy he spent helping me find my way to Washington, D.C. When I was back in McPherson, I always enjoyed chatting with him about Kansas State athletics, fellow Beta fraternity brothers, and Republican politics.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick's wife, Linda, and the entire Nichols family as they mourn the loss of a great Kansan and a great man. He will certainly be missed.

RESTORING INTEGRITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of Secretary Sonny Perdue and the Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to restore the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and implement the program as a safety net, not a way of life.

In 2019, too many able-bodied men and women remain on the sidelines of our workforce. Recent data published by the U.S. Federal Reserve in February indicate a historically robust economy yet sluggish labor force participation rates, indicating a continued reluctance by some to engage in the workplace.

□ 1015

According to data from USDA, we have more families accepting SNAP

dollars today than we did at the height of the financial crisis of 2008.

Despite major economic gains and today's record low unemployment; too many States are allowing people to opt out of work, leaving employers to spend valuable resources searching for men and women to fill our many vacant jobs.

By requiring able-bodied adults without minor dependents who are seeking SNAP benefits to work at least 20 hours a week while participating in training or educational programs, we are ensuring these men and women are no longer disengaged from the labor market, but finding a way back to the workforce and long-term self-sufficiency.

This Nation's economy is as strong as it has been in my professional lifetime. We must continue to encourage individuals to become self-sufficient and find new employment opportunities.

For too long, too many States have bypassed the rules and allowed able-bodied adults to neglect valuable job training and educational opportunities.

Employers across the country have good-paying jobs that can help individuals move out of poverty and regain their independence and integrity.

It is time we restore SNAP to its intended purpose, help men and women move back into the workforce, and take a major step in closing the workforce participation gap.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the progress made over the past two years to close the digital divide.

Access to a reliable internet connection remains a significant challenge in rural America and across my district. Society is becoming more and more reliant on broadband, whether for access to educational resources, telemedicine, or precision agriculture technology.

At the end of 2016, more than 26 million Americans did not have access to high speed internet. However, in a recent draft report circulated by Chairman Pai, that number dropped to just over 19 million at the end of 2017, with many of these new connections being in rural America. According to that report, fiber was deployed to another almost 6 million homes by the end of 2018, which is the largest number ever recorded.

Reducing regulatory burdens for deployment has helped to incentivize investment. Our local providers are working hard to leverage Federal programs, private dollars, and savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to further deploy broadband infrastructure to rural communities, better connecting our farmers, small businesses, and families. Companies like Rockhouse Motion, a digital media company in Geneseo, Kansas, or Rollin J Boutique in Phillipsburg, Kansas, both in my district, are able to thrive thanks to that internet connection.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud our efforts at the FCC, the USDA, and Congress to

make broadband access in rural America both affordable and reliable. I also encourage my colleagues to continue working to ensure that Americans have access to an internet connection no matter where they live.

CELEBRATING GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR 107TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the United States as it celebrates its 107th birthday today.

On this day in 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded this organization for, in her words, the girls of Savannah and of all America and of the world.

As you might be able to tell from the pictures next to me, Girl Scouts holds a very special place in my life.

Girl Scouts prepares girls to empower themselves, promotes compassion, courage, confidence, character, leadership, entrepreneurship, and active citizenship.

You see, my life has been shaped, as have many other girls and women throughout this country, in large part by the lessons I learned through scouting. From my great-grandmother, to my grandmother, to my mother, to myself, Girl Scouts and the values that they taught me and the strengths that Girl Scouts helped me to achieve have helped carry me through life.

For more than a century, the Girl Scouts have taught girls to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders.

Today, with a record number of women serving in the U.S. Congress, there are also a record number of Girl Scouts. Fifty-eight percent of the women in the U.S. House of Representatives are Girl Scouts and 73 percent of female U.S. Senators are Girl Scouts.

Though there are hundreds of Girl Scout alums in both houses of Congress, there are three of us who earned scouting's highest honor: myself, Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD, and Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

This award, the Gold Award, is given to high schoolers after they identify an issue in their community, investigate it, build a team, build a plan, and implement it. These 1- to 2-year take-action projects must have sustainable impacts on the community. They can be petitions to add playgrounds to local parks, recycling campaigns, building emergency kits, and on and on and on, but the one thing they have in common is a sustainability requirement. They simply can't be a one shot. They must create lasting change.

Girl Scouts teaches its members to look for the root cause of a problem, not simply the symptoms.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement in all of Girl Scouts.

Congress isn't the only place as well that Girl Scouts have gone into public

service. Three Secretaries of State, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, and Hillary Clinton, were all Girl Scouts, and virtually every single female astronaut has also been a Girl Scout.

Today, more than 50 million women alive have participated in Girl Scouts growing up. I am proud to say that for the Girl Scouts of western Oklahoma, there are today 14,000 girls who are members. Worldwide, Girl Scouts has 2.6 million current girl and adult members.

Although Girl Scouts is perhaps best known for the entrepreneurial skills it introduces through the cookie program, it does so much more to develop leadership skills in girls. It teaches them how to advocate for themselves, for others, and it gives them a voice beginning at a very young age.

Programs introduce girls to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics, or STEAM, often paths where girls might not otherwise be encouraged or supported to go on their own. Those STEAM programs introduce girls to these important areas and help them to move through challenges.

Girl Scouts can also learn about the outdoors through going on long treks, camping, kayaking, mountain biking, and countless other activities, all while learning how to minimize their impact on the environment.

Bottom line, Girl Scouts teaches girls the skills they need and they might not get elsewhere about healthy relationships, soft skills, financial literacy, nutrition and health.

All of these journeys are designed by girls and for girls, following evidence-based approaches that ensure they fit girls and foster their growth.

I am honored today to rise to celebrate the Girl Scouts on their 107th anniversary as a fourth generation Girl Scout and Gold Award recipient.

SOCIALISM LEADS TO HUMAN MISERY

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, a prominent American socialist politician recently proclaimed that "capitalism is irredeemable."

Mr. Speaker, capitalism, better known as free enterprise, is based on freedom and liberty, not government dictate.

The claim that freedom and liberty should give way to government control and dictatorship is astonishing, sad, and alien to the America that I know.

It is a betrayal of the freedom and liberty Americans have fought and died for, a freedom that has given America the best gross domestic product, the most wealth of any nation in history.

In sum, the argument that free enterprise is bad and irredeemable is the height of economic hubris, economic ignorance, and economic stupidity.

Mr. Speaker, it is one thing for an argument to be economically ignorant

and stupid, it is another thing for it to be dangerous to human life. In that vein, the argument that socialism is better than free enterprise is not only a betrayal of America's foundational principles of freedom and liberty; it is also dangerous and must be dealt with quickly and severely.

History is replete with examples of dead or dying nations that have paid a heavy price for succumbing to socialist politicians who care more about personal and dictatorial power, who care more about being the boss, than the welfare of their own people.

For those who refuse to learn from history, I suggest reading George Orwell's prophetic book "Animal Farm." It explains all you need to know about how and why socialism fails and who rules in a Socialist society.

Venezuela's economic and humanitarian catastrophe is a present-day, glaring lesson that warns all tempted by the siren song of socialism.

Thousands of Venezuelans are dying from malnutrition, disease, and lack of food and medicine. The result: deadly riots.

In 2018 alone, a staggering 7,523 civilians were murdered due to clashes with military and state police forces.

Mothers are forced to choose which child to feed and which child goes hungry.

In 2017, the average Venezuelan lost 24 pounds because they could not get the calories necessary to maintain their body weight. Today, there are Venezuelans searching for food in trash cans who are fortunate if they can eat once a day.

As Venezuelans lose hope, suicide rates have skyrocketed to almost twice the global suicide rate.

Venezuela's socialist economy has collapsed. 2018's inflation rate soared to 80,000 percent. Nearly 90 percent of the population is living below the poverty line.

Even electricity is unreliable, as Caracas suffers from sporadic total power failures, casting Venezuela's capital city into darkness.

Worse yet, Venezuela's socialism promotes crime and lawlessness by desperate citizens. According to a 2018 report by the World Economic Forum, Venezuela is the second most dangerous country in the world, with Caracas coming in as the second most dangerous city overall with 111 homicides per 100,000 residents.

Venezuela's suffering even extends beyond its borders, as thousands of refugees flee to neighboring countries that cannot take care of them.

Venezuela is a man-made catastrophe brought about by tyrannical dictators and self-proclaimed bosses that are always the result of socialist policies.

Mr. Speaker, America must learn from Venezuela, a country that succumbed to evil socialist sales pitches even though history proves socialism has failed every single time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and America to reject socialism lest

America go down the same path of financial self-destruction as Venezuela.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I urge America to reject self-proclaimed dictators and bosses who seek to deprive America of our hard-fought and hard-won freedom and liberty.

THE PRESIDENT IS UNFIT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise. I do so today because I love my country and I believe in what it stands for.

Because I love it and believe in what it stands for, I believe that my country is worth liberty and justice for all. I believe it is worth government of the people, by the people, for the people. I believe that it is worth the belief that all persons are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, among them, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Our country is worth it. And because our country is worth making real these great and noble American ideals, I do not believe that an unfit President should be allowed to stay in office.

If we acknowledge that the President is unfit, if we say that he is causing harm to society, then we have to honor Article II, section 4 of the Constitution of the United States of America, which calls for the impeachment of an unfit President who is causing harm to society.

This is where I stood some many, many weeks ago, this is where I stand now, and I stand here because I love my country.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING TOM DORSETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mr. Tom Dorsett of Yadkin County in North Carolina's Fifth District. Mr. Dorsett is about to retire from his very successful business, Dorsett Technologies, which, since 1977, he has grown into the innovative and thriving business it is today.

Mr. Dorsett, his wife, Jo, and their excellent employees have built the business from a small heating and air-conditioning supply and service business to one of the most innovative businesses in the area. Today, the company specializes in automation for buildings and municipal water and wastewater systems.

Municipalities across the country use Dorsett Technologies' InfoScan software to control systems for energy, security, and water. The company has even supplied the U.S. Army, Air Force, and NASA with its cutting-edge technology.

Along the way, the company and the Dorsetts personally have been outstanding philanthropists for virtually every good cause and nonprofit in Yadkin County. Their support ranges from the Yadkin County Arts Council to the Yadkin County Rotary Club, the United Methodist Church, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Yadkin Christian Ministries, and the Yadkin County Community Foundation.

Mr. Dorsett is a visionary. Understanding the need to develop young people for the jobs of the future, Mr. Dorsett has led the effort to promote robotics education in the school system, giving and raising money for the program, which has become one of the most popular in the area. The Dorsetts were also lead gift givers for the Yadkin Arts Council, which renovated an area of the downtown into a very successful arts center a few years ago. He is a renaissance man, but he and his family seek no recognition for the positive things that they do; although, recognition is much deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Dorsetts for being such positive role models and for their generous support of the Yadkinville community. We wish them well in their retirement.

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT AWARD

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize and congratulate one of the distinguished finalists for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, Millard South High School senior, Carly Renken, from Gretna, Nebraska.

Carly is a cofounder of the nonprofit Special Musicians, which conducts music sessions for over 40 kids with special needs in the Omaha metro area. The organization is designed to provide an inclusive, safe, and fun learning environment; teaches basic music theory; features instrument playing, singing, and dancing; and culminates with a performance in front of friends and family members.

In 1995, Prudential Financial partnered with the National Association of Secondary School Principals to create a program that focused on the importance of community service and volunteer work to inspire other Americans to help those in need. More than 29,000 students across the country participated in the 24th annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program.

I ask that you all join me in recognizing Carly for her passion and service and thank Prudential Financial for taking the time to encourage our youth in the pursuit of selfless sacrifice.

CONGRATULATING TREY MYTTY

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to support a constituent of mine who was recognized this past January as the 2019 Dealer of the Year by the American Truck Dealers.

Trey Mytty is the President and CEO of Truck Center Companies, which is headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska, located in my congressional district. Truck Center Companies has eight dealerships, including parts and service facilities in Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa, representing seven trucking franchises. Of the nearly 575 employees, almost 25 percent of his staff are military veterans or active in the Reserves or National Guard.

In 1990, while in high school, Mr. Mytty began his career with Truck Center Companies, then known as Omaha Truck Center. He started out by washing trucks and ensuring the workplace was clean. After earning his degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and working his way through the ranks, Trey became the dealer principal and the owner of Truck Center Companies.

The 2019 Dealer of the Year is a national award recognizing a commercial truck dealer who exhibits exceptional performance in their dealerships and performs distinguished community service. Trey was chosen, in part, for his support of Make-A-Wish Nebraska by sponsoring an annual golf outing. To date, the dealership has raised over \$2.6 million, with a goal of \$3 million in 2019.

In addition, Mr. Mytty and Truck Center Companies donate to multiple area technical schools, and the company has developed a 16-week training program to integrate young professionals into the truck retail industry.

Earlier this year, Mr. Mytty began a 2-year role as president of the Daimler Trucks North America Dealer Council, demonstrating his selfless leadership to his fellow truck dealers.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of the constituents of Nebraska's Second District, please join me in congratulating Trey Mytty on being named the 2019 Truck Dealer of the Year. I wish him, his family, and the dealership staff at Truck Center Companies continued success and a prosperous future.

RECOGNIZING SHERRY WRIGHT

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I would like to recognize a constituent of the Second District of Nebraska, Sherry Wright, the first African American woman to receive a military commission from the University of Nebraska-Omaha's ROTC program.

As a single mother, Sherry earned a bachelor's degree in social welfare and a graduate degree in urban studies and human resource planning from UNO, upholding high academic standards.

In September of 1975, Sherry noticed some ROTC members on campus and admired their willingness to serve, protect, and honor our country. It was in that exact moment that Sherry knew what she wanted to do, so she joined the Air Force ROTC that very day.

She worked as an air terminal operations officer and a squadron transportation officer, monitoring and directing airfield operations, security, and

ground transportation. After serving in the Air Force, Sherry worked for 30 years in the United States Post Office, totaling 35 years of government service.

Now retired, Sherry's selflessness and consideration for children has motivated her to create programs that educate and empower today's youth. She has also taken children on educational field trips. At her own expense, she flew children to Disney World so that they could experience an airplane ride for the first time and know that there is a world outside of their neighborhood.

She founded and organized the Increase the Peace campaign, an organization to challenge youth to think about peace and what they can do to help their communities through writing and art. She has been an active board member of the Greater Omaha Neighborhood Coalition, the Drew Medical Health Clinic, the city of Omaha's Human Relations Board, and the Omaha Housing Authority board.

Not only is Sherry a published author of the book, "Somethin's in My Water," she is an Outstanding Service for Women of Color Award nominee and a recipient of the Navy of the State of Nebraska and the UNO Woman of Color Award as well. She was also made an admiral of the Nebraska Navy by former Governor Dave Heineman.

Mr. Speaker, Sherry continues to lead by example and live through Christ as she serves and cares for her neighbor. Her willingness to serve our country and her local community makes her a positive role model, humble individual, and empowering community activist.

HONORING MAURA DUGGAN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and memory of an amazing Bucks County resident, Maura Duggan, whom we recently lost after a courageous battle with cancer.

Maura was a longtime resident of Newtown, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She married her husband, Thomas Duggan, in 1991, and, together, they raised three amazing children: Patrick, Collin, and Charlie.

Maura was beloved by her family and her friends and was known for her adventurous spirit, her unwavering kindness, and her ability to appreciate the small things and to find joy in everyday life.

Mr. Speaker, we, as a House, send our deepest condolences to the Duggan family. I am grateful to them for sharing Maura's life with all of us in Bucks County.

Maura touched so many lives and helped so many people. She is now enjoying her eternal reward for living her life serving others.

HONORING MARION SLACK

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, just under 1 year ago, I stood in this very spot to recognize the outstanding work of Mary's Cupboard, a food pantry in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to mourn the passing of one of the founders of Mary's Cupboard, Marion Slack, who passed away at the age of 96.

Marion, a longtime resident of Midletown Township in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, lived a life of devotion to her family, to her community, and to her Catholic faith. Marion truly embodied what it meant to live out one's faith each and every day.

Inspired after meeting Mother Teresa, she established Mary's Cupboard more than 40 years ago in Levittown, an emergency food center. A parishioner at Queen of the Universe Parish, Marion was previously recognized as Catholic Woman of the Year by the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Speaker, our entire community stands by her children: Mary Ellen, Maureen, Eileen, and Ann Marie, along with the entire Mary's Cupboard family.

Marion is now enjoying her eternal reward for a life of service, and her legacy of service to Bucks County will last for generations.

TUBEROUS SCLEROSIS ALLIANCE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting with advocates from the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance here in Washington, D.C., last week. It was great speaking with them to express my strong support for the continuation of funding for the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program in the fiscal year 2020 Department of Defense Appropriations Act.

Tuberous Sclerosis Complex, or TSC, is a genetic disorder that can cause tumor growth in vital organs in the human body. It occurs in approximately 1 in 6,000 births.

I am proud to share the story of the Miller family, constituents of mine from Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Nearly 5 years ago, Lindsey and her husband, Dave, welcomed their daughter, Ellie, into the world. While Ellie was born with TSC, she has not let it stop her from being just like every other kid. She is developmentally on track, she enjoys preschool with her friends, and she sees her doctors regularly at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

However, there is no way to currently gauge how TSC will affect Ellie in the years to come. That is why funding for the Tuberous Sclerosis Complex Research Program is so vitally important.

This program has my full support, and I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it as well. I thank my colleagues, Mr. MULLIN from Oklahoma and Mr. LOEBACK from Iowa, for their leadership on this issue.

Again, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in this very worthy cause on

behalf of all dealing with this across our Nation.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, Edinburg, Texas, offered the following prayer:

God, source of all living things, we ask Your blessings upon these representatives of the people who have devoted their lives to our welfare. Strengthen them with Your courage; inspire them as they answer the Prophet Isaiah's call to feed the hungry and to clothe the naked, to lift up those in this land and in all lands who cannot stand on their own.

Bless them with the capacity to hear and to listen. May this body, which hosts rigorous and robust debate, embrace diversity without division, unity without uniformity. May this House promote justice, moral clarity, ethical living, righteousness, and acts of kindness.

As an immigrant who came to this country 20 years ago and became an American citizen just 7 years ago, I join this House in a prayer of profound gratitude and deep appreciation for the blessings we, the people of the United States of America, are privileged to enjoy.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCHNEIDER 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was commu-

nicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

WELCOMING RABBI CLAUDIO J. KOGAN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan.

Rabbi Kogan has devoted his life to being a spiritual leader in the Jewish faith and a leader in our community.

Rabbi Kogan is currently the director of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine's new Institute for Bioethics and Social Justice. Since June 2018, Rabbi Kogan has led the School of Medicine's efforts on ethical and social issues that affect south Texas and the Nation.

Rabbi Kogan is a physician and an ordained rabbi. He earned his medical degree from the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine and a master's of bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Rabbi Kogan has also spent time as a member of the Institutional Review Board at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Previously, he served as rabbi at Temple Emanuel in my district in McAllen, Texas, and continues to serve as a chaplain for various law enforcement agencies and hospital systems in the area.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to have Rabbi Kogan and his family join us here today in the people's House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON LEE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

MAKE FULL EQUALITY A REALITY

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, no American should face legal discrimination because of who they are or who they love.

As a Nation, we have made stunning progress toward realizing this dream of full equality and acceptance for our LGBTQ family, friends, and neighbors. But despite our success, including repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell and achieving marriage equality as the law of the land, there is more work to do.

In many States across this country, LGBTQ individuals remain vulnerable to discrimination, with little recourse. Unlike other groups protected by civil rights laws, LGBTQ Americans can be fired from their jobs, evicted from their apartments, or refused service at

a restaurant simply because of who they are.

The current patchwork of State laws is not enough.

That is why I am proud to join with my colleagues to again introduce the Equality Act to ensure protections already extended to other protected classes are equally available to LGBTQ Americans.

It is time we prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, employment, housing, credit, Federal jury service, public accommodations, and the use of Federal funds.

Let's make full equality a reality for all of us.

CONGRATULATING CRANE SYSTEMS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in honor of National Vending Day, it is appropriate to celebrate the millions of Americans who get beverages, snacks, and unlimited items from vending machines.

Crane Merchandising Systems of Williston, South Carolina, managed by Rich Tucker, is a leading full-service vending solutions provider and employs over 700 associates. Crane is one of the largest employers of the Barnwell County region, and I am grateful for their success creating jobs.

The automatic merchandising industry in America promotes an economic impact of nearly \$25 billion with 150,000 employees. Not only does the industry meet the needs of consumers around the world, it also contributes \$7.21 billion in wages to the economy and pays \$3.5 billion in taxes.

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

ROBOCALL TELEMARKETING AND SPOOFING

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

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak against robocall telemarketing and spoofing.

Our constituents, whether Republican, Democratic, or independent, are tired of being harassed by telemarketers and spoofers. People deserve to have their privacy and to be left alone. However, robocall scams are at an all-time high.

That is why I have introduced H.R. 1575, to crack down on abusive, annoying, and illegal robocalls.

Data shows that, in 2017, the FCC reported more than 4.5 million robocall complaints, an increase of more than 1 million from the previous year. More than 300,000 complaints were registered in the State of New Jersey alone.

This act helps protect consumers by ensuring that robocallers and scammers are prosecuted to the full extent of the law. That is why I ask for support of H.R. 1575.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise here today in recognition of National Agriculture Week.

Back home in Georgia's 12th District and across the Peach State as a whole, agriculture is the number one industry. This week is about recognizing farmers and ranchers nationwide who sacrifice their blood, sweat, and tears to secure the safest, most abundant food supply in the world.

I grew up on a farm, and since being elected to Congress, I have had the distinct honor of serving on the House Agriculture Committee. I could not be prouder of what we have accomplished, especially getting the 2018 farm bill over the finish line.

It is without a doubt that agriculture touches all our lives in one way or another.

Many farmers in my district and across Georgia are hurting from the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Michael. I am doing all I can to ensure that they receive necessary and adequate financial assistance ahead of the upcoming planting season. I know my Senate colleagues are working to get this done as well, but the urgency of this simply cannot be overstated. Rural America needs us to act now.

Madam Speaker, again, I thank all our farmers who work hard every day to feed and clothe this great Nation and the world.

AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE IS A RIGHT

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

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to tell the story of three very special young men from my district.

Edward Roman and his twin brother, Edwin, were diagnosed with a heart condition that has put them through multiple surgeries. Both worked at the Village Trattoria restaurant in Summit, New Jersey, where they met Quinn Butler, a senior at Summit High.

When Quinn learned of what they were going through, he set up a GoFundMe site that raised \$119,000 in 2 weeks.

It is a story of good people coming together to say they will not let a neighbor down, but it is also a story of how our healthcare system lets us all down.

A community should not have to raise \$100,000 to keep someone from

going into debt due to a medical condition. Two young men worried about staying alive should not have to worry about negotiating with hospitals and insurance companies to stay solvent.

Every American deserves the security of knowing that affordable healthcare is a right that will follow us wherever we go, wherever we live and work, whatever misfortune may befall us.

Madam Speaker, our friends and neighbors will always do what they can. Now it is up to the Congress to do what we must.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

(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, I rise today to highlight a fatal disorder that has been impacting deer populations in 24 States, including Pennsylvania, chronic wasting disease.

Chronic wasting disease is progressive and always fatal. Deer, elk, mules, and moose are impacted by this disease. First, they have difficulty moving, and the most obvious and consistent sign is significant weight loss over time.

Madam Speaker, I made an amendment to the 2018 farm bill that gives priority status to chronic wasting disease under the research portion of the bill, and I will be introducing legislation to help identify and address the root causes of chronic wasting disease.

This past Saturday, my colleague and friend, Congressman JOHN JOYCE, and I were at the East Freedom Fire Hall with 300 hunters. At this event, chronic wasting disease was at the forefront.

While the science is developing, a cure is still years away and needs considerable funding to make it a reality. It is my hope that, through research, we can successfully cure chronic wasting disease.

TRUMP BUDGET AND GATEWAY

(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 wonder if President Trump intended for his budget to be a joke. After all, he entitled it "Better America" but proposed massive cuts to education programs, the Special Olympics, Medicare, Medicaid, and AIDS programs.

Nothing about that will make America better. In fact, it will make life worse for millions of Americans.

Trump also likes to call himself the Builder President, but his budget includes not a single penny to fund the country's most critical infrastructure project, the Gateway project.

Gateway is a nationally significant project to replace the crumbling tunnels that run under the Hudson River

and connect New York and New Jersey. It is a critical project to truly build a better America. After all, Gateway is the linchpin of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor, which supports 30 percent of the Nation's jobs and produces 20 percent of our GDP.

The Gateway project isn't just about connecting New York and New Jersey. It is about ensuring the stability of the national economy and the free flow of workers from North Carolina to Maine.

Trump can't be the Builder President if he doesn't build anything.

□ 1215

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE TO KNOW

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

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last week, on the floor of this Chamber, I released a transcript of the interview of Bruce Ohr from our investigation into apparent wrongdoing at the FBI and DOJ. At that time I said I would make additional transcripts from the committee's investigation public, and I am here today to keep that promise.

As I stated then, our interview transcripts were pertinent to a congressional investigation, but the 115th Congress ended, the investigation was closed, and copies were shared with certain Members of Congress.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the link www.dougcollins.house.gov/page so the American people can review the transcript of Lisa Page.

The American people deserve to know what transpired in the highest echelons of the FBI during that tumultuous time for the Bureau.

Out of an abundance of caution, the transcript has a limited number of narrowly tailored redactions, relating only to confidential sources and methods, nonpublic information about ongoing investigations, and nonmaterial personal information.

I will continue to work to release as many transcripts as possible. The American people deserve transparency.

VENEZUELA

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

Ms. SHALALA. Madam Speaker, last weekend, I traveled to the Colombia-Venezuela border to see firsthand the catastrophic humanitarian and public health crisis caused by the criminal Maduro regime.

I met with refugees at a hospital in Colombia and heard their harrowing stories of being on the verge of death due to malnutrition, treatable diseases, and a lack of medical care for high-risk pregnancies.

People with HIV cannot access antiretroviral drugs, as the govern-

ment supplies dwindle and the Maduro regime continues to reject humanitarian aid. And now this crisis is spreading.

I met with Colombian officials who are doing everything they can to support 1.5 million refugees crossing the border. They can't do it alone. We must increase aid to countries like Colombia for public health.

Madam Speaker, our response to the crisis must include supporting the Venezuelan community that has already contributed to the richness of south Florida and the United States. Thousands of Venezuelans claiming political asylum in this country are stuck in limbo because of unnecessary delays in the adjudication of their claims. Granting TPS is necessary and humane for those Venezuelans now here.

HONORING LOUISE WILLIAMS

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, March is Women's History Month, and I am proud to honor some remarkable women in my district this month.

Today, I would like to honor Judge Louise Williams, who was elected in 1973 as the first female district judge in Lancaster County. She served for 26 years, and also was the first female Black district judge in Pennsylvania. But she did so much more than that.

She was a member of the Lancaster City Council for three terms, served as council president during two of those terms, and she was also appointed to the State Board of Pardons, where she became the first victims advocate, serving 18 years there. She was involved in many other community organizations, including terms as president of the Lancaster NAACP, and of Girls, Inc. of Lancaster County.

Ms. Williams was a trailblazer for women in our community and always found ways to give back to our community and encourage others. She is one of the most respected civic figures in our district. It is an honor to recognize her today.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Ms. HILL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Equality Act.

As the first LGBTQ woman in Congress from the State of California and the second openly bisexual woman to serve in Congress overall, I could not be prouder to support this landmark legislation.

Throughout my run, I got so many questions about why I chose to be honest about my sexuality. I am married to a man, I am from a purple, histori-

cally Republican, district, and everyone said it would be easier for me to hide who I am. But the reality is that representation matters, especially for the LGBTQ community, when so many of our basic rights are still at risk.

Through my work on the issue of homelessness, I have seen how disproportionately our community is affected by discrimination still. The Equality Act will provide basic protections in terms of employment, housing, education, and more. Everyone should have a fair chance to earn a living and provide a home for their families without fear of harassment or discrimination.

I could not be prouder to be part of a new generation of leaders who will be the ones to finally pass the Equality Act and fight for true freedom and equality for all.

AMERICA'S WORKFORCE

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, as we work to strengthen America's roads, bridges, and highways, it is important that our workforce keeps pace with our infrastructure improvements.

Seventy percent of the Nation's freight is carried by commercial trucks, yet, as our economy strengthens, motor carriers are having difficulty finding the drivers they need to handle the growing capacity.

While most States, including Indiana, allow drivers to obtain a commercial driver's license at 18, they are prohibited from driving in interstate commerce until they are 21 by Federal law.

To address this issue, I cosponsored legislation to alleviate the shortage of commercial drivers back home, helping our farmers, manufacturers, retailers, and small businesses to keep Hoosiers working, eating, building, selling, and growing.

The DRIVE-Safe Act will help Indiana's freight continue to move, while preserving the safety of our highway system.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to help fill these desperately needed jobs and provide young Hoosiers with the opportunity to enter the industry.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight the budget proposed by the President of the United States.

A budget is a statement of our values as a Nation—a moral document—what we prioritize and what we hope to accomplish. The President released his budget proposal yesterday and, while I

cannot say I am surprised, President Trump's budget, once again, shows his disregard for the values of the health and well-being of families across America.

Just 3 months after signing the farm bill, President Trump proposes a 14.8 percent cut to USDA's—agriculture's—annual budget. This would hinder the Department's ability to implement the bipartisan farm bill Congress just passed overwhelmingly.

With sharp cuts to the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program and elimination of the Value Added Producer Grants, these cuts will hurt farmers in the Virgin Islands, as well as other places in our country.

Far from building a stronger Nation, the President's budget would devastate the pillars of economic security for farmers, seniors, and families across America. I wholeheartedly reject this destructive budget request.

FREEDOM AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

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

Ms. WEXTON. Madam Speaker, early this year, I made the decision to hang the transgender flag in front of my office. It was meant to be a small and simple gesture of solidarity.

Overnight, my office was flooded with messages of gratitude. The flag outside of my office had gone viral. Folks from all over called, emailed, wrote, and DM'd my office to thank me for doing it.

But today, we all have an historic opportunity to support substantive legislation that will be transformative for millions of Americans.

The Equality Act is a bipartisan bill that will provide comprehensive, Federal nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ individuals in employment, housing, credit, education, and much more, because today our LGBTQ brothers and sisters can marry the person they love on Sunday and, for that reason alone, be evicted from their housing or fired from their jobs on Monday. That isn't right, but the Equality Act can fix it.

To my colleagues, let's extend the full promise of this Nation to every LGBTQ American. Let's pass the Equality Act.

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Girl Scouts of the United States.

On this day in 1912, the Girl Scouts of America was officially launched in Savannah, Georgia, with a meeting of just 18 girls. Now, 107 years later, the Girl Scouts have engaged and inspired

generations of young women and empowered millions to serve their communities.

More than 50 million women are alumni of the Girl Scouts: 58 percent of the women who serve in Congress were Girl Scouts, and 72 percent of the women who serve in the Senate were Girl Scouts as young women.

My daughters and I have been lucky enough to be a small part of this rich history, and, for the past 5 years, I have served as a Girl Scout leader for my daughter's troop. Two-and-a-half million girls and adults nationwide participate in this tremendous program.

In my time as a Girl Scout leader, I have gotten to know so many bright and talented young women, to learn from them and with them, and to use the tools and lessons of the Girl Scouts to instill within these future leaders a fundamental belief in the power of service, the value of character, and the importance in our community.

As storied as this organization's past is, it will always be focused on the future. That is the purpose of Girl Scouts.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 116-20)

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 with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2019.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2019.

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.

□ 1230

CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 156) calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 156

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a Russian statesman who, over 25 years of public service, served as a Member of Parliament, Governor of the Nizhny Novgorod Region, and First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia;

Whereas throughout his life, Boris Nemtsov showed an unwavering commitment to the ideals of democracy, freedom, and the rule of law, and to upholding the rights and dignity of Russian citizens;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was a powerful voice in opposition to the authoritarianism and corruption of Vladimir Putin's government, publicizing its abuses, leading street protests against election fraud and the war on Ukraine, and successfully advocating for international sanctions on human rights violators;

Whereas Boris Nemtsov was co-chairman of a leading opposition party, won election to the Yaroslavl Regional Duma in 2013, and was planning to run for the Russian Parliament in 2016 and challenge Vladimir Putin for the Presidency in 2018;

Whereas, on the evening of February 27, 2015, Boris Nemtsov was shot in the back and killed as he walked across Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge near the Kremlin in Moscow;

Whereas, on March 7 and 8, 2015, Russian authorities arrested five individuals, all of them natives of the Chechen Republic, on suspicion of carrying out the assassination, while a sixth suspect allegedly blew himself up during the attempted arrest;

Whereas the defendants were tried at the Moscow District Military Court, which on June 29, 2017, found them guilty of carrying out the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, and on July 13, 2017, sentenced them to different prison terms;

Whereas at the time of the assassination, the now-convicted gunman, Zaur Dadayev, was serving as a Lieutenant in the Internal Troops of the Interior Ministry of the Russian Federation and as Deputy Battalion Commander in the "Sever" ("North") Regiment stationed in the Chechen Republic, under the command of the Internal Troops Commander, General Viktor Zolotov, and the Kremlin-backed head of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov;

Whereas Ramzan Kadyrov has called Lieutenant Zaur Dadayev a "true patriot" and has publicly referred to Boris Nemtsov as an "enemy of Russia";

Whereas by Decree No. 115 issued on March 8, 2015, President Vladimir Putin awarded Ramzan Kadyrov the Order of Honor;

Whereas according to reports published in the RosBusinessConsulting (RBC) newspaper on January 20, 2016, General Alexander Bastrykin, chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation, has on two occasions prevented investigators from indicting Major Ruslan Geremeyev, Battalion Commander in the “Sever” (“North”) Regiment of the Internal Troops of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation stationed in the Chechen Republic and a close associate of Ramzan Kadyrov and Russian State Duma Member Adam Delimkhanov, as an organizer in the assassination;

Whereas according to reports published in Novaya Gazeta newspaper on December 9, 2016, operatives of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation in the Chechen Republic have failed to serve Major Ruslan Geremeyev with a summons for questioning as a witness, reporting to their superiors that on the sole occasion they attempted to do so, “nobody opened the door”;

Whereas despite requests from the legal team representing Boris Nemtsov’s family, the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Moscow District Military Court have refused to question high-ranking persons of interest, including Ramzan Kadyrov, General Victor Zolotov, and Adam Delimkhanov;

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation has, to this day, not issued any indictments against the organizers or masterminds of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, with the exception of Major Ruslan Geremeyev’s driver, Ruslan Mukhudinov, who is named alongside “other unidentified persons”;

Whereas the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation and the Moscow District Military Court have refused to classify the assassination of Boris Nemtsov under Article 277 of the Criminal Code as “encroachment on the life of a statesman or a public figure,” choosing instead Article 105 that deals with common domestic murders;

Whereas throughout the proceedings at the Moscow District Military Court, the judge repeatedly disallowed questions relating to political motives behind the assassination;

Whereas the Federal Protective Service of the Russian Federation has refused to release video footage from the security cameras on Bolshoi Moskvoretsky Bridge from the night of the assassination, claiming in a letter to State Duma Member Dmitry Gudkov on November 6, 2015, that the bridge next to the Kremlin is “not a protected object”;

Whereas, on May 18, 2017, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe appointed Lithuanian Member of Parliament Emanuelis Zingeris as its special rapporteur on the need to shed light on the background of the murder of Boris Nemtsov, with a mandate to review and report on the case and on the progress of the official Russian investigation;

Whereas, on May 24, 2018, the Russian Foreign Ministry informed Emanuelis Zingeris that he is forbidden from entering the Russian Federation;

Whereas, at its 27th annual session held on July 7 through 11, 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) adopted a resolution urging Russian authorities to “undertake a new, full and thorough investigation into the February 2015 assassination of Boris Nemtsov”;

Whereas, on July 8, 2018, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held a public

event to discuss the need for OSCE oversight of the official Russian investigation into the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

Whereas the United States and the Russian Federation are full members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe;

Whereas the OSCE Moscow Document has established that “issues relating to human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law . . . are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned”;

Whereas, on February 27, 2018, Washington, DC, designated the street in front of the Embassy of the Russian Federation as “Boris Nemtsov Plaza” to honor Mr. Nemtsov; and

Whereas, on February 22, 2019, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, George Tsereteli, appointed Swedish Member of Parliament and Vice President of the Assembly Margareta Cederfelt as the rapporteur on the investigation of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, with a mandate to review and report on the case and on the progress of the official Russian investigation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns Vladimir Putin and his regime for targeting political opponents and covering up the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, a Russian opposition leader who worked to advance democracy and human rights in Russia;

(2) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise the case of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov and underscore the necessity of bringing the organizers and masterminds to justice;

(3) supports the efforts by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Parliamentary Assembly to initiate oversight of the official Russian investigation into the assassination of Boris Nemtsov;

(4) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to allow an impartial international investigation of the assassination of Boris Nemtsov and to cooperate with the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in their ongoing inquiries over this case;

(5) calls on the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their authority under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328) to designate individuals whom they determine to have been involved in the assassination of Boris Nemtsov as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, freezing their assets and making them ineligible to receive United States visas;

(6) calls on the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, to prepare and submit to Congress a report detailing the circumstances of the February 27, 2015, assassination of Boris Nemtsov, including the list of individuals whom they determine to have been involved in the assassination as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, and identifying what measures, if any, have been taken by the Government of the Russian Federation to investigate this crime and bring its perpetrators, organizers, and masterminds to justice, and evaluating the effectiveness of such measures; and

(7) urges the Secretary of State to take all possible steps to—

(A) investigate the business activities of Ramzan Kadyrov and any entities controlled by Ramzan Kadyrov outside the Russian Federation; and

(B) determine whether any such activities, or any entities facilitating such activities, are in violation of the sanctions imposed on Ramzan Kadyrov pursuant to the authorities provided by the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112-208; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 156, as amended, a resolution calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I am proud to have authored this measure with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), my colleague and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The measure before us today condemns the assassination of Boris Nemtsov.

Nemtsov was a brave advocate for democracy in Russia, calling for free elections and an end to the massive corruption at the Kremlin. I remember when he visited here and I had him in my office. We took pictures. Just the other day, we were looking at them.

He certainly was a champion of freedom in Russia and, for it, met his demise. The fact that he was calling for free elections and an end to the massive corruption in the Kremlin put him right in Vladimir Putin’s crosshairs.

Now, he joins a long list of brave journalists, human rights activists, and political opponents murdered by Putin’s henchmen in their quest to silence all criticism of the Kremlin and stamp out any perceived threat to Putin’s authoritarian regime.

When I met Boris Nemtsov here in Washington in my office, he talked about his vision for Russia, free from Putin’s grip on power, with open, fair elections, independent media, and a strong civil society. In the words of John McCain, Boris Nemtsov “would not be oppressed by unjust laws or violence or by violence and fear . . . he lived for love and justice and truth.”

He was incredibly brave to take on these issues in a country where opposition to Putin often amounts to a death sentence. Just a few months after our

conversation, as I mentioned before, he was murdered in cold blood in Moscow.

Now, it has been 4 years since his death, but there has been no proper investigation of his assassination and the coverup and zero accountability for those responsible. That is certainly an outrage.

This resolution condemns the Kremlin's systematic targeting of its political opponents and calls on the administration to impose sanctions on those responsible for Nemtsov's murder and coverup.

It also requires the administration to deliver to Congress a thorough report on Nemtsov's assassination. That is a critical part of this legislation because, sadly, the administration, in my opinion, hasn't done nearly enough to stand up to Russia and call out Putin's thuggery.

So it is up to Congress to assert American leadership on this issue. I strongly support this bipartisan, bicameral measure, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I am writing with respect to H. Res. 156, "Calling for Accountability and Justice for the Assassination of Boris Nemtsov." As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions on which the Committee on Ways and Means has a jurisdictional interest, I will not request a sequential referral on this measure.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and request your support for such a request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 156.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for consulting with the Foreign Affairs Committee on H. Res. 156, "Calling for Accountability and Justice for the Assassination of Boris Nemtsov" for agreeing to forgo a sequential referral request so that the resolution may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

I agree that your declining to pursue a referral in this case does not diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means nor prejudice its jurisdictional

prerogatives on this resolution or similar legislation in the future. I would support your effort to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees from your Committee over any parts of this resolution or similar legislation under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means to any House-Senate conference.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the resolution. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this resolution and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 156, which I was proud to cosponsor, calling for justice in the 2015 murder of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov.

On the evening of Friday, February 27, 2015, Boris Nemtsov was shot in the back and killed by cowards just outside of the Kremlin in Moscow.

Mr. Nemtsov was an important figure in Russia because he stood up to Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation as he called for democracy in a country dominated by oppression.

Before his assassination, Mr. Nemtsov was planning to run for President in 2018 against Vladimir Putin. One can only think of what Russia's future could have been today with Mr. Nemtsov as its leader.

Since that day in February 2015, suspects have been charged and sentenced for murder, but we still don't have all the answers or truly know why Mr. Nemtsov was killed. However, we do know that there has never been any questioning of additional suspects or any investigation into evidence that the convicted gunman was a member of a Russian unit that was stationed and backed by Chechen dictator and thug Ramzan Kadyrov.

Furthermore, Russia continues to put up roadblocks to outside investigators from the European Union and the OSCE to prevent more investigations into the sequence of events that fateful night. Four years after his murder, Boris Nemtsov and his family are still without answers or the justice that they deserve.

The House resolution uses the voice of Congress to hold his killers and their accomplices accountable. Specifically, this resolution condemns the Putin regime for targeting political opponents and using the Russian Government to cover up the murder of Mr. Nemtsov. It also calls on the U.S. Government to use its capabilities to identify those who support the murderers and to impose strict sanctions for their actions.

Last February, on the anniversary of his death, we saw a fitting tribute to Mr. Nemtsov's calls for freedom and democracy when the street in front of the Russian Embassy here in Washington was renamed the Boris Nemtsov Plaza. We can take another important step

towards justice by passing this important resolution.

I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for bringing this up in such a bipartisan way.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MALINOWSKI), who is a very new and valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and I thank my friends on the other side for leading on this important resolution.

When Boris Nemtsov was gunned down 4 years ago on a bridge just a few hundred feet from the Kremlin, we saw once again what a dangerous place Putin's Russia is for anybody with the courage to speak truth to power.

We saw again that while Russia has fierce and formidable security agencies that will track down anyone who dares criticize the Kremlin anywhere in the world, when one of those critics is killed, somehow they can never find the killer.

We know that whoever gave the order to kill Boris Nemtsov, one man, Vladimir Putin, is responsible for building a state where those who champion freedom are always punished and those who kill them never are.

This resolution says that we will always remember Boris Nemtsov and the truth about what happened to him and who is responsible.

It urges the Russian Government to hold accountable the authors of the crime and says that, until that happens, we will sanction them under the Magnitsky Act.

It singles out Ramzan Kadyrov, the brutal ruler of Chechnya, and urges the administration to ensure that he can no longer do business anywhere outside Russia.

By passing this resolution, we will make clear that you can kill a man but not the ideas that he fought for; that a good person who lived and died for a good cause will be honored for all time, while the people who killed him will go down in history, if they are remembered at all, as utterly worthless.

And we will be saying something else very important: that the United States is not in conflict with Russia or with the Russian people. On the contrary, we are in solidarity with the vast majority of Russians, who, like Boris Nemtsov, want a country that is free of corruption, a country where nobody is above the law.

Our argument is only with the leaders who deny them that, but those leaders won't be around forever. Boris Nemtsov's legacy will outlast them, and so will our desire to partner with the Russia that shares his values and vision.

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

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to thank Chairman ENGEL and the ranking member, Mr. McCAUL, for offering up this important resolution which seeks justice for Boris Nemtsov's brutal murder.

At a time when we are seeing the Russian people protesting tighter restrictions on their access to the internet, we should not forget the brave leadership of Mr. Nemtsov, a man who stood up to the oppressors in Russia and advocated bravely for freedom. We should honor his memory by continuing to seek justice for his assassination.

It is also important to note, Madam Speaker, the strong bipartisan showing in this Chamber of, really, any Russian resolution that comes up because we are united, as the prior speaker said, with the Russian people in fighting oppression, as we have for so long and we will continue to do.

I urge all Members to support this legislation.

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, in closing, let me say, it is critical that we speak out against strong men and dictators throughout the world. We need to demand justice for those unable to do so themselves.

As we have mentioned, Boris Nemtsov was brutally murdered for bravely standing up to Putin and his corrupt regime. The Kremlin is being complicit in covering up the assassination and failing to conduct a proper investigation.

By passing this measure, we show Putin, his cronies, and dictators throughout the world that the U.S. Congress is watching, and we will not stay silent.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution. I urge my colleagues to join me, 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. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 156, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

CRIMEA ANNEXATION NON-RECOGNITION ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 596) to prohibit United States Government recognition of Russia's annexation of Crimea, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 596

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 "Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST UNITED STATES RECOGNITION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION'S CLAIM OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER CRIMEA.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States not to recognize the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.

(b) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with subsection (a), no Federal department or agency may take any action or extend any assistance that implies recognition of the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters.

(c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the prohibition in subsection (b) on a case-by-case basis if the President determines that it is vital to the national security interests of the United States to do so.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 596, the Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act, as amended, currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank this bill's author, who is a valuable member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I also thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), our ranking member, for working with us on this bipartisan legislation.

Madam Speaker, Vladimir Putin has left no doubt about his intentions to expand Russian influence, undermine democracy, and splinter the alliances and agreements that have long kept Russia in check.

We have seen these through Russia's direct attacks on our democratic institutions, including our own—remember the Presidential election of 2016—through a pernicious and widespread misinformation campaign designed to distort reality and foment confusion and, in no clearer way, through its illegal occupation of parts of Ukraine and parts of Georgia.

It is shocking in the 21st century to see a country trample on a neighbor's sovereignty and seize territory by force. It goes against everything we have worked for since World War II to build a Europe that is whole, free, and in peace.

It has been 5 years since Russian forces moved into Crimea and staged a sham election in an attempt to give their occupation a gloss of legitimacy, but there is nothing legitimate about it—absolutely nothing.

The United States must never accept Putin's attempts to seize territory by force, and this legislation would enshrine into our laws a nonrecognition of Russia's annexation of Crimea. This bill would prevent our government from taking any action that even implies American recognition of this blatantly illegal land grab.

This bill also sends a strong message to our Ukrainian friends that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them as they continue to resist Russian efforts to fracture their country. This is especially important in light of recent events in which the Russian Navy intercepted Ukrainian patrol boats in Ukrainian waters, capturing the vessels and their crew by force.

Vladimir Putin is a bully and a thug. His troops may hold Crimea in a stranglehold, but we need to be clear that Crimea will always be part of Ukraine, not part of Russia. This measure will put that rejection permanently into our laws. I am pleased to support it.

Madam Speaker, I ask all Members to do likewise, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today with the majority, also in strong support of H.R. 596, the Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act. I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, which clearly states that America will not recognize Russian sovereignty over Crimea.

Ukraine continues to face significant challenges from Russia, from their meddling, and from their aggression. In Congress, we know the true intentions of Vladimir Putin when it comes to Ukraine. Vladimir Putin and his cronies in the Kremlin are tearing Europe apart.

Russian-backed separatists continue their shelling of Ukrainian military positions in Eastern Ukraine, which has killed civilians in many areas.

Additionally, Russia recently violated Ukraine sovereignty and territorial integrity when it fired upon and captured three Ukrainian vessels and 24 sailors. Russia continues to hold these sailors on bogus charges that they violated Russian borders, even though the Kerch Strait is determined to be neutral waters.

□ 1245

While Russia maintains that Ukrainian soldiers were threatening the construction of the Crimean bridge, which is currently under construction between the territory of Russia and Crimea, we know this is fake news from Putin and his thugs.

We need to continue to send a strong message to the Russians that the United States does not and will not

recognize their claim of sovereignty over Crimea, not now and not ever.

I commend Secretary Pompeo for making the Crimea Declaration last July that articulated this policy of the United States, and I believe Congress should have a voice in this as well.

Madam Speaker, the bill is simple. It states that the policy of the United States Government is to never recognize sovereignty over Crimea, and it prohibits all U.S. Government agencies from taking any action with respect to acknowledging that Russia has any claims over the territory.

As Vladimir Putin seeks to impose his iron-fisted will over former Soviet republics, we must continue to stand with our allies to counter that aggression.

I commend the work of my friend from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) and my friend from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for their leadership on this issue. By reaffirming congressional support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and by holding Russia accountable for its continued violation of Ukraine sovereignty, I believe we will continue to stand with Ukraine legislatively and most effectively from here and into the future.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the author of this bill and a very valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I thank my dear friend from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the distinguished chairman of our committee, for his support. I thank my dear friend from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), the Republican manager today, for his support. And I salute my friend from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) who has steadfastly cosponsored this resolution in previous Congresses to make a powerful bipartisan statement.

I rise today, Madam Speaker, in support of H.R. 596, the Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act, which we introduced together, as I said, with Mr. CHABOT of Ohio.

This bill states unequivocally that it is the policy of the United States not to recognize the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea, its airspace, or its territorial waters. Furthermore, the bill prohibits the United States Government from taking any action that could possibly apply recognition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea.

Putin's forcible and illegal annexation of Crimea, the first forcible seizure of territory in Europe since World War II, undermines Ukrainian sovereignty and threatens the stability of Europe. Acquiescence on the part of the United States would threaten the security of all sovereign nations. Who is next? Moldova, Georgia, the Baltic States?

It is the longstanding policy of our country not to recognize territorial changes elected by force, as dictated by the Stimson Doctrine established in

1932 by then-Secretary of State Henry Stimson, a Republican under a Republican President, Herbert Hoover.

We upheld that doctrine with the issuance of the Welles Declaration in 1940, which stated emphatically that the United States would not recognize the illegal annexation at that time of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union.

That policy remained in effect for 50 long years. Some thought it quixotic. For more than those 50 years, we stood by those Baltic republics of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia, sometimes in the face of ridicule. Today, they are independent nations and members of the NATO alliance.

The collective wisdom of the previous and current administrations, Congress, our European allies, and the American public is that similar principles must be adopted with respect to Crimea.

Crimea was Putin's original violation in Ukraine, and we have limited credibility objecting to Russia's subsequent invasion of the Luhansk and Donetsk areas of that country. If we do not take a stand with respect to Crimea, then we are just quibbling over the price.

What has happened in Ukraine—Russia's forcible and illegal annexation of Crimea, invasion of the eastern part of the country, and continued occupation—has precipitated an international crisis, and the resulting conflict has claimed more than 10,000 lives.

Russia has subjected Crimeans who refuse Russian citizenship to discrimination in accessing education, healthcare, and employment, and Russian authorities have attacked travel rights and the free press. The matter of rejecting the forcible and illegal attack on sovereign territory is so important that we should be satisfied with nothing less than absolute clarity about our position, which is that we support Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea.

The Obama administration established a nonrecognition policy toward Russian sovereignty over Crimea and levied sanctions against individuals and entities enabling Russia's illegal occupation. Our allies in Europe have stood with us, shoulder to shoulder, in emphasizing and enforcing those sanctions.

Congress codified the Obama Crimea sanctions and has repeatedly used the power of the purse to prohibit the use of government funds for any action that could possibly recognize de jure or de facto illegal annexation of Crimea.

The fiscal year 2016 National Defense Authorization Act included similar language to that contained in our bill today, in order to prohibit the use of defense funds in a manner that could be construed as recognition of Russian sovereignty over Crimea. That language has remained in the NDAA ever since.

In the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, Congress reiterated its support for the Stimson Doctrine and its application to the illegal invasions by Russia and

occupations of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia, Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, and the Transnistria region in Moldova.

The United States must lead the way in refusing to recognize or legitimize Russia's illegal acts and its forcible annexation of Crimea. That is why I am so proud to offer this bill, along with Mr. CHABOT, that expresses the will of Congress as loud and as clear as we can, and I urge my colleagues unanimously to support it.

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the primary cosponsor of this bill.

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 596, the Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act, and I thank my good friend from Virginia, Representative Gerry Connolly, for his work and his leadership on this legislation and many other pieces of legislation that we have worked on in a bipartisan manner in this House.

They say there is no bipartisanship here, whether it is under Democratic or Republican control, and we found a way to make that happen on the Foreign Affairs Committee over the years.

As a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the principal Republican cosponsor of this legislation, let me state clearly and emphatically that the United States—and the world, for that matter—must never recognize Vladimir Putin's reckless Crimean land grab, which is all too reminiscent of Soviet Cold War tactics.

This bill not only definitively sets out U.S. policy that we will not recognize Putin's bogus claims of sovereignty over Crimea, but it will also prohibit our government from taking any actions that might imply our recognition of Russian claims.

Representative CONNOLLY and I first introduced this legislation back in 2014, shortly after Putin seized Crimea. Despite the intervening years, we must never grow accustomed to Russian control over the peninsula. That is one reason that makes this legislation even more vitally necessary, because over time, the world sometimes does grow accustomed to things. We must never let that happen with Putin's grab of Crimea.

Last May, Putin opened a bridge over the Kerch Strait, which separates Russia from Crimea, in an attempt to better link it, to grab it and keep it. The bridge is too low for many large vessels, which has reduced economic activity at Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov, thus further harming Ukraine. Even more concerning, in November, Putin's thugs illegally seized three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crews at the entrance to the Kerch Strait.

Plain and simple, Putin's illegal annexation of Crimea, as well as his adventures around the Kerch Strait and in Eastern Ukraine, have no place in a modern, democratic Europe. We must

not abandon Ukraine to Putin's bullying.

That is why I am pleased to cosponsor this legislation along with my friend, Mr. CONNOLLY, which is but a step toward a once-again free Crimea.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we will never recognize Russian domination over the Crimean peninsula.

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers. I am prepared to close. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD a February 27, 2019, statement by Secretary Pompeo on Crimea and Ukraine.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

[For Immediate Release—February 27, 2019]

STATEMENT BY SECRETARY POMPEO

CRIMEA IS UKRAINE

Five years ago, Russia's occupation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula fueled an escalation of Russian aggression. Russia attempted to upend the international order, undermined basic human freedoms, and weakened our common security. The world has not forgotten the cynical lies Russia employed to justify its aggression and mask its attempted annexation of Ukrainian territory. Russia's use of force against a peaceful neighbor must not be tolerated by reputable states. The United States reiterates its unwavering position: Crimea is Ukraine and must be returned to Ukraine's control.

The United States remains gravely concerned by the worsening repression by Russia's occupation regime in Crimea. During the past five years, Russian occupation authorities have engaged in an array of abuses in a campaign to eliminate all opposition to its control over Crimea. As part of this campaign, Russia has arbitrarily detained and wrongfully convicted individuals for peaceful opposition to the occupation, and in some cases has forcibly transferred these individuals from occupied Crimea to Russia. The United States calls on Russia to release all of the Ukrainians, including members of the Crimean Tatar community, it has imprisoned in retaliation for their peaceful dissent. This includes Oleh Sentsov, Oleksandr Kolchenko, Volodymyr Balukh, Ruslan Zeytullayev, and approximately 70 others. We call on Russia to cease all its abuses immediately, to end its occupation of Crimea, and, in the meantime, to comply with its obligations under international law, including the law of occupation.

In the Crimea Declaration of July 25, 2018, the United States reaffirmed its refusal to recognize the Kremlin's claims of sovereignty over Crimea. The United States also condemns Russia's illegal actions in Crimea and its continued aggression against Ukraine. The United States will maintain respective sanctions against Russia until the Russian government returns control of Crimea to Ukraine and fully implements the Minsk agreements. The United States reiterates its unbending support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters.

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, the Secretary writes: "In the Crimea Declaration of July 25, 2018, the United States reaffirmed its refusal to recognize the Kremlin's claims of sovereignty over Crimea. The United States also condemns Russia's illegal

actions in Crimea and its continued aggression against Ukraine. The United States will maintain respective sanctions against Russia until the Russian Government returns control of Crimea to Ukraine and fully implements the Minsk agreements. The United States reiterates its unbending support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters."

Madam Speaker, in our history, we have always seen the impact that our Nation has on others. When we stand up, we help them achieve a better tomorrow. We must continue to help Ukraine achieve that better future for its citizens, particularly one that is free from Russian aggression.

Recently, we sent the USS *Donald Cook* to transit through the Kerch Strait as a show of solidarity with Ukraine. Actions like these, and support for this bill, will further send the message to Vladimir Putin that the U.S. will never waver in our support for those who seek to push back against Russian oppression and coerced influence.

This is a great bill that shows the unity between Republicans and Democrats in this House, the legislative body, and the administration. I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, let me say that we need to take a strong stand against Vladimir Putin and his aggressive behavior in Eastern Europe. This legislation would reaffirm in American law that Russia's annexation of Crimea is illegal and that the United States will never recognize its legitimacy.

I hope the other body will act on this measure soon after we pass it, and I hope the administration will signal its willingness to sign this legislation. There are too many questions swirling around when it comes to Russia, too many times that we don't seem to be calling Vladimir Putin out for what he has done. I think that it is something that we really need to look at very carefully, and I would hope the White House would do that.

Signing this bill will not put these concerns to rest, but it would help show that the United States won't just roll over and accept Russia's land grabs and egregious violations of international law.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for his work on this bill, and I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) for his work on the bill. I am happy to support it, 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. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 596, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. 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.

□ 1300

VLADIMIR PUTIN TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1404) to strengthen the United States response to Russian interference by providing transparency on the corruption of Russian President Vladimir Putin, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1404

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 "Vladimir Putin Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) According an Intelligence Community Assessment dated January 6, 2017, "Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election. Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process . . . Moscow's influence campaign followed a Russian messaging strategy that blends covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian Government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or 'trolls.'"

(2) According to the Washington Post, official, public reports from the Russian government put Putin's average annual income between 2011 and 2016 at approximately \$12,000. But outside experts nevertheless have alleged that Putin's true net worth is in the billions—suggesting his extensive corruption and connection to money laundering and other activities undertaken order to enrich Putin unjustly and to hide his true financial condition from the public.

SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT EXPOSING THE CORRUPTION OF VLADIMIR PUTIN.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should do more to expose the corruption of Vladimir Putin, whose ill-gotten wealth is perhaps the most powerful global symbol of his dishonesty and his persistent efforts to undermine the rule of law and democracy in the Russian Federation.

(b) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of Treasury and the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an assessment, based on all sources of intelligence, on the net worth and financial and other assets of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his family members, legitimate as well as illegitimate, including—

(1) the estimated net worth of Vladimir Putin and his family members;

(2) a description of their legitimately and illegitimately obtained assets, including all real, personal and intellectual property,

bank or investment or similar accounts, and any other financial or business interests or holdings, including those outside of Russia;

(3) the details of the legitimately and illegitimately obtained assets, including real, personal and intellectual property, bank or investment or similar accounts, and any other financial or business interests or holdings, including those outside of Russia, that are owned or controlled by, accessible to, or otherwise maintained for the benefit of Vladimir Putin, including their nature, location, manner of acquisition, value, and publicly named owner (if other than Vladimir Putin);

(4) the methods used by Vladimir Putin or others acting at his direction, with his knowledge, or for his benefit, to conceal Putin's interest in his accounts, holdings, or other assets, including the establishment of "front" or shell companies and the use of intermediaries; and

(5) an identification of the most significant senior Russian political figures, oligarchs, and any other persons who have engaged in activity intended to conceal the true financial condition of Vladimir Putin.

(c) FORM.—The assessment required under subsection (b) shall be submitted either—

(1) in unclassified form to the extent consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods, and may include a classified annex; or

(2) simultaneously as both an unclassified version and a classified version.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(1) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Finance of the Senate; and

(2) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. DEMINGS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, every American has the right to a secure democracy where their voice matters. As Members of Congress, our national security must be a top priority. We must investigate and expose Russia's financial networks and cut off any illegal funding that supports criminal attacks against the United States of America. This bipartisan legislation is a crucial first step to ensure that the rights of the American people matter more than dark and corrupt Russian money.

It has been said that money talks, but it is our job to keep it from speaking over the American people. Last week the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, historic reforms to get big money out of politics. But we haven't done nearly enough to prevent foreign powers and foreign money from attacking our democracy.

Russia, the country that once had the ability to provide a decent life for its people, has chosen to strip their wealth as they watch their wealth disappear overseas into hidden accounts. These corrupt oligarchs are a cautionary tale on how working people can be cheated if left unchecked. These corrupt bands of individuals, led by Vladimir Putin, have mounted a massive asymmetric attack against the United States.

America has the greatest military in the world, but the Russians have figured out that if they have any chance at victory, they must fight us another way: undermine our elections, spread fear and unrest, and sow discord through racism and other divisive tactics.

What they don't understand, Madam Speaker, is that we take pride in our democracy. We may have policy differences, and we might have policy disagreements, sometimes quite strongly, but we all know that our democratic form of government, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people is our greatest strength and weapon against any foe. We do believe in this country that every voice matters.

Foreign nationals are banned from contributing to U.S. elections, but multiple Kremlin-connected Americans have funneled millions of dollars into political action, wielding massive influence in our democracy, and Vladimir Putin is the king of this corrupt money.

Putin's protests are generally delivered with a smirk and accusations of fake news, but his discomfort with revealing his assets is clearly simmering below the surface. It is telling that after Ms. STEFANIK and I introduced this legislation, we were both attacked by Russian state media.

What is Putin afraid of?

Perhaps the former KGB operative is well-aware of the poor long-term prospects for gangsters and autocrats who are unmasked before their impoverished countrymen, or he fears uncovering his shadowy networks that prop up dictators and human rights abusers around the world in his quest to subvert world order. Likely, he and his cronies are desperate to obscure their billions in an attempt to shield themselves from sanctions.

But, Madam Speaker, no matter the root of his fear, our obligation is to shine a light on his illicit networks. It is time that we hold him accountable. This legislation will expose the corrupt finances being used to fund attacks against our democracy.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I call upon the words of our 35th President:

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe in order to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2019.
Hon. ADAM SCHIFF,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing concerning H.R. 1404, the "Vladimir Putin Transparency Act." As a result of your having consulted with the Committee on Financial Services concerning provisions in the bill that fall within our Rule X jurisdiction, I agree to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor. The Committee on Financial Services takes this action with our mutual understanding that, by foregoing consideration of H.R. 1404 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and request your support for any such request.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 1404 and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2019.
Hon. ADAM SCHIFF,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has now had an opportunity to review H.R. 1404, the "Vladimir Putin Transparency Act," which falls within our shared Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate that you have consulted with us on this legislation. The Foreign Affairs Committee has no objection to considering this bill on the House floor. To expedite that consideration, the Foreign Affairs Committee is willing to waive referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over the legislation or its subject matter.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Foreign Affairs Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with this bill or related provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperation spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman,
House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES,

March 8, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
*Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*
Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND CHAIRMAN
ENGEL: I write in reply to your letters re-
garding H.R. 1404, the Vladimir Putin Trans-
parency Act. I appreciate your willingness to
work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill
fall within the jurisdiction of the Commit-
tees on Financial Services and Foreign Af-
fairs; and that your Committees will not
take up H.R. 1404 formally. I further agree
that your Committees' inaction regarding
the bill will not waive any future jurisdic-
tional claims over matters addressed in H.R.
1404 which fall within your Committees' ju-
risdiction under Rule X of the Rules of Pro-
cedure for the House of Representatives for
the 116th Congress.

At your request, I lastly will ensure that
our exchange of letters is included in the
Congressional Record during floor consid-
eration of the bill. Thank you again for your
cooperation regarding the legislation. I look
forward to continuing to work with both of
you as the measure moves through the legis-
lative process.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I
yield myself such time as I may con-
sume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in
strong support of H.R. 1404, the Vladimir
Putin Transparency Act.

According to the 2017 Intelligence
Community Assessment produced by
the CIA, NSA, the FBI, and an indict-
ment issued by the Attorney General in
2018, it is clear that Russian actors
conspired to interfere and influence
U.S. political processes and the Presi-
dential election in 2016. This assess-
ment stated that "Russian President
Vladimir Putin ordered an influence
campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S.
Presidential election. Russia's goals
were to undermine public faith in the
U.S. democratic process."

Madam Speaker, the Russian Govern-
ment has been known to employ a sys-
tem of corruption and illicit financial
ties as a tool for consolidating its do-
mestic political control and projecting
power abroad to weaken not only the
United States but other democratic
countries as well.

That is why I proudly co-sponsored
H.R. 1404. The bill would require that
within 180 days of enactment, the Di-
rector of National Intelligence, in co-
ordination with the Secretary of the
Treasury and the Secretary of State,
shall submit a congressional report on
the personal net worth and assets
owned by Russian President Vladimir
Putin.

The report would also include ac-
counts, holdings, shell companies, and
intermediaries, and identify senior
Russian political figures and oligarchs
who facilitate corrupt practices. Vladimir
Putin and his corrupt allies seek to

weaken democracies globally by con-
solidating political control through un-
ethical means, and they must be
brought to account for their actions.

This bipartisan legislation is an im-
portant step to ensuring the security of
our elections and upholding democracy
around the world. I urge my colleagues
to support this commonsense bill. I
also want to thank my colleague, Rep-
resentative VAL DEMINGS, for her lead-
ership on this issue. I am proud to
work across the aisle with her to pass
this important bill.

Madam Speaker, in closing, as I have
noted in my remarks, this is important
bipartisan legislation. It is about
transparency, it is about account-
ability, and it is about standing up to
the corrupt practices of Russian Presi-
dent Vladimir Putin. This is bipar-
tisan, commonsense legislation, and I
urge my colleagues to support this bill
on the floor.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

Mrs. DEMINGS. Madam Speaker, in
closing, H.R. 1404 will shine a light on
Vladimir Putin's financial networks
that have stripped the Russian Federa-
tion of its resources and left the Rus-
sian people in poverty. It will also em-
power Congress, the intelligence com-
munity, and our allies to crack down
on cross-border corruption.

I want to thank my colleague on the
Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
ligence, Representative STEFANIK, for
joining me in this important legisla-
tion.

Additionally, I want to thank the
hardworking staff on both sides of the
aisle on the Permanent Select Com-
mittee on Intelligence and the Foreign
Affairs Committee for their input on
this critical legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The
question is on the motion offered by
the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs.
DEMINGS) that the House suspend the
rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1404, as
amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on
the table.

KEEPING RUSSIAN ENTRAPMENTS MINIMAL AND LIMITING INTEL- LIGENCE NETWORKS ACT

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam
Speaker, I move to suspend the rules
and pass the bill (H.R. 1617) to direct
the Director of National Intelligence to
submit intelligence assessments of the
intentions of the political leadership of
the Russian Federation, and for other
purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1617

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Keeping
Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting
Intelligence Networks Act" or the "KREM-
LIN Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Russia continues to engage in informa-
tion warfare and political interference in the
West, including by undermining democratic
systems and exploiting economic and ethnic
tensions within member countries of the
North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(2) Such activities constitute a threat to
the United States and to its allies.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Countering America's Adversaries
Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44)
authorized the United States Government to
impose sanctions in response to actions by
countries, including Russia, that undermine
the security of the United States;

(2) the United States should sustain its
contribution to the newly deployed enhanced
forward presence of the North Atlantic Treaty
Organization (NATO) in Poland, Lith-
uania, Latvia, and Estonia and encourage
Canada, the United Kingdom, and Germany
to continue their important leadership roles
in the military presence of NATO in those
countries;

(3) the United States has defensive inten-
tions in pursuing such sanctions and such en-
hanced military posture in Europe, and does
not seek to threaten Russian territory;

(4) the United States does not seek to be an
enemy of the Russian people;

(5) the United States desires a peaceful,
economically prosperous relationship with
Russia based on democratic principles where
freedom and the rule of law are upheld for
all; and

(6) the United States is committed to de-
fending these fundamental beliefs against
any Russian aggression.

SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT FOR INTELLIGENCE AS- SESSMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act,
the Director of National Intelligence, in con-
sultation with the Secretary of State and
the Secretary of Defense, shall submit to the
appropriate congressional committees each
of the assessments described in subsection
(b).

(b) ASSESSMENTS DESCRIBED.—The assess-
ments described in this section are the fol-
lowing with respect to the current intentions
of the political leadership of the Russian
Federation and based on intelligence ob-
tained from all sources:

(1) Potential military action against mem-
bers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
zation (NATO).

(2) Potential responses to an enlarged
United States or NATO military presence in
eastern Europe or to increased United States
military support for allies and partners in
the region, such as the provision of addi-
tional lethal military equipment to Ukraine
or Georgia.

(3) Potential areas where the Government
of the Russian Federation could exploit
weaknesses and divisions among the govern-
ments of its Western adversaries.

(c) FORM.—Each assessment required under
subsection (a) may be submitted in classified
form but shall also include an unclassified
executive summary, consistent with the pro-
tection of intelligence sources and methods.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
TEES.—In this section, the term "appropriate
congressional committees" means—

(1) the Permanent Select Committee on In-
telligence, the Committee on Foreign Af-
fairs, and the Committee on Armed Services
of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. STEWART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1617.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1617, the Keeping Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting Intelligence Networks Act, or the KREMLIN Act.

The intelligence community is united in its assessment that Russia attempted to sabotage the 2016 U.S. election and that America is not alone in facing these dangers and attacks. In fact, recent reports indicate that Russia continues to engage in information warfare and political interference in the West that threatens the health of democratic institutions within member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, otherwise known as NATO.

Among many examples, the Russian Federation is linked to cybercrimes in Ukraine and Germany, disinformation campaigns here in the United States, intelligence support for pro-Russian Bulgarian candidates, and financing for pro-Russian parties in France.

The bipartisan KREMLIN Act which I introduced with my friend, Congressman CHRIS STEWART of Utah, acknowledges the active threat of foreign interference on the United States and our NATO allies.

Specifically, this legislation would require the Director of National Intelligence to submit three intelligence assessments to Congress. These assessments must analyze:

First, potential military action by Russia against members of NATO;

Second, potential responses by Russia to an enlarged U.S. or NATO presence in Eastern Europe;

Third, potential areas where the Russian Government could exploit weaknesses and divisions among the governments of NATO and her allies.

Most importantly, the KREMLIN Act recognizes that Russian meddling with our allied NATO countries constitutes a direct threat to the United States.

By providing the appropriate congressional committees with these comprehensive assessments, we will be better prepared to thwart efforts in the future that aim to weaken international democratic institutions.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2019.

Hon. ADAM SCHIFF,
Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is to advise you that the Committee on Foreign Affairs has now had an opportunity to review H.R. 1617, the "KREMLIN Act," which falls within our shared Rule X jurisdiction. I appreciate that you have consulted with us on this legislation. The Foreign Affairs Committee has no objection to considering this bill on the House floor. To expedite that consideration, the Foreign Affairs Committee is willing to waive referral, with the understanding that we do not thereby waive any future jurisdictional claim over the legislation or its subject matter.

In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, the Foreign Affairs Committee reserves the right to request an appropriate number of conferees to address any concerns with this bill or related provisions that may arise in conference.

Please place this letter into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperation spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our committees.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, House Committee on
Foreign Affairs.

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON
INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 8, 2019.

Hon. ELIOT ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: I write in reply to your letter regarding H.R. 1617, the "KREMLIN Act." I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs; and that the Committee on Foreign Affairs will not take up H.R. 1617 formally. I further agree that your Committee's inaction regarding the bill will not waive any future jurisdictional claims over matters addressed in H.R. 1617 which fall within your Committee's jurisdiction under Rule X of the Rules of Procedure for the House of Representatives for the 116th Congress.

At your request, I lastly will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ADAM B. SCHIFF,
Chairman.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 1617, and I am proud to cosponsor this bill with my friend, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

The Keeping Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting Intelligence Networks Act, also known as the KREMLIN Act, is a commonsense bill that directs the intelligence commu-

nity to conduct an assessment on the leadership of the Russian Government's plans and intentions, as my friend RAJA has said, especially in regards to NATO.

Madam Speaker, with some questioning Washington's commitment to the transatlantic alliance, this bill also serves as a reminder to our allies of the U.S. Congress' commitment to NATO.

□ 1315

NATO is indispensable. As a former military officer, I know firsthand how true that is. It is also as important today as it has ever been. Understanding the threats that the Kremlin continues to challenge to this important alliance is of utmost importance.

In particular, the bill seeks assessments in three areas:

First, any potential military action against NATO members;

Second, potential reaction to the expansion of NATO; and,

Third, potential weaknesses and areas of division against NATO allies.

Learning the Russian Government's intentions in these areas will better enable the United States Government to counter any attempts to undermine this critical alliance that we call NATO.

I thank the Speaker, urge passage of H.R. 1617, and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers and am prepared to close.

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, once again, very briefly, this is a commonsense piece of legislation. It is a bipartisan piece of legislation. Importantly, it improves our national security. It improves the ability of our intelligence agencies to do the critical work that they do.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, for the health of our democracy, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan KREMLIN 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 Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1617.

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.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGE PRESERVATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1582) to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 1582

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 “Electronic Message Preservation Act”.

SEC. 2. PRESERVATION OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGES AND OTHER RECORDS.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR PRESERVATION OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGES.—Chapter 29 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 2912. Preservation of electronic messages and other records

“(a) REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Archivist shall promulgate regulations governing Federal agency preservation of electronic messages that are determined to be records. Such regulations shall, at a minimum—

“(1) require the electronic capture, management, and preservation of such electronic records in accordance with the records disposition requirements of chapter 33;

“(2) require that such electronic records are readily accessible for retrieval through electronic searches; and

“(3) include timelines for Federal agency implementation of the regulations that ensure compliance as expeditiously as practicable.

“(b) ENSURING COMPLIANCE.—The Archivist shall promulgate regulations that—

“(1) establish mandatory minimum functional requirements for electronic records management systems to ensure compliance with the requirements in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a); and

“(2) establish a process to ensure that the electronic records management system of each Federal agency meets the functional requirements established under paragraph (1).

“(c) COVERAGE OF OTHER ELECTRONIC RECORDS.—To the extent practicable, the regulations promulgated under subsections (a) and (b) shall also include requirements for the capture, management, and preservation of other electronic records.

“(d) COMPLIANCE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Each Federal agency shall comply with the regulations promulgated under subsections (a) and (b).

“(e) REVIEW OF REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—The Archivist shall periodically review and, as necessary, amend the regulations promulgated under subsections (a) and (b).”.

(b) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—

(1) PRESERVATION OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist shall promulgate the regulations required under section 2912(a) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) ENSURING COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Archivist shall promulgate the regulations required under section 2912(b) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(c) REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF REGULATIONS.—

(1) AGENCY REPORT TO ARCHIVIST.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency shall submit to the Archivist a report on the agency’s compliance with the regulations promulgated under section 2912 of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and shall make the report publicly available on the website of the agency.

(2) ARCHIVIST REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after receipt of all reports required by paragraph (1), the Archivist shall

submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on Federal agency compliance with the regulations promulgated under section 2912(a) of title 44, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and shall make the report publicly available on the website of the agency.

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “Federal agency” has the meaning given that term in section 2901 of title 44, United States Code.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 29 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item relating to section 2911 the following new item:

“2912. Preservation of electronic messages and other records.”.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2901 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (14); and

(2) by striking paragraph (15) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

“(15) the term ‘electronic messages’ means electronic mail and other electronic messaging systems that are used for purposes of communicating between individuals; and

“(16) the term ‘electronic records management system’ means software designed to manage electronic records, including by—

“(A) categorizing and locating records;

“(B) ensuring that records are retained as long as necessary;

“(C) identifying records that are due for disposition; and

“(D) ensuring the storage, retrieval, and disposition of records.”.

SEC. 3. PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS.

(a) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS RELATING TO PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2206 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (4) and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) provisions for establishing standards necessary for the economical and efficient management of electronic Presidential records during the President’s term of office, including—

“(A) records management controls necessary for the capture, management, and preservation of electronic messages;

“(B) records management controls necessary to ensure that electronic messages are readily accessible for retrieval through electronic searches; and

“(C) a process to ensure the electronic records management system to be used by the President for the purposes of complying with the requirements in subparagraphs (A) and (B).”.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2201 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(6) The term ‘electronic messages’ has the meaning given that term under section 2901(15).

“(7) The term ‘electronic records management system’ has the meaning given that term under section 2901(16).”.

(b) CERTIFICATION OF PRESIDENT’S MANAGEMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS.—

(1) CERTIFICATION REQUIRED.—Chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 2210. Certification of the President’s management of Presidential records

“(a) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—The Archivist shall annually certify whether the electronic records management controls established by

the President meet requirements under sections 2203(a) and 2206(5).

“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Archivist shall report annually to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives on the status of the certification.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“2210. Certification of the President’s management of Presidential records.”.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 2203(g) of title 44, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) One year following the conclusion of a President’s term of office, or if a President serves consecutive terms 1 year following the conclusion of the last term, the Archivist shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on—

“(A) the volume and format of electronic Presidential records deposited into that President’s Presidential archival depository; and

“(B) whether the electronic records management controls of that President met the requirements under sections 2203(a) and 2206(5).”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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 this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Electronic Message Preservation Act. This bill would update the Federal Records Act and the Presidential Records Act to ensure that agencies save records created through electronic messages, including emails. This bill would require the Archivist of the United States to issue regulations

mandating that all Federal agencies manage and preserve their email records electronically.

Agencies are already supposed to be saving emails electronically. In 2012, the Archivist and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget issued a directive that required agencies to do so. This bill would help ensure that email records from Federal agencies and the White House are all preserved.

According to a September 2018 report from the National Archives and Records Administration, approximately 35 percent of agencies continue to print and file hard copies of email messages. This means that these records are more likely to get lost, and they are harder for the agency to retrieve during records searches under the Freedom of Information Act.

This bill would put into statute what agencies are already required to do under a directive issued by the Archivist and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in 2012. Agencies are required, under the directive, to save all permanent electronic records electronically by the end of 2019. Putting this requirement to save email records electronically into statute would show agencies to take this issue seriously.

This bill would also require the Archivist to establish standards for the preservation and management of Presidential email records and to certify, annually, that the White House has records management controls in place that meet those standards. The Archivist would be required, under this legislation, to report 1 year after the President leaves office on whether the controls used by the President met the required standards.

This bill has been introduced and passed by the House under multiple administrations. This is not a partisan bill for sure. It is a good government bill.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1582, the Electronic Message Preservation Act.

The American people, Madam Speaker, as you know, have the right to know what is going on in their government. Preservation of Federal records is essential to that right. The Federal Government must preserve Federal records, regardless of the form or technology used to create those records in order to remain accountable to the American people.

Over the last two decades, technology has advanced. Electronic communication has permeated all parts of the Federal Government. The Electronic Message Preservation Act requires the Federal Government to preserve those electronic records in electronic format. It just makes sense.

For decades, many Federal agencies have used what we call the print-to-file method of electronic record preservation. That is right; Federal employees were actually encouraged to print out emails to archive the paper copies instead of just archiving them electronically.

Paper-based records, as you know, Madam Speaker, really are inefficient, prone to record loss, and difficult to manage. A poorly managed, paper-based system can also increase the costs of recordkeeping for the Federal Government and the American taxpayers.

The Office of Management and Budget and my good friends over at the National Archives, under the leadership of David Ferriero, have been working to modernize Federal recordkeeping. They issued a joint directive that requires agencies to preserve emails and other electronic records in electronic format. Under that directive, all Federal agencies should be preserving electronic records in an electronic format by the end of this year.

This bill, Madam Speaker, just codifies that requirement in a joint directive and expands the scope of the electronic message preservations to include the Presidential records, as my colleague opposite has already noted.

The bill also requires agencies to report on compliance with the electronic record preservation requirements, which will allow Congress to understand the progress towards these goals.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman CUMMINGS for working on this important issue. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

If anything, I am surprised, perhaps shocked, that we have had to put the matter of electronic recordkeeping into statutory form to make sure it has happened.

We are deep into the electronic era, and perhaps, when you put a matter into statutory form, it finally is a matter of law and it gets people's attention. I certainly hope so.

Madam Speaker, I am prepared to yield back unless the gentleman has something more to say.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for her deliberative process and the way that she has managed that. I thank her.

I think this is one of the rare moments where you have true bipartisan support on something that is just common sense. We need to be doing that.

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

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Electronic Message Preservation Act. I introduced this bill with the goal of modernizing the Federal and Presidential Records Acts.

This bill would require the Archivist of the United States to issue regulations mandating that all federal agencies manage and preserve their email records electronically.

This bill would help ensure that email records from federal agencies and the White House are preserved.

According to a September 2018 report from the National Archives and Records Administration, approximately 35 percent of agencies continue to print and file hard copies of email messages.

This means that these records are more likely to get lost and that they are harder for the agency to retrieve during records searches under the Freedom of Information Act.

This bill would put into statute what agencies are already required to do under a directive issued by the Archivist and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in 2012.

In 2016, the National Archives issued a document for agency records officers titled, "Why Agencies Need to Move Towards Electronic Recordkeeping." The National Archives identified a number of reasons including long term cost savings, information security, and more efficient and effective implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

This bill would also require the Archivist to establish standards for the preservation and management of email records that are presidential records and to certify annually that the White House has records management controls in place that meet those standards.

Under this bill, the Archivist must report one year after the president leaves office on whether the controls used by the president met the required standards.

This legislation would provide accountability to encourage every president to have the controls in place that are necessary to preserve emails and other electronic records.

This bill has passed the House with bipartisan support several times before, including last Congress. I urge my colleagues to support the bill again today and I hope the Senate will act on the bill and send it to the President's desk before the end of the year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1582.

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.

FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1608) to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1608

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Ensuring independent advice and expertise.
- Sec. 3. Preventing efforts to circumvent the Federal Advisory Committee Act and public disclosure.
- Sec. 4. Increasing transparency of advisory committees.
- Sec. 5. Managing Federal advisory committees.
- Sec. 6. Comptroller General review and reports.
- Sec. 7. Application of Federal Advisory Committee Act to trade advisory committees.
- Sec. 8. Definitions.
- Sec. 9. Technical and conforming amendments.
- Sec. 10. Effective date.
- Sec. 11. No additional funds authorized.

SEC. 2. ENSURING INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND EXPERTISE.

(a) **BAR ON POLITICAL LITMUS TESTS.**—Section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting “MEMBERSHIP;” after “ADVISORY COMMITTEES;”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) **APPOINTMENTS MADE WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR ACTIVITY.**—All appointments to advisory committees shall be made without regard to political affiliation or political campaign activity, unless required by Federal statute.”.

(b) **MINIMIZING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**—Section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is further amended by inserting after subsection (b) (as added by such subsection (a)) the following:

“(c) **PUBLIC NOMINATIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**—

“(1) Before making an appointment to an advisory committee, the head of an agency shall—

“(A) solicit nominations for potential committee members;

“(B) if the head of the agency is required to publish a notice under subsection (a)(2), include in the notice a solicitation for nominations of potential committee members; and

“(C) provide in the notice under subparagraph (B) a mechanism for interested persons to comment through a publicly available website of the agency.

“(2) The head of an agency shall consider any comments submitted in accordance with paragraph (1)(C) in appointing the members of an advisory committee.

“(3) The head of an agency shall solicit nominations under paragraph (1) not less frequently than once every 2 years.

“(4) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), if a vacancy in an advisory committee occurs before the next scheduled solicitation for nominations under this subsection, an agency may appoint a member from among individuals that were previously nominated to be a member of the advisory committee.

“(d) **DESIGNATION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**—

“(1) An individual appointed to an advisory committee who is not a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be designated as—

“(A) a special Government employee, if the individual is providing advice based on the individual’s expertise or experience; or

“(B) a representative, if the individual is representing the views of an entity or entities outside of the Federal Government.

“(2) An agency may not designate committee members as representatives to avoid subjecting them to Federal ethics rules and requirements.

“(3) The designated agency ethics official for each agency shall review the members of each advisory committee that reports to the agency to determine whether each member’s designation is appropriate, and to redesignate members if appropriate. The designated agency ethics official shall certify to the head of the agency that such review has been made—

“(A) following the initial appointment of members; and

“(B) at the time a committee’s charter is renewed, or, in the case of a committee with an indefinite charter, every 2 years.

“(4) The head of each agency shall inform each individual who is not a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government appointed to an advisory committee that reports to the agency whether the individual is appointed as a special Government employee or as a representative. The agency head shall provide each committee member with an explanation of the differences between special Government employees and representatives and a summary of applicable ethics requirements. The agency head, acting through the designated agency ethics official, shall obtain signed and dated written confirmation from each committee member that the member received and reviewed the information required by this paragraph.

“(5) The Director of the Office of Government Ethics shall provide guidance to agencies on what to include in the summary of ethics requirements required by paragraph (4).

“(6) The head of each agency shall, to the extent practicable, develop and implement strategies to minimize the need for written determinations under section 208(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code. Strategies may include such efforts as improving outreach efforts to potential committee members and seeking public input on potential committee members.

“(7) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to supersede the inapplicability of this Act with respect to peer review groups appointed under paragraph (16) of section 402(b) of the Public Health Service Act, as described in the flush text following paragraph (25)(B) of such section.”.

(c) **REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING FACA.**—Section 7(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting “promulgate regulations and” after “The Administrator shall”.

(d) **ENSURING INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in section 8—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting “INDEPENDENT ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS;” after “RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCY HEADS;”;

(B) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(C) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

“(b) The head of each agency shall ensure that the agency does not interfere with the free and independent participation, expression of views, and deliberation by committee members. Each advisory committee shall include a statement describing the process used by the advisory committee in formulating the advice and recommendations when they are transmitted to the agency.”; and

(2) in section 10—

(A) in the section heading, by inserting “; CHAIR” after “ATTENDANCE”; and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) The chair shall not be an employee of the agency to which the advisory committee reports, unless—

“(1) a statute specifically authorizes selection of such an employee as the chair; or

“(2) the head of the agency directs an employee to serve as the chair.”.

SEC. 3. PREVENTING EFFORTS TO CIRCUMVENT THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE.

(a) **SUBCOMMITTEES.**—Section 4 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) **APPLICATION.**—The provisions of this Act or of any rule, order, or regulation promulgated under this Act shall apply to each advisory committee, including any subcommittee or subgroup thereof, except to the extent that any Act of Congress establishing any such advisory committee specifically provides otherwise. Any subcommittee or subgroup that reports to a parent committee established under section 9(a) is not required to comply with section 9(f).”.

(b) **COMMITTEES CREATED UNDER CONTRACT.**—Section 3(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (C) by adding at the end the following: “An advisory committee is considered to be established by an agency, agencies, or the President if it is formed, created, or organized under contract, other transactional authority, cooperative agreement, grant, or otherwise at the request or direction of an agency, agencies, or the President.”.

(c) **ADVISORY COMMITTEES CONTAINING SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Section 4 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **SPECIAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.**—Committee members appointed as special Government employees shall not be considered full-time or permanent part-time officers or employees of the Federal Government for purposes of determining the applicability of this Act under section 3(2).”.

SEC. 4. INCREASING TRANSPARENCY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) **INFORMATION REQUIREMENT.**—Section 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 11. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to each advisory committee, the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports shall make publicly available in accordance with subsection (b) the following information:

“(1) The charter of the advisory committee.

“(2) A description of the process used to establish and appoint the members of the advisory committee, including the following:

“(A) The process for identifying prospective members.

“(B) The process of selecting members for balance of viewpoints or expertise.

“(C) The reason each member was appointed to the committee.

“(D) A justification of the need for representative members, if any.

“(3) A list of all current members, including, for each member, the following:

“(A) The name of any person or entity that nominated the member.

“(B) Whether the member is—

“(i) designated as a special Government employee;

“(ii) a representative; or

“(iii) a full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Federal Government.

“(C) In the case of a representative, the individuals or entity whose viewpoint the member represents.

“(4) A list of all members designated as special Government employees for whom written certifications were made under section 208(b) of title 18, United States Code, a copy of each such certification, a summary description of the conflict necessitating the certification, and the reason for granting the certification.

“(5) Any recusal agreement made by a member or any recusal known to the agency that occurs during the course of a meeting or other work of the committee.

“(6) A summary of the process used by the advisory committee for making decisions.

“(7) Detailed minutes of all meetings of the committee and a description of committee efforts to make meetings accessible to the public using online technologies (such as video recordings) or other techniques (such as audio recordings).

“(8) Any written determination by the President or the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports, pursuant to section 10(d), to close a meeting or any portion of a meeting and the reasons for such determination.

“(9) Notices of future meetings of the committee.

“(10) Any additional information considered relevant by the head of the agency to which the advisory committee reports.

“(b) MANNER OF DISCLOSURE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the head of an agency shall make the information required to be disclosed under subsection (a) available electronically on a publicly available website of the agency and to the Administrator at least 15 calendar days before each meeting of an advisory committee. If the head of the agency determines that such timing is not practicable for any required information, such head shall make the information available as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours before the next meeting of the committee. An agency may withhold from disclosure any information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) WEBSITE AVAILABILITY.—The head of an agency shall make available electronically, on a publicly available website of the agency, detailed minutes and, to the extent available, a transcript or audio or video recording of each advisory committee meeting not later than 45 calendar days after such meeting.

“(3) GRANT REVIEWS.—In the case of grant reviews, disclosure of information required by subsection (a)(3) may be provided in the aggregate rather than by individual grant.

“(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY ADMINISTRATOR OF GENERAL SERVICES.—The Administrator of General Services shall provide, on a publicly available website of the General Services Administration, electronic access to the information made available by each agency under this section.

“(d) AVAILABILITY OF MEETING MATERIALS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) and where prohibited by contractual agreements entered into prior to the effective date of the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019, agencies and advisory committees shall make available to any person, at actual cost of duplication, copies of advisory committee meeting materials.

“(2) APPLICABILITY.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the dis-

closure of information that is protected from mandatory disclosure by statute.”

(b) CHARTER FILING.—Subsection (f) of section 9 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as redesignated by section 2(a) of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(f) No advisory committee shall meet or take any action until an advisory committee charter has been filed with the Administrator, the head of the agency to whom any advisory committee reports, and the standing committees of the Senate and of the House of Representatives having legislative jurisdiction of such agency. Such charter shall contain the following information in the following order:

“(1) The committee’s official designation.

“(2) The authority under which the committee is established.

“(3) The committee’s objectives and the scope of its activity.

“(4) A description of the duties for which the committee is responsible, and, if such duties are not solely advisory, a specification of the authority for such functions.

“(5) The agency or official to whom the committee reports.

“(6) The agency responsible for providing the necessary support for the committee.

“(7) The responsibilities of the officer or employee of the Federal Government designated under section 10(e).

“(8) The estimated number and frequency of committee meetings.

“(9) The period of time necessary for the committee to carry out its purposes.

“(10) The committee’s termination date, if less than 2 years from the date of the committee’s establishment.

“(11) The estimated number of members and a description of the expertise needed to carry out the objectives of the committee.

“(12) A description of whether the committee will be composed of full- or part-time Government employees, special Government employees, representatives, or a combination of categories.

“(13) Whether the agency intends to create subcommittees and if so, the agency official authorized to exercise such authority.

“(14) The estimated annual operating costs in dollars and full-time equivalent positions for such committee.

“(15) The recordkeeping requirements of the committee.

“(16) The date the charter is filed.

A copy of any such charter shall also be furnished to the Library of Congress.”

SEC. 5. MANAGING FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT OFFICERS.—Subsection (c) of section 8 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as redesignated by section 2(d) of this Act, is amended to read as follows:

“(c) The head of each agency that has an advisory committee shall designate an Advisory Committee Management Officer who shall—

“(1) be a senior official who is—

“(A) an expert in implementing the requirements of this Act and regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act; and

“(B) the primary point of contact for the General Services Administration;

“(2) ensure the establishment, management, and supervision of the advisory committees of the agency, including establishing procedures, performance measures, and outcomes for such committees;

“(3) ensure the assembly and maintenance of the reports, records, and other papers (including advisory committee meeting materials) of any such committee during its existence;

“(4) ensure any such committee and corresponding agency staff adhere to the provi-

sions of this Act and any regulations promulgated pursuant to this Act;

“(5) ensure the maintenance of records on each employee of any such committee and completion of training required for any such employee;

“(6) be responsible for providing the information required in section 7(b) of this Act to the Administrator; and

“(7) carry out, on behalf of that agency, the provisions of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the reports, records, and other papers described in paragraph (3).”

SEC. 6. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW AND REPORTS.

(a) REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall review compliance by agencies with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended by this Act, including whether agencies are appropriately appointing advisory committee members who are not full-time or permanent part-time officers or employees of the Federal Government as either special Government employees or representatives.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit to the committees described in subsection (c) two reports on the results of the review, as follows:

(1) The first report shall be submitted not later than 1 year after the date of promulgation of regulations under section 7(c) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.), as amended by section 2(c).

(2) The second report shall be submitted not later than 5 years after such date of promulgation of regulations.

(c) COMMITTEES.—The committees described in this subsection are the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 7. APPLICATION OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT TO TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Section 135(f)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(f)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “subsections (a) and (b) of sections 10 and 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act” and inserting “subsections (a) and (b) of section 10 and subsections (a)(7), (a)(8), (a)(9), (b)(2), and (d) of section 11 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act”.

SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

Section 3 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) The term ‘special Government employee’ has the meaning given that term in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.”

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the rate specified for GS-18 of the General Schedule under section 5332” and inserting “the rate for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by striking “handicapped individuals (within the meaning of section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794))” and inserting “individuals with disabilities (as defined in section 7(20) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)”.

SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 11. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

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

SEC. 12. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. 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 this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments.

Representative LACY CLAY, my good friend from Missouri, has introduced this bill each Congress for a decade now. The bill passed in each of the previous two Congresses, and it passed the House last year without opposition.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act was originally enacted in 1972. It is intended to ensure that committees that provide advice to Federal agencies and the President operate with transparency.

The bill we are considering today would strengthen FACA to make Federal advisory committees more transparent and to make agencies more accountable in how they select members for these committees.

Agencies often avoid the requirements of FACA by conducting advisory committee business through subcommittees. This bill makes it clear that FACA applies to subcommittees as well as parent committees. The bill also clarifies that a committee set up by a contractor is subject to FACA if it is formed under direction of the President or an agency.

Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments, agencies would be required to disclose how advisory members are chosen and whether they have financial conflicts of interest. They would also be required to disclose if they are appointed to provide their own expertise and who they work for if they are representing a specific interest.

Last Congress, this legislation was approved without opposition by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in the Senate. Chairman RON JOHNSON and his staff were very helpful in pushing this bill through the Senate.

The bill we are considering today includes changes made following negotiations we engaged in during the process. These are changes to address concerns raised last Congress by the Department of Health and Human Services and technical corrections from the General Services Administration.

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

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 11, 2019.

Hon. ELIJAH CUMMINGS,
Chairman, Committee on Oversight and Reform,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CUMMINGS: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H.R. 1608, "Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019," the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 1608.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM,
Washington, DC, March 12, 2019.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 1608, the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019. As you know, the bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, with an additional referral to the Committees on Ways and Means.

I thank you for allowing the Committee on Ways and Means to be discharged from further consideration of the bill to expedite floor consideration. This discharge in no way affects your jurisdiction over the subject matter of the bill, and it will not serve as precedent for future referrals. In addition, should a conference on the bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee.

I would be pleased to include this letter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration in order to memorialize our understanding.

Sincerely,

ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS,
Chairman.

□ 1330

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1608, the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019. I

thank the sponsor of this legislation, my colleague from Missouri (Mr. CLAY). In spite of the fact that he is not wearing his stylish red glasses today, I want to acknowledge the great work that he has done. He has been a tireless advocate on this important reform over many Congresses.

H.R. 1608 will help improve the governance and transparency of Federal advisory committees. The Federal advisory committees are groups of experts and stakeholders who provide advice and recommendations to Federal policymakers.

Currently, Madam Speaker, there are over 1,000 advisory committees that are covered by the transparency and accountability requirements in the Federal Advisory Committee Act. But many more advisory committees are exempt from the law and may not receive the same level of scrutiny, due to a lack of transparency of their own operations.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) has been right in working tirelessly to make sure that advisory committees covered under the law are required to report on their operational costs. Those reports show advisory committees cost the Federal Government, many times, over \$300 million annually, Madam Speaker.

We need to make sure that we are getting the most from the hardworking American taxpayers' dollars. The 1972 act does not do enough to ensure transparency and openness to the Federal decisionmaking process.

This bill provides the needed transparency for how committee members are selected and how committee activities function. I encourage all my colleagues to support this particular legislation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY).

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from the District of Columbia for her generosity in time and consideration, as well as my colleague and friend from North Carolina (Mr. MEADOWS), who supports the legislation also.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019.

As was mentioned, I introduced this bill in previous Congresses, and it most recently passed the House by voice vote in 2017, without opposition.

This legislation fits well with the theme of Sunshine Week, as the House joins together to address the need for more transparency in our government.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act, or FACA, as it is known, was originally enacted in 1972, as was mentioned, to ensure that the advisory groups that provide counsel to the executive branch operate with transparency.

Advisory committees provide the government with recommendations on a wide range of issues of importance to the American public. For example, advisory committees to the Department of Health and Human Services provide advice about critical issues such as human trafficking. The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the U.S. makes recommendations on Federal programs, such as best practices to provide housing for children and youth who are victims of trafficking. The individuals on that committee are trusted to have experience relevant to the issues facing these children and share their reports with child welfare agencies that provide direct services around the country.

The bill we are considering today would strengthen FACA to make Federal advisory committees more transparent and make agencies more accountable in how they select and use their committees.

Under current law, agencies are able to avoid the requirements of FACA by conducting advisory committee business through subcommittees, as Ms. NORTON mentioned.

This bill makes it clear that FACA applies to subcommittees as well as their parent committees. The bill also clarifies that a committee set up by a contractor is subject to FACA if it is formed under the direction of the President or its agency.

Under FACA, agencies will be required to disclose how advisory committee members are selected; whether they have financial conflicts of interest; if they are appointed to provide their own expertise; and who they work for, if they are representing a specific interest.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I hope that the Senate will take it up quickly and send it to the President.

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

I thank the gentleman for his thoughtfulness. I have often said there are two ways things get done here in Washington, D.C.: slow and never. Let's hope that this is one of those times where it is just slow and that we get the Senate to act on it.

I would inform the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia that I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

But before I do that, I want to thank the staff on both sides of the committee. Oftentimes, we get up here and get to deliberate this, but it is the staffs who do the hard work. I thank our staff in the minority and, certainly, the majority staff for their hard work.

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

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

I must say that my friend from Missouri has been indefatigable in trying

to get this bill passed. It looks like it received some notice, at least the last time, in the Senate.

I have joked with my friend that maybe if he got somebody else to introduce it, we could get the bill passed. But he keeps trying. If at first you don't succeed—

I believe that because he has understood that these advisory committees are very important and sometimes amount to enacting legislation, so important are some of them to our process, that he has to keep plugging away until we get it done. I thank him for doing so.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ADAMS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1608.

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.

FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION ACT

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1654) to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1654

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Register Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION.

(a) REFERENCES TO PRINTING.—Chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1502—

(A) in the heading, by striking "printing" and inserting "publishing"; and

(B) by striking "printing and distribution" and inserting "publishing";

(2) in section 1507—

(A) by striking "the duplicate originals or certified copies of the document have" and inserting "the document has"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "printed" and inserting "published"; and

(3) in section 1509, in subsections (a) and (b), by striking "printing, reprinting, wrapping, binding, and distributing" and inserting "publishing", each place it appears.

(b) PUBLISH DEFINED.—Section 1501 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "and" at the end of the definition for "person" and inserting a semicolon; and

(2) by inserting after the definition for "person" the following:

"'publish' means to circulate for sale or distribution to the public; and";

(c) FILING DOCUMENTS WITH OFFICE AMENDMENT.—Section 1503 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing"

"The original document required or authorized to be published by section 1505 shall be filed with the Office of the Federal Register for publication at times established by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register by regulation. The Archivist of the United States shall cause to be noted on the original of each document the day and hour of filing. Upon filing, the document shall be immediately available for public inspection in the Office. The original shall be retained by the National Archives and Records Administration and shall be available for inspection under regulations prescribed by the Archivist, unless such original is disposed of in accordance with disposal schedules submitted by the Administrative Committee and authorized by the Archivist pursuant to regulations issued under chapter 33; however, originals of proclamations of the President and Executive orders shall be permanently retained by the Administration as part of the National Archives of the United States. The Office shall transmit to the Government Publishing Office, as provided by this chapter, each document required or authorized to be published by section 1505. Every Federal agency shall cause to be transmitted for filing the original of all such documents issued, prescribed, or promulgated by the agency."

(d) FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Section 1504 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§ 1504. 'Federal Register'; publishing; contents; distribution; price"

"Documents required or authorized to be published by section 1505 shall be published immediately by the Government Publishing Office in a serial publication designated the 'Federal Register'. The Director of the Government Publishing Office shall make available the facilities of the Government Publishing Office for the prompt publication of the Federal Register in the manner and at the times required by this chapter and the regulations prescribed under it. The contents of the daily issues shall be indexed and constitute all documents, required or authorized to be published, filed with the Office of the Federal Register up to the time of the day immediately preceding the day of publication fixed by regulations under this chapter. There shall be published with each document a copy of the notation, required to be made by section 1503, of the day and hour when, upon filing with the Office, the document was made available for public inspection. Distribution shall be made at a time in the morning of the day of distribution fixed by regulations prescribed under this chapter. The prices to be charged for the Federal Register may be fixed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register established by section 1506 without reference to the restrictions placed upon and fixed for the sale of Government publications by sections 1705 and 1708."

(e) DOCUMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEDERAL REGISTER.—Section 1505 of title 44, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking "COMMENTS" and inserting "NEWS COMMENTARY"; and

(B) by striking "comments" and inserting "news commentary";

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

"(c) ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATION.—In a continuity of operations event in which the Government Publishing Office does not fulfill

the publication requirements of this chapter, the Office of the Federal Register may establish a website to publish the Federal Register until such time that the Government Publishing Office resumes publication.”; and

(4) in subsection (d), as so redesignated, in the matter following paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “telecommunications, the Internet,” after “the press, the radio,”; and

(B) by striking “and two duplicate originals or two certified copies” and inserting “document”.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 1506 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) COMPOSITION; DUTIES.—The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register shall consist of the Archivist of the United States or Acting Archivist, who shall chair the committee, an officer of the Department of Justice designated by the Attorney General, and the Director of the Government Publishing Office or Acting Director of the Government Publishing Office. The Director of the Federal Register shall act as secretary of the committee. The committee shall prescribe, with the approval of the President, regulations for carrying out this chapter. The regulations shall provide for, among other things—

“(1) the documents which shall be authorized under section 1505(b) to be published in the Federal Register;

“(2) the manner and form in which the Federal Register shall be published;

“(3) the manner and form in which agencies submit documents for publication in the Federal Register and special editions of the Federal Register;

“(4) subject to subsection (b), the manner of distribution to Members of Congress, officers and employees of the United States, or Federal agency, for official use, and the number which shall be available for distribution to the public;

“(5) the prices to be charged for individual copies of, and subscriptions to, the Federal Register and any reprints and bound volumes of it;

“(6) the manner and form by which the Federal Register may receive information and comments from the public, if practicable and efficient; and

“(7) special editions of the Federal Register.”.

(g) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS AMENDMENT.—Section 1510 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 1510. Code of Federal Regulations

“(a) SPECIAL EDITION FOR CODIFICATION OF AGENCY DOCUMENTS.—The Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, with the approval of the President, may require, from time to time as it considers necessary, the preparation and publication in a special edition of the Federal Register a complete codification of the documents of each agency of the Government having general applicability and legal effect, issued or promulgated by the agency by publication in the Federal Register or by filing with the Administrative Committee, and which are relied upon by the agency as authority for, or are invoked or used by it in the discharge of, its activities or functions, and are in effect as to facts arising on or after dates specified by the Administrative Committee.

“(b) CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS.—A codification prepared under subsection (a) of this section shall be published and shall be designated as the ‘Code of Federal Regulations’. The Administrative Committee shall regulate the manner and forms of publishing this codification.

“(c) SUPPLEMENTATION, COLLATION, AND RE-PUBLICATION.—The Administrative Com-

mittee shall regulate the supplementation and the collation and republication of the codification with a view to keeping the Code of Federal Regulations as current as practicable. Each unit of codification shall be supplemented and republished at least once each calendar year. The Office of the Federal Register may create updates of each unit of codification from time to time and make the same available electronically or may provide public access using an electronic edition that allows a user to select a specific date and retrieve the version of the codification in effect as of that date.

“(d) PREPARATION AND PUBLICATION BY THE FEDERAL REGISTER.—The Office of the Federal Register shall prepare and publish the codifications, supplements, collations, indices, and user aids authorized by this section.

“(e) PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE.—The codified documents of the several agencies published in the Code of Federal Regulations under this section, as amended by documents subsequently filed with the Office and published in the daily issues of the Federal Register, shall be prima facie evidence of the text of the documents and of the fact that they are in effect on and after the date of publication.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Administrative Committee, with approval of the President, shall issue regulations for carrying out this section.

“(g) EXCEPTION.—This section does not require codification of the text of Presidential documents published and periodically compiled in supplements to title 3 of the Code of Federal Regulations.”.

(h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections for chapter 15 of title 44, United States Code, is amended by striking the items related to sections 1502, 1503, and 1504 and inserting the following:

“1502. Custody and publishing of Federal documents; appointment of Director.

“1503. Filing documents with Office; notation of time; public inspection; transmission for publishing.

“1504. ‘Federal Register’; publishing; contents; distribution; price.”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

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

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 1654, the Federal Register Modernization Act, is a good-government

bill that will reduce waste and save taxpayer money. I thank my good friend from North Carolina, Representative MEADOWS, for his work on this important measure.

The bill would modernize the Federal Register to take advantage of modern technology and increase efficiency. The bill would give the Office of the Federal Register the flexibility to publish the Federal Register electronically.

It also allows agencies to stop sending unnecessary paper copies of documents when they send materials to be published in the Federal Register. That one step alone could save significant sums of money that could be used more efficiently to address the needs of the American public.

H.R. 1654 also makes certain technical changes, of course, to a statute that was originally written in 1935 and does need some updating.

This is exactly the kind of legislation Congress should be passing. It is bipartisan; it is noncontroversial; and it would make modest improvements to bring the Federal Government into the digital age so that information is more accessible to the public.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Democratic governments must be transparent and accountable to the American people. Recordkeeping laws are vital to both. In support of transparency and accountability, the Federal Register Act of 1935, as my friend from the District of Columbia mentioned earlier, was created, and it actually created the Federal Register.

The Federal Register, a lot of people are not aware, is a daily publication of government information, such as Presidential documents, rules, proposed rules, and public notices. The Federal Register provides official notice of a document's existence to the public.

The Federal Register also provides the building blocks for the Code of Federal Regulations, which makes it easier for the public to find Federal regulations by compiling them all in one place.

In 1994, the Government Publishing Office began publishing the Federal Register online. When I got here, I actually got a paper copy of these Federal Registers, and I didn't know what to do with them. I mean, they were just reams and reams.

The gentlewoman from the District of Columbia is right. This is a good-government, efficient way, hopefully, that gives the Federal Register the ability to save American taxpayer money.

That online Register now includes navigational aids and links to related content, and it is fully searchable and downloadable.

Congress has previously taken steps to make the Federal Register more efficient. In 2017, Congress passed the

Federal Register Printing Savings Act. That law saved taxpayer dollars by actually requiring the GPO to provide only printed copies to Member offices that subscribe or request a copy of a specific issue.

H.R. 1654 continues in this spirit of reform with a commonsense change for the GPO and other agencies and gives them greater flexibility to make sure that we can save with online publications.

This bill also eliminates the requirements that agencies provide the National Archives with multiple copies of the documents submitted to the Federal Register. That requirement made sense when paper copies were mailed or delivered for publication, but now agencies can simply do that by sending duplicate copies electronically to comply with the law.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this particular piece of legislation. I thank the gentlewoman for her support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I think it should be noted that all the bill does is give flexibility, flexibility to publish the Federal Register electronically, so I suspect that there will still be paper copies.

But apparently, the Office of the Federal Register doesn't think it can go online with the Federal Register, so that is very disturbing this late into the digital age.

I regard this bill, the bill of my good friend, I regard it as not prescient, because it should have happened a long time ago, but absolutely necessary, and I commend him for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I am prepared to yield back. Unless my good friend has something further today, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEADOWS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1654, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1345

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 156, by the yeas and nays;
H.R. 596, by the yeas and nays; and
H.R. 1654, by the yeas and nays.

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

CALLING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND JUSTICE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF BORIS NEMTSOV

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 156) calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 121]

YEAS—416

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amash
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Axne
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Barragán
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
Burchett
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)

Cartwright
Case
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Cheney
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Cisneros
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comer
Conaway
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Cox (CA)
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Cummings
Cunningham
Davids (KS)
Davidson (OH)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny K.
Davis, Rodney
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Delgado
Demings
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Deutch

Diaz-Balart
Doggett
Doyle, Michael F.
Duffy
Duncan
Dunn
Emmer
Engel
Escobar
Eshoo
Española
Estes
Evans
Ferguson
Finkenauer
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flores
Fortenberry
Foster
Fox (NC)
Frankel
Fudge
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
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
Loftgren
Long
Loudermilk
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney
Carolyn B.

Marchant
Marshall
Mast
Matsui
McAdams
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McHenry
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
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perry
Peters
Peterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reschenthaler
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Riggleman
Roby
Rodgers (WA)
Roe, David P.
Rogers (AL)
Rooney (FL)
Rose (NY)
Rose, John W.
Rouda
Rouzer
Roy
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Rutherford
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky

Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sewell (AL)
Shalala
Sherman
Sherrill
Shimkus
Simpson
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Soto
Spanberger
Spano
Speier
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Stivers
Suozy
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Timmons
Tipton
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres Small (NM)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Upton
Van Drew
Vargas
Veasey
Vela
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wagner
Walberg
Walker
Walorski
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Wright
Yarmuth
Yoho
Zeldin

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—14

Abraham
Bass
Bishop (UT)

Casten (IL)
Cook
Curtis

Dingell
Gabbard

Gianforte
Maloney, Sean

Rogers (KY)
Walden

Watkins
Young

□ 1422

Mr. MARSHALL changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained at the White House for a bill signing with President Trump. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 121.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY WEISS

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dedicated and deeply respected member of my staff, my departing chief of staff, Danny Weiss.

For nearly three decades, Danny has brought wise counsel and energetic leadership to the House of Representatives. He has committed nearly his entire career to this institution, inspired by his great respect for its history and empowered by his bold vision for its future.

Danny, the Congress and the country are stronger for the innovation, ingenuity, and insight that you have brought to this body.

Danny served in the office of my dear friend, Congressman George Miller—Mr. Chairman—for more than 25 years, including decades as his chief of staff.

In every position he has held in the Congress, Danny has been vital in advancing a serious, substantive, and successful agenda to improve the lives of hardworking families across America.

He has worked to expand opportunity, fighting for affordable quality healthcare, childcare, and education, and for healthier communities to his work on the: House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; House Natural Resources Committee, and House Education and Labor Committee.

Danny has worked to expand justice by defending the rights and well-being of children, a mission he continued at the helm of Common Sense Media; and he has worked to expand progress to safeguard clean air, clean water, and preserve the beauty of God's creation. And we are grateful for his leadership to elevate and amplify the issue of the climate crisis.

We are grateful that Danny agreed to return to the Congress at a pivotal moment for America. His efforts were vital to our Caucus' strength and unity, as Democrats developed our For the People agenda and won a historic midterm victory. My office is grateful for his masterful work orchestrating the transition in the Speaker's office.

Danny's service has entailed sacrifice, not only from him, but from his entire family. We are grateful for the patience, love, and support from his wife, Anne, and his daughters, Catharine and Maria.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please join me in thanking my distinguished chief of staff, Danny Weiss.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, you know Danny came to Congress a year after I did. He must have been underage at the time, as you can see the difference in our appearance, but he was working on what was then the House Interior Committee, Natural Resources.

He is a veteran, as am I, of many years of working with George Miller in the perpetual water wars in California. I am going to say Danny didn't get that one fixed.

But then when we took back over after the election in 2006, and we did some of the best things we have ever done for college affordability and Pell grants in the Education and Labor Committee, Danny was right there working on that.

We made loans forgivable through a public service. We limited the length of time you would have to pay them if you were in a low-income job. We greatly increased Pell grants, and we paid for all that by stopping subsidized private bank loans with guarantees that they will never lose any money.

Unfortunately, we have lost a little ground since then, but I think this Congress might recapture those things and will look back to the work he did then to make higher education more affordable.

Madam Speaker, we had a couple of Members say: Oh, he was so good to me when I didn't know anything and I came in.

He was a mentor not only to staff, but to Members, and a good friend to me over many years. I hope Danny enjoys his next iteration, whatever it is.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS), the former co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Danny Weiss for his service to Speaker PELOSI, to our House Democratic Caucus, and to our country.

Danny is one of the many staff members who has worked tirelessly for the people's House. He has never viewed his service on Capitol Hill as a temporary stint. This was his life's work and a true call to public service.

Most recently, as the Speaker said, I worked with Danny during my tenure as co-chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee during the last session of Congress.

As then-Leader PELOSI's chief of staff, Danny helped our Caucus develop

our For the People agenda to clean up corruption in Washington, lower healthcare costs, and rebuild our country through investments in our infrastructure. Developing this agenda was no easy task, and as anybody like Danny knows, it is just as hard to keep Members of Congress on message—I thought that was funny—but Danny tried his hardest.

With Danny's efforts and with his persistence, we were successful and gained a historic majority and a record number of women in the 116th session of Congress. To say that Danny was instrumental in our efforts would be an understatement.

His career will also be defined by his undying belief that this body and each and every one of us can make a difference in the lives of the people whom we serve. Danny knows that even amid the chaos and the sensational headlines, we all have the power to be a force of good in this world.

I would like to join my colleagues in thanking Danny Weiss for not just his years of service, but for always keeping his eye on the prize and on the purpose and for his dedication to this institution.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) to close for us, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for providing me the opportunity to say some kind words about Danny Weiss.

I want to recognize Danny as a true model of a public servant. From Riverdale, New York, he wasted no time coming to Washington and leaving an impressive mark right here. For almost 28 years, he has provided invaluable service to the House of Representatives.

As we have heard, we know firsthand that Danny has been very effective in the House of Representatives because of his mastery of complicated issues that we face as Members of Congress. As chief of staff—first to Leader PELOSI and now to Speaker PELOSI—Danny has given wise counsel to me and my staff and, as we have heard, to many other Members on issues that arise from time to time that need special attention that Danny always provided.

I would be remiss if I didn't note Danny's exemplary service to the Education and Labor Committee, under George Miller. Sitting here a few minutes ago, Danny asked me not to embarrass him—nice try.

We talked to George, and George informed me that early on he was on the fence about hiring Danny, but over an Italian dinner with Danny's mother, Cora Weiss, George was informed rather emphatically that her son, Danny, would be a great hire and one of the best decisions that he ever made. George believes that mother knows best, and the rest is history. Thanks to Danny's mom, we have all been blessed with his decades of public service to the House of Representatives.

Congratulations, Danny, on your years of service, and good luck in your future endeavors.

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I thank our colleagues, Chairman DEFAZIO, Chairman SCOTT, and Chairwoman BUSTOS for their kind words.

Again, I want to express thanks and gratitude for the patience, love, and support of Danny's wife, Anne, and their daughters, Catherine and Maria.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues once again to please join me in thanking my distinguished chief of staff, Danny Weiss.

CRIMEA ANNEXATION NON-RECOGNITION 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. 596) to prohibit United States Government recognition of Russia's annexation of Crimea, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 427, nays 1, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 122]

YEAS—427

Adams	Carbajal	Davis, Rodney
Aderholt	Cárdenas	Dean
Aguilar	Carson (IN)	DeFazio
Allen	Carter (GA)	DeGette
Allred	Carter (TX)	DeLauro
Amash	Cartwright	DelBene
Amodei	Case	Delgado
Armstrong	Casten (IL)	Demings
Arrington	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Axne	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Babin	Chabot	Deutch
Bacon	Cheney	Diaz-Balart
Baird	Chu, Judy	Dingell
Balderson	Ciциlline	Doggett
Banks	Cisneros	Doyle, Michael
Barr	Clark (MA)	F.
Barragán	Clarke (NY)	Duffy
Bass	Clay	Duncan
Beatty	Cleaver	Dunn
Bera	Cline	Emmer
Bergman	Cloud	Engel
Beyer	Clyburn	Escobar
Biggs	Cohen	Eshoo
Bilirakis	Cole	Españillat
Bishop (GA)	Collins (GA)	Estes
Bishop (UT)	Collins (NY)	Evans
Blumenauer	Comer	Ferguson
Blunt Rochester	Conaway	Finkenauer
Bonamici	Connolly	Fitzpatrick
Bost	Cook	Fleischmann
Boyle, Brendan	Cooper	Fletcher
F.	Correa	Flores
Brady	Costa	Fortenberry
Brindisi	Courtney	Foster
Brooks (AL)	Cox (CA)	Fox (NC)
Brooks (IN)	Craig	Frankel
Brown (MD)	Crawford	Fudge
Brownley (CA)	Crenshaw	Fulcher
Buchanan	Crist	Gaetz
Buck	Crow	Gallagher
Bucshon	Cuellar	Gallego
Budd	Cummings	Garamendi
Burchett	Cunningham	Garcia (IL)
Burgess	Curtis	Garcia (TX)
Bustos	Daids (KS)	Gianforte
Butterfield	Davidson (OH)	Gibbs
Byrne	Davis (CA)	Gohmert
Calvert	Davis, Danny K.	Golden

Gomez	Lowenthal	Sánchez
Gonzalez (OH)	Lowey	Sarbanes
Gonzalez (TX)	Lucas	Scalise
Gooden	Luetkemeyer	Scanlon
Gosar	Luján	Schakowsky
Gottheimer	Luria	Schiff
Granger	Lynch	Schneider
Graves (GA)	Malinowski	Schrader
Graves (LA)	Maloney,	Schrier
Graves (MO)	Carolyn B.	Schweikert
Green (TN)	Marchant	Scott (VA)
Green (TX)	Marshall	Scott, Austin
Griffith	Mast	Scott, David
Grijalva	Matsui	Sensenbrenner
Grothman	McAdams	Serrano
Guest	McBath	Sewell (AL)
Guthrie	McCarthy	Shalala
Haaaland	McCaul	Sherman
Hagedorn	McClintock	Sherrill
Harder (CA)	McCollum	Shimkus
Harris	McEachin	Simpson
Hartzler	McGovern	Sires
Hastings	McHenry	Slotkin
Hayes	McKinley	Smith (MO)
Heck	McNerney	Smith (NE)
Hern, Kevin	Meadows	Smith (NJ)
Herrera Beutler	Meeks	Smith (WA)
Hice (GA)	Meng	Smucker
Higgins (LA)	Meuser	Soto
Higgins (NY)	Miller	Spanberger
Hill (AR)	Mitchell	Spano
Hill (CA)	Moolenaar	Speier
Himes	Mooney (WV)	Stanton
Holding	Moore	Staubert
Hollingsworth	Morelle	Stefanik
Horn, Kendra S.	Moulton	Steil
Horsford	Mucarsel-Powell	Steube
Houlahan	Mullin	Stevens
Hoyer	Murphy	Stewart
Hudson	Nadler	Stivers
Huffman	Napolitano	Suozzi
Huizenga	Neal	Swalwell (CA)
Hunter	Neguse	Takano
Hurd (TX)	Newhouse	Taylor
Jackson Lee	Norcross	Thompson (CA)
Jayapal	Norman	Thompson (MS)
Jeffries	Nunes	Thompson (PA)
Johnson (GA)	O'Halleran	Thornberry
Johnson (LA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Timmons
Johnson (OH)	Olson	Tipton
Johnson (SD)	Omar	Titus
Johnson (TX)	Palazzo	Tlaib
Jordan	Pallone	Tonko
Joyce (OH)	Palmer	Torres (CA)
Joyce (PA)	Pannetta	Torres Small
Kaptur	Pappas	(NM)
Katko	Pascarell	Trahan
Keating	Payne	Trone
Kelly (IL)	Pence	Turner
Kelly (MS)	Perlmutter	Underwood
Kelly (PA)	Perry	Upton
Kennedy	Peters	Van Drew
Khanna	Peterson	Vargas
Kildee	Phillips	Veasey
Kilmer	Pingree	Vela
Kim	Pocan	Velázquez
Kind	Porter	Visclosky
King (IA)	Posey	Wagner
King (NY)	Pressley	Walberg
Kinzinger	Price (NC)	Walder
Kirkpatrick	Quigley	Walker
Krishnamoorthi	Raskin	Walorski
Kuster (NH)	Ratcliffe	Waltz
Kustoff (TN)	Reed	Wasserman
LaHood	Reschenthaler	Schultz
LaMalfa	Rice (NY)	Waters
Lamb	Rice (SC)	Watkins
Lamborn	Richmond	Watson Coleman
Langevin	Riggleman	Weber (TX)
Larsen (WA)	Roby	Webster (FL)
Larson (CT)	Rodgers (WA)	Welch
Latta	Roe, David P.	Wenstrup
Lawrence	Rogers (AL)	Westerman
Lawson (FL)	Rogers (KY)	Wexton
Lee (CA)	Rooney (FL)	Wild
Lee (NV)	Rose (NY)	Williams
Lesko	Rose, John W.	Wilson (FL)
Levin (CA)	Rouda	Wilson (SC)
Levin (MI)	Rouzer	Wittman
Lewis	Roy	Womack
Lieu, Ted	Roybal-Allard	Woodall
Lipinski	Ruiz	Wright
Loeb sack	Ruppersberger	Yarmuth
Lofgren	Rush	Yoho
Long	Rutherford	Young
Loudermilk	Ryan	Zeldin

NAYS—1

Massie

NOT VOTING—3

Abraham Gabbard Maloney, Sean

□ 1440

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to prohibit United States Government recognition of the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL REGISTER MODERNIZATION 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. 1654) to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 426, nays 1, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 123]

YEAS—426

Adams	Burgess	Crist
Aderholt	Bustos	Crow
Aguilar	Butterfield	Cuellar
Allen	Byrne	Cummings
Allred	Calvert	Cunningham
Amash	Carbajal	Curtis
Amodei	Cárdenas	Daids (KS)
Armstrong	Carson (IN)	Davidson (OH)
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Davis (CA)
Axne	Carter (TX)	Davis, Danny K.
Babin	Cartwright	Davis, Rodney
Bacon	Case	Dean
Baird	Casten (IL)	DeFazio
Balderson	Castor (FL)	DeGette
Banks	Castro (TX)	DeLauro
Barr	Chabot	DelBene
Barragán	Cheney	Delgado
Bass	Chu, Judy	Demings
Beatty	Ciциlline	DeSaulnier
Bera	Cisneros	DesJarlais
Bergman	Clark (MA)	Deutch
Beyer	Clarke (NY)	Diaz-Balart
Biggs	Clay	Dingell
Bilirakis	Cleaver	Doggett
Bishop (GA)	Cline	Doyle, Michael
Bishop (UT)	Cloud	F.
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Duffy
Blunt Rochester	Cohen	Duncan
Bonamici	Cole	Dunn
Bost	Collins (GA)	Emmer
Boyle, Brendan	Collins (NY)	Engel
F.	Comer	Escobar
Brady	Conaway	Eshoo
Brindisi	Connolly	Españillat
Brooks (AL)	Cook	Estes
Brooks (IN)	Cooper	Evans
Brown (MD)	Correa	Ferguson
Brownley (CA)	Costa	Finkenauer
Buck	Courtney	Fitzpatrick
Bucshon	Cox (CA)	Fleischmann
Budd	Craig	Fletcher
Burchett	Crenshaw	Flores
Butterfield	Fortenberry	

Foster
 Foxx (NC)
 Frankel
 Fudge
 Fulcher
 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
 Grijalva
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Haaland
 Hagedorn
 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
 Houlihan
 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
 Carolyn B.
 Marchant
 Marshall
 Massie
 Mast
 Matsui
 McAdams
 McBeth
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McCollum
 McEachin
 McGovern
 McHenry
 McKinley
 McNerney
 Meadows
 Meeks
 Meng
 Meuser
 Miller
 Mitchell
 Moonen
 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
 Pascrell
 Payne
 Pence
 Perlmutter
 Perry
 Peters
 Peterson
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Pressley
 Price (NC)
 Quigley
 Raskin
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reschenthaler
 Rice (NY)
 Rice (SC)
 Richmond
 Rigglesman
 Roby
 Rodgers (WA)
 Roe, David P.
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rooney (FL)
 Rose (NY)
 Rose, John W.
 Rouda

Rouzer
 Roy
 Roybal-Allard
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rush
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Sánchez
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Schrader
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Sensenbrenner
 Serrano
 Sewell (AL)
 Shalala
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Sires
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spano
 Speier
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Stevens
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Suozzi
 Swalley (CA)
 Takano
 Taylor
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Timmons
 Tipton
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)
 Torres Small
 (NM)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Turner
 Underwood
 Upton
 Van Drew
 Vargas
 Veasey
 Vela
 Velázquez
 Visclosky
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Waltz
 Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watkins
 Watson Coleman
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Welch
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Wexton
 Wild
 Williams
 Wilson (FL)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack

Woodall
 Wright

Yarmuth
 Yoho

Young
 Zeldin

NAYS—1

Posey

NOT VOTING—4

Abraham
 Gabbard

Harder (CA)
 Maloney, Sean

□ 1450

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, 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. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, if the request cannot be entertained, I urge the Speaker and majority leader to immediately schedule the Born-Alive bill so we can stand up and protect the sanctity of human life, and I ask all Members to join in that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is not recognized for debate.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR TORNADO VICTIMS

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would ask to draw the House's attention to a terrible disaster that occurred in Alabama and Georgia on Sunday, March 3.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon, we had an F-4 tornado with winds exceeding 170 miles per hour touch down in Alabama and stay on the ground a mile wide. For the next 70 miles, it plowed through Alabama and into Georgia.

This tornado took the lives of 23 innocent Alabamians and injured 90 people. It destroyed, just in Alabama alone, more than 120 homes, and then went into Georgia and did enormous property damage.

It is my hope that we, first of all, take note of the fact that the first responders in both of our States did an exemplary job in the search and rescue during the first 2 days following the storm trying to find all those who had been lost and, since then, in the recovery mode.

The money and attention that this country and this Congress have invested in our first responders having the training and equipment they need to deal with these disasters, whether they are man-made or natural, was demonstrated again in this horrible disaster.

At this time, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a moment of silence for us to ask God's grace and blessings on these families as they try to recover from this horrible disaster.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I had a saying when I was chair of New Jersey's appropriations committee: Show me your budget, and I will show you your priorities.

So let's take a look at what the President's budget prioritizes:

An additional \$8.6 billion for his misguided, hate-fueled wasteful wall;

A 5 percent increase in the already bloated Pentagon budget, including money for his childish space force; and

Making tax cuts for the rich permanent, the same cuts that exploded the deficit.

Now let's look at what he apparently does not value:

Medicare, \$845 billion in cuts;

Medicaid, \$241 billion in cuts; and

SNAP—that is meals for families that have fallen on hard times—\$220 billion in cuts.

He also clearly doesn't prioritize:

The environment, 31 percent cut from the EPA;

Education, \$207 billion cut from student loan programs; or

Infrastructure, 22 percent cut from the Department of Transportation.

Madam Speaker, any way you look at the budget, it is clear: This President needs to get his priorities in order.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT PIOLI

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an American hero, Robert Pioli, of Marietta, Ohio.

Only 19 years old when Pearl Harbor was attacked, he stepped up to fight for his country. Robert requested to be a bombardier because it had the shortest training, and he was ready to fight.

In April of 1944, his B-17 was hit over Hungary. He was captured by the Nazis and became a POW, first sent to Poland and then eventually to Moosburg, Germany.

It was in Moosburg, in April 1945, that tanks under General Patton rolled over the gates and liberated the camp. Then came what Lieutenant Pioli said was the most memorable and dramatic

moment of his life: The American flag was slowly raised over the town of Moosburg. There wasn't a dry eye in the camp.

Robert recently passed away, peacefully, with his family at his side.

I am honored to have gotten to know this brave American and his family. He didn't like to be called a hero, but that doesn't change the fact that he certainly was one.

God rest in peace, Robert Pioli.

AVIATION SAFETY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I serve on the Homeland Security Committee, and I have done so since the heinous act of 9/11.

I have a great deal of faith in the aviation industry of this Nation, but I want to offer my deepest sympathy to the people of Ethiopia and Indonesia.

In the instance of the Ethiopian flight, some eight Americans died. Ethiopian Americans have been calling my office saddened by the fact that some of their relatives, who are very special to them, lost their life.

I called, earlier today, for the grounding of the 737 Max 8 not because I don't have faith in America's genius, but because I believe people are number one and first. Pilots count, flight attendants count, and passengers count.

It is time for the FAA to remove their fear and to be able to assess a temporary grounding of this aircraft so that all of the systems can be checked, even the one that is automatic that the pilot is to release, which is alleged did not happen, but to release in order to save lives.

These planes, this aircraft, should be grounded now, and I will be sending a letter to the FAA to demand that.

□ 1500

HONORING DAN JENKINS

(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 a great man and even better friend, Mr. Dan Jenkins, who passed away last Thursday at the age of 90.

Many of us know Mr. Jenkins as a sports and literary icon. He wrote for "The Washington Post", "Sports Illustrated", "Golf Digest", and the list goes on.

He won countless awards and authored more than 20 books, all the while representing our shared alma mater, Texas Christian University.

He was a true sports phenomenon, and he greatly impacted my life. In fact, he played a role in my decision to attend and play baseball at TCU. He was a vital member of the Horned Frogs golf team and has always been a regular at TCU sporting events.

Just recently, the school named the press box at Amon G. Carter Stadium after him. At 90, you may wonder what kept Mr. Jenkins going all these years.

The answer is that he never stopped writing. He was quoted as saying: "I want to keep my mind active. I don't believe in retirement. Everybody who retires too early dies too early."

Sadly, no matter what age Mr. Jenkins left this Earth, it would have been too soon.

I join the Fort Worth community in mourning an absolute legend in sports and in the media, but I take comfort in knowing his legacy will carry on for generations to come.

I hope you join me in praying for Mr. Jenkins' wife, June; his sons, Danny and Marty; and his daughter, Sally, during this difficult time.

May God bless their family, and most importantly: Go Frogs.

In God we trust.

CONGRATULATING GOOSE ISLAND AND BISHOP ENGLAND GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAMS

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

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the remarkable accomplishments of both the Bishop England High School girls basketball team and the Goose Creek High School girls basketball team, who are South Carolina's State champs in the class AAA and AAAAA, respectively.

The Lady Gators rallied from behind to defeat Spring Valley with just seconds left in the game. Senior Mary Davis scored two free throw points to send the Goose Creek girls ahead. And then, with less than half a second on the clock, Shayla Nelson swatted a last-second attempt to defeat them.

The very next day, the Lady Bishops beat Keenan High School for their sixth state title in the last 8 years, captured on the front page of "The Post and Courier" back home in Charleston.

I would say that that makes for quite a sports dynasty. It was a great season for Lowcountry basketball. And as a former high school basketball player myself, I could not be more impressed and proud of the Bishop England and the Goose Creek girls basketball teams. Onward towards next season.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JAMES "JAMIE" PARKER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of James "Jamie" Parker, who passed away on Monday, February 25, at the age of 65.

Upon his passing, Mr. Parker had worked for 10 years as the editor for

"Bryan County Now" as well as the night editor for the "Savannah Morning News."

He reported on nearly everything happening in Richmond Hill, from sporting events to city council hearings, tear-jerking accidents, and stories where individuals made heartwarming contributions to their community.

His friends remember Mr. Parker not only as a trustworthy journalist reporting on these stories, but also a great friend and having a heart as big as the country.

Deeply dedicated to his community, he attended more local sporting events than anyone else in town.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, and the entire Richmond Hill community during this difficult time.

CELEBRATING OAKLAND LITERACY COUNCIL'S 35TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Oakland Literacy Council.

Since the Oakland Literacy Council was formed in 1984, volunteers have helped thousands of adult learners improve their literacy skills with the simple method of one neighbor helping another.

The dedicated and trained volunteers of the Oakland Literacy Council provide free basic literacy and English language instruction to adults who live in Oakland County, Michigan.

For 35 years, the efforts of the Oakland Literacy Council have helped residents, students, and workers improve their English language skills so that they may communicate with their child's teacher, enhance their skills for a GED or to become a citizen of the United States, and improve their reading to receive promotions at work.

I commend the tireless work of the Oakland Literacy Council as it continues to improve the lives of Oakland County residents and strengthen the fabric of our southeastern Michigan community.

RECOGNIZING JAN GEE

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jan Gee, the President and CEO of the Washington Food Industry Association.

Jan was recently presented the Woman of the Year award from the Women Grocers of America.

She has dedicated more than 30 years to being a voice for small businesses in

eastern Washington and continues to work tirelessly on behalf of family-owned markets and grocery stores throughout our State.

The winner of this award must exemplify the true characteristics of a leader. With a passion for the independent grocery industry, Jan Gee fits that description to a "T." She has mentored and empowered women colleagues, inspiring and encouraging many to take on leadership positions.

I have known Jan since my days in the Washington State legislature. She is so deserving of this award because of her hard work, not only for small businesses but for helping to support the next generation of female leaders, entrepreneurs, and small business owners in Washington State.

I appreciate all that Jan has done and congratulate her on being recognized with the Woman of the Year award.

God bless you, Jan.

CALL FOR FISCAL CONSERVATISM

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an obstacle that has stood before this Nation for many years, but that has recently risen to new and alarming heights.

Last month, the United States national debt topped \$22 trillion for the first time in our history. This is \$3 trillion higher than our annual GDP and equates to over \$67,000 in debt to be borne by each and every American.

I understand this debt is the culmination of choices that all seemed responsible in the moment. My colleagues and I entered public office to serve the country. And, too often, it is tempting to fix society by throwing money at our problems. However, this tactic mortgages future generations for the benefit of the present.

Congress has a duty to serve not only their own generation but generations to come, and we must exercise prudence to balance the desires of the present with the needs of the future.

This \$22 trillion problem will require strong resolve from strong leaders.

Our Nation looks to us, this Congress, to correct the spending mistakes of the past, and I look forward to working with you all to clear a path for our future.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1582, the Electronic Message Preservation Act would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1608, the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019 would have no significant effect on direct spending or revenues, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV,

375. A letter from the Assistant Chief Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Hazardous Materials: Enhanced Safety Provisions for Lithium Batteries Transported by Aircraft (FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018) [Docket No.: PHMSA-2016-0014 (HM224I)] (RIN: 2137-AF20) received March 11, 2019, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868), was taken from the Speaker's table, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CISNEROS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGU, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SABLÁN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SIRE, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BASS, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. COX

of California, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DELGADO, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HILL of California, Mr. HIMES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM, Mr. KIND, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEWIS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. RICHMOND, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SCHRADER, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAI, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 6. A bill to authorize the cancellation of removal and adjustment of status of certain aliens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. COOK, and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 1678. A bill to create a task force within the Department of Education to address the threat of foreign government influence and threats to academic research integrity on college campuses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on

Intelligence (Permanent Select), Armed Services, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. KIND (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1679. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KIND, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 1680. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 1681. A bill to require States to impose the same ballot access rules on all candidates in a general congressional election held in the State without regard to whether or not the candidates are nominees of a political party, and to require States to use a ballot for a general congressional election that requires a specific vote for a candidate for the office involved; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1682. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital stay requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. SHALALA):

H.R. 1683. A bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SWALWELL of California (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 1684. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for assault against journalists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 1685. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve education opportunities for physician assistants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 1686. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide loan repayment incentives for physician assistants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CRIST (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. COHEN, Mr.

GAETZ, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 1687. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to remove limitations on Federal employment for an individual legally using marijuana under the law of the State in which the individual resides, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. TIP-TON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. MOORE, Mr. SABLON, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. CROW, Mr. COLE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. KIND, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. LUJÁN):

H.R. 1688. A bill to help provide relief to State education budgets during a recovering economy, to help fulfill the Federal mandate to provide higher educational opportunities for Native American Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1689. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Ms. MOORE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. CLAY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. ROSE of New York):

H.R. 1690. A bill to require carbon monoxide detectors in certain Federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HASTINGS (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. MOORE, and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 1691. A bill to require the Secretary of Education to provide assistance to the immediate family of elementary or secondary school staff members killed in an act of violence while performing school duties; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BERA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CRIST, Ms. DELAULO, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MOULTON, Mr.

NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. ROUDA, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SPIERER, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. DELGADO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HECK, Ms. MATSUI, Miss RICE of New York, and Mrs. TORRES of California):

H.R. 1692. A bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. HAALAND):

H.R. 1693. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. HAALAND, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. COLE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MOORE, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. SOTO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. BASS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. OMAR, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SIREN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CASE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HECK, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ROUDA, Ms. WILD, Mr. STANTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CRIST, Ms. GABBARD, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. HILL of California, and Mr. NEAL):

H.R. 1694. A bill to protect the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters; to the Committee on House Administration, 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. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. FUDGE):

H.R. 1695. A bill to amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to reauthorize and modernize the Act; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. MURPHY (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 1696. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make fully refundable the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, to increase the maximum amount excludable from gross income for employer-provided dependent care assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 1697. A bill to exempt motor carriers that own or operate 10 or fewer commercial vehicles from the electronic logging device mandates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PETERSON (for himself and Mr. GIANFORTE):

H.R. 1698. A bill to exempt certain motor carriers engaged in agricultural business from the electronic logging device requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 1699. A bill to amend the Virgin Islands of the United States Centennial Commission Act to extend the expiration date of the Commission, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee):

H.R. 1700. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to submit to Congress a report on the designation of the Reynosa/Los Metros faction of the Gulf Cartel, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, and the Cartel Del Noreste faction of Los Zetas as foreign terrorist organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 1701. A bill to establish a commission to study the relocation of select executive agencies or divisions of such agencies outside the Washington metropolitan area, to make recommendations to Congress on appropriate findings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. DUNN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Ms. GABBARD):

H.R. 1702. A bill to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans demonstrations and special events at war memorials on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.J. Res. 50. A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution requiring that each agency and department's funding is justified; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. WILD, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. KAP-

TUR, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. MAST, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. WRIGHT, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington):

H. Res. 217. A resolution recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 107th birthday and the importance of the all-girl space offered by Girl Scouts; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H. Res. 218. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LOEBACK (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H. Res. 219. A resolution recognizing the contributions made by the men and women of the Air Force who are responsible for operating and maintaining the Global Positioning System constellation and affirming the importance of continuous availability, accuracy, reliability, and resiliency of the Global Positioning System constellation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. PERLMUTTER introduced a bill (H.R. 1703) for the relief of Arturo Hernandez-Garcia; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD:

H.R. 6.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 1678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. KIND:

H.R. 1679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SEWELL of Alabama:

H.R. 1680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1.

By Mr. AMASH:

H.R. 1681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1; Article I, Section 8, Clause 17; Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 1682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 1683.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3, "to regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;"

Article 1, Section 8, clause 8, "to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Rights to their respective Writings and Discoveries;"

By Mr. SWALWELL of California:

H.R. 1684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 1685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This resolution is enacted pursuant to the power granted in Congress under Article I, Section 1.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 1686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

By Mr. CRIST:

H.R. 1687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 1688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 1689.

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. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 1690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. HASTINGS:

H.R. 1691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Ms. LEE of California:

H.R. 1692.

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 Mr. LUJÁN:

H.R. 1693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. LUJÁN:

H.R. 1694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 1695.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mrs. MURPHY:

H.R. 1696.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, which authorizes Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States, and to make all laws necessary and proper to carry out that power.

By Mr. PETERSON:

H.R. 1697.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. PETERSON:

H.R. 1698.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

By Ms. PLASKETT:

H.R. 1699.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article IV Section 3, Congress shall have power to dispose and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 1700.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 1701.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

"The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution."

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 1702.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

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;

2: To borrow Money on the credit of the United States;

3: To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;

4: To establish an uniform Rule of Naturalization, and uniform Laws on the subject of Bankruptcies throughout the United States;

5: To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin, and fix the Standard of Weights and Measures;

6: To provide for the Punishment of counterfeiting the Securities and current Coin of the United States;

7: To establish Post Offices and post Roads;

8: To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries;

9: To constitute Tribunals inferior to the supreme Court;

10: To define and punish Piracies and Felonies committed on the high Seas, and Offences against the Law of Nations;

11: To declare War, grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules concerning Captures on Land and Water;

12: To raise and support Armies, but no Appropriation of Money to that Use shall be for a longer Term than two Years;

13: To provide and maintain a Navy;

14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces;

15: To provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions;

16: To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings;—And

18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER:

H.R. 1703.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.J. Res. 50.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article V

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 95: Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GUEST, Mr. KIM, Mr. SPANO, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, and Mr. GOODEN.

H.R. 96: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 141: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. FINKENAUER.

H.R. 295: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 310: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 372: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 388: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 479: Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 530: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 562: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 587: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 592: Mr. BRINDISI.

H.R. 594: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 596: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 638: Mr. HICE of Georgia and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 641: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 647: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 653: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 662: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 663: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H.R. 677: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 708: Mr. WRIGHT.

H.R. 721: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BACON, and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 724: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 737: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. CUNNINGHAM.

H.R. 748: Mr. LOWENTHAL and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 783: Mr. CASE and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 784: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 810: Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 838: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WOODALL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. YOHIO.

H.R. 856: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 865: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 873: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 878: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 920: Mr. DEUTCH.

H.R. 931: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 935: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 986: Mr. WELCH, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. GOLDEN.

H.R. 996: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 1002: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1004: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 1042: Ms. HAALAND and Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1043: Mr. TIPTON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 1044: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. DEAN, Mr. VELA, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. NEAL, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. BOST, Mrs. LURIA, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1076: Mr. NADLER, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 1139: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 1140: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 1146: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1149: Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ZELDIN, and Mr. HECK.

H.R. 1156: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 1162: Ms. JUDY CHU of California.

H.R. 1168: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Ms. SANCHEZ.

H.R. 1175: Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BUCK, Mr. SCHRADER, and Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 1225: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 1232: Ms. NORTON and Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 1243: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 1244: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 1283: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1309: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 1316: Mr. HIGGINS of New York.

H.R. 1317: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 1372: Mr. BYRNE, Mrs. MILLER, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 1397: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.

H.R. 1400: Mr. CASTEN of Illinois.

H.R. 1404: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 1407: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 1411: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 1415: Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1423: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 1425: Ms. BROWNLEY of California and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1428: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire and Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1429: Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire.

H.R. 1450: Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CRIST, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1454: Mr. COHEN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TED LIEU of California, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1476: Mr. FERGUSON.	H.R. 1617: Mr. COHEN.	H. Res. 33: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 1542: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. HARDER of California.	H.R. 1628: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.	H. Res. 49: Mr. PERRY and Mr. FLORES.
H.R. 1554: Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee.	H.R. 1646: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. PAPPAS.	H. Res. 60: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 1565: Mr. CONAWAY.	H.R. 1664: Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COOK, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.	H. Res. 116: Mr. GIANFORTE.
H.R. 1601: Mr. SOTO, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. MEADOWS.	H.J. Res. 44: Mr. SERRANO.	H. Res. 124: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico.
H.R. 1605: Mr. WEBER of Texas.	H.J. Res. 48: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. WELCH.	H. Res. 138: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
	H. Con. Res. 23: Ms. OMAR.	



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No. 44

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.

O God, who has been our guiding light throughout life's seasons, keep our lawmakers within the circle of Your divine will. Lord, give them hearts that seek Your wisdom, feet that flee from evil, and hands that serve Your purposes for our Nation and world. Empower them to be faithful to You and their calling to do Your will on Earth, inspiring them with Your purpose to live lives above reproach. May they be guided by integrity as they permit righteousness to deliver them from trouble. Make them worthy of Your redemptive love.

We pray in Your great 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, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the White House released its budget proposal for fiscal year 2020. Understanding the President's key priorities and vision for Federal spending is critical to the success of the entire funding process here in Congress.

Republicans agree that we need to remain focused on important goals, such as the continued rebuilding of our military, keeping up the fight against opioid abuse, and addressing the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

As the senior Senator from Kentucky, I was especially encouraged to see the President's commitment to our Nation's veterans front and center, including a request to fully fund construction of the new Robley Rex VA Medical Center in my hometown of Louisville.

Together with my Senate colleagues, I look forward to carefully reviewing the administration's priorities as this year's funding process moves ahead.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on another matter, building on last week's progress, the Senate will consider two more of President Trump's outstanding judicial nominees, in addition to another executive branch nominee, this week.

The first item of business is the nomination of Paul Matey of New Jersey to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Matey holds degrees from Scranton and Seton Hall Universities, as well as clerkships on our Nation's Federal courts. He has served the people of his State in the Office of U.S. Attorney in

New Jersey and has built an impressive record.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting to advance and confirm Mr. Matey and these other distinguished nominees so the Senate can fulfill our responsibility to the American people.

MEDICARE FOR ALL

On a final matter, here is a quote: "I think the \$33 trillion price tag for 'Medicare for all' is a little scary." That came from a Democratic Member of Congress who happens to sit in a leadership role. She sounds worried, and I don't blame her.

The new House Democratic majority has wasted no time—no time at all—rolling out one half-baked socialist proposal after another. Apparently, the remarkable job growth, wage growth, and new opportunities pouring into communities across America have failed to persuade my Democratic friends of a simple reality: Things go pretty well when government gets its foot off the brake and lets American families live their lives without oppressive supervision from Washington Democrats. Apparently, that is just inconceivable, because the outlandish, government-driven proposals to take over one economic sector after another continue to roll in.

We have all heard about the Green New Deal—the far left's master plan to hurt American energy independence, disrupt millions of workers' livelihoods, put entire industries out of business, and let Washington regulators redesign every building in America, while letting China and other countries off the hook. That is just for starters. We have all heard about the price tag as estimated by the one research outfit that has actually taken a shot at hanging some numbers on all the vague, pie-in-the-sky language. They calculated the total could exceed \$90 trillion.

But let's not lose sight of the other party-defining, socialist pivot many Democrats are rushing to embrace: Medicare for None. Yes, Democrats

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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have taken the pulse of the American people, and here is what they have decided: They have decided that American seniors want their Medicare hollowed out until the only thing left is the name. They have decided that middle-class families are eager—eager—to be kicked off their health insurance plans and forced into a one-size-fits-all government alternative. Oh, and they have decided that taxpayers up and down the income scale are clamoring—just clamoring—to send much more of their money to the IRS. No choices. No options. No alternatives. No more Medicare as we know it. Every single American has to obediently take a seat and buckle up for the Democrats' wild ride toward government-run health insurance.

The sequel to ObamaCare and its soaring premiums is coming soon to a Democratic press conference near you. This time, they want to turn the entire system over to those bureaucrats and make it unlawful—unlawful—to possess competing private coverage. That sends quite a message, doesn't it? My colleagues are so confident American families will love their new government-mandated healthcare plan that they feel compelled to outlaw any competition.

It has already been quite an experience watching liberal leaders grapple publicly with the question of whether, in fact, their movement is seriously going to double down on these socialist policies.

Michael Bloomberg said this sort of proposal "would bankrupt us for a very long time." Speaker PELOSI herself had to wonder publicly, "How do you pay for that?" Well, if you are Vermont or Colorado—two places that have flirted with the idea of single-payer healthcare—there is a simple answer: You don't pay for it because you can't.

In 2014, when Vermont grappled with a proposal to implement a State-run, single-payer system, the Governor's office was forced to conclude from its own analysis that the cost of the program would nearly double State spending in its first year of implementation and could lead to \$100 million deficits within 5 years. That was in Vermont.

In 2016, Colorado Democrats put forward a ballot measure to pursue this in their State. Once again, the program's costs were projected to exceed the entire State's budget. So voters rejected it. In Colorado, 80 percent of them rejected it, to be exact.

Those are just two States, but this is exactly the kind of broken mathematics that Democrats are now hoping to force on our entire country—an estimated \$32 trillion over the first 10 years, at least. That is more than the government has laid out in the last 8 years, combined, on everything—on everything.

I am sure we will be advertised the same old leftwing talking points about millionaires and billionaires magically paying for all of it. How often have we heard that? As I have noted before, it is

just not possible. There are not enough millionaires and billionaires in the entire country to pay the tens of trillions of dollars this takeover would require. Even if the IRS seized every cent Americans earned beyond \$1 million—all of it, took all their money—it wouldn't even cover half the hole this proposal would leave in the Treasury. That is why one economist wrote that "the simple fact is that Medicare-for-all would require a dramatic shift in the federal tax structure and a substantial tax increase for almost all Americans." Almost all Americans.

Even leading Democrats can't help but laugh at this stuff. This was Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York describing this idea in the context of his own State. This is what the Democratic Governor of New York said:

No sane person will pass it . . . you'd double everybody's taxes. You want to do that?

So parts of the Democratic Party here in Congress are running towards a policy that even the stalwart liberal Governor of New York derides as out-of-this-world expensive and impractical. No wonder some Democrats are worried about the radical rumblings within their party.

Fortunately, the American people don't have to worry a bit—at least not for now. This craziness will never get through the U.S. Senate.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. By the end of this week, the Senate must vote on the resolution to terminate the President's declaration of a national emergency.

There are three very clear reasons to vote to terminate. First, there is no factual basis of an emergency at the border. The President made that clear when he said he didn't need to do this. If we allow Presidents to declare emergencies for such nonemergency-type situations because they want to do it, we are headed down a very bad road.

Second, the emergency would cannibalize funds intended for our brave men and women in uniform in order to pay for the wall, including military construction, and maybe even military pay and pensions.

The bottom line is, we hear from the other side how we have to make sure we give our soldiers what they need. We completely agree, but all of a sudden, when there is this wall, we take it away from the soldiers; we take it away from military readiness. That is not a trade most Americans would make.

Third and most important is the danger to our Constitution. The emergency declaration is an injury to this great Constitution under which we live. It claims powers for the Presidency that were explicitly given to Congress. It distorts the separation of powers, and it sets a dangerous precedent for future Presidents.

The bottom line is, one of the things the Founding Fathers gave the most thought to was the balance of power and how to prevent an overpowerful and overleaning executive branch. That is why they gave Congress the power of the purse. Are we going to reverse 220 years of a balance of power because a President is demanding a wall that Congress couldn't get him, that Mexico couldn't pay for? It goes far beyond the wall, whether you are for or against it. It goes far beyond all these other issues. It goes to the very nature of our government, and it will set us on a path that historians will come back and look at as a very bad turning point for America.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Madam President, yesterday the Trump administration released its annual budget. These Trump budget requests have become so outlandish, so removed from reality, that even Republicans in Congress can't work with that budget and can't treat them seriously. They are essentially statements of principle from an administration that doesn't care about governing. What does it care about? What are its priorities? That is what they talked about because I bet they know not a single Republican would vote for the budget.

We looked at the budget and what it would mean for my home State of New York. The President's budget would cut millions of dollars from the Department of Justice programs that hire police officers, provide their equipment, and combat the opioid epidemic. The budget would cut millions from New York's educational programs that would help schools throughout our State, including those schools on military bases. It would hurt afterschool programs and STEM initiatives teaching our young people about science and math. The cuts to NIH would devastate New York's hospitals, particularly rural hospitals, and would cut back on our great medical research. We are all living longer and healthier, in part, because of the medical research done by NIH. Hardly anyone wants to cut that. The President did.

The cuts to Medicaid would affect 6.5 million New Yorkers who rely on it. I think that story can be repeated for just about every State. New York is a very diverse State, with large urban, rural, and suburban populations, and every one of them is hurt across the board from safety and security to education and healthcare, to infrastructure and economic development. The Trump budget would be a gut punch to New York's middle class. The same is true for the Nation.

Setting aside, for the moment, the humanity of these cuts, this budget reveals the depth of President Trump's hypocrisy on several of his signature issues. Donald Trump campaigned for President promising not to cut Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. In 2015, he tweeted:

I was the first & only potential GOP candidate to state there will be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid. Huckabee copied me.

Let's look at President Trump's budget. It cuts Medicare by \$845 billion, cuts Medicaid by \$1.5 trillion. I understand the challenges of the office sometimes prevent Presidents from achieving precisely what they campaigned on, but this is literally the opposite of what Donald Trump said in his campaign. No one is forcing his hand. He is proposing this.

Candidate Trump? No cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. President Trump? Cut those promises by more than \$2 trillion.

This budget says: "Promises kept." Balderdash—balderdash—when it comes to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Promises kept? Donald Trump said he wouldn't cut Medicare or Medicaid. The budget slashes them brutally. How can they dare say "promises kept" on probably the most significant domestic-side programs we have when they slash them?

You don't even need a long memory to find out the hypocrisy of the President in this budget. Only a few months ago, the President spoke to the American Farm Bureau, promising a bright future for American farmers. Yet his administration proposed cutting the Department of Agriculture in the midst of implementing a new farm bill by 15 percent.

In his first address to a joint session of Congress, President Trump called education the "civil rights of our time." Yesterday, he proposed cutting the Department of Education by 12 percent. Promises kept? Balderdash.

One of the few bipartisan moments during the President's most recent State of the Union was when he pledged to "defeat AIDS in America and beyond." The President's budget, however, cuts the program that seeks to eliminate AIDS around the globe by 22 percent. Promises kept? Balderdash.

Of course, the President famously promised Mexico would pay for the border wall. His budget asks the American taxpayers to shell out \$8.6 billion for the wall. Promises kept? Balderdash.

On the cover of the President's budget are emblazoned the words "Promises Kept." He must really believe no one will read beyond the cover page because this budget document is a list of broken promises by President Trump, one after the other. What he says to the public and what he puts out in his budget are in two different worlds. Promises kept? He said he wouldn't cut Medicare or Medicaid. He cuts them. Promises kept? He said he would bolster our farmers. He cuts the farm bill

15 percent. Promises kept? Mexico will pay for the wall—not in this budget. The American taxpayers pay for it.

It is just pathetic that in this world in which we live, a President can be so hypocritical and contradictory by saying one thing and then having his budget do the exact opposite.

I have a challenge to my friend Leader McCONNELL, another challenge, because he seems to duck about every issue we have. Put President Trump's budget on the floor of the Senate. You are putting the Green New Deal on the floor of the Senate. Put this budget on the floor of the Senate. Let's see if a single Republican votes for it.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Madam President, this morning, the President tweeted a quote from a guest on "FOX & Friends" who called climate change fake science. Here is the quote: "There is no climate crisis, there's weather and climate all around the world, and in fact, carbon dioxide is the main building block of life."

There is weather and climate all around the world. Really, the President endorsed that quote. Just about every scientist who has studied it knows climate change is the greatest challenge facing our planet. Anyone who lives with these dramatic changes in weather, whether it is through California wildfires, whether it is through floods in the Middle West and Upstate New York, whether it is Miami streets flooding near the coast over and over again, everyone knows things are changing dramatically. It is not just the normal cycle I lived through the first 50 years of my life. We all know it is happening, and what does the President do? Not only does he deny it—it is worse—he acts on it in the wrong direction.

He has rolled back commonsense environmental protections, opened up more Federal lands for oil and gas, and announced the United States would leave the Paris accord. In the budget, President Trump proposes to cut more than one-third of EPA's funding and cuts other programs that combat climate change. Communities across the country are staring climate change in the face. Ask any farmer. They will tell you their growing seasons have changed. They will tell you about record droughts. They will tell you in the Mountain West about rebuilding from devastating wildfires and homeowners along the coasts picking up the pieces after hurricanes and storms have ripped through their States. It is just shameful. It is embarrassing the President continues to deny science and peddles these lies—absolutely shameful. I hope my Republican colleagues will stand up to the President and call out this nonsense. So far they haven't been willing to contradict the President's lies about climate change. That needs to change.

We challenge our Republican friends to join the resolution by Senator CARPER, myself, and others. It says three simple things: One, climate change is

real. Do you believe that, all of my Republican friends? Can you answer yes or no? Two, it is caused by human activity. And, three, we need to do something to stop it, to stop the dramatic change in global warming.

Why are our Republican friends so silent on this? That is perhaps the major issue of our day. When history looks back, it is not going to look kindly on them. What are they afraid of—the oil industry? What are they afraid of—the facts? What are they afraid of—right-wing orthodoxy, often funded by the Koch brothers, who don't want to admit to climate change? It is a shame. It is a shame.

BUYBACKS

Madam President, on buybacks, I have come to the Senate floor several times over the past year to sound the alarm about the explosion of corporate stock buybacks. Corporate executives have been leaning on them more and more to satisfy shareholders who tend to be wealthy. The top 80 percent of all shares are owned by the top 10 percent of America; that is even including pension funds.

After the Trump tax bill, last year buybacks reached their highest recorded level—over \$1 trillion in a single calendar year. That is not money going to workers. That is not money going to communities. That is not money going into research to make better products. That is simply going to the wealthy CEOs and shareholders without other real benefit to the country.

Based on an analysis of America's largest companies, for 466 of Standard & Poor's 500, the equivalent of 92 cents out of every dollar went to stock buybacks or dividends—92 percent. That has never happened before. Surely, there are more productive ways for corporations to allocate capital. Surely, those numbers suggest an overreliance, if not an obsession, with stock buybacks in an attempt to raise stock prices.

This unhealthy development is not good for the long-term interests of companies or for America. Just yesterday, a major American corporation saw its outlook downgrade because it is spending tens of billions of dollars on corporate stock buybacks at the expense of investment and research and development. But some just refuse to look at the plain facts.

Over the weekend, the Wall Street Journal editorial board criticized Congress—Members of both parties, in fact—for even expressing concerns about the level of stock buybacks that we have seen recently.

Here is what the Journal editorial board wrote:

Repurchasing shares is simply one way a company can return cash to owners if it lacks better ideas for investment. Tax reform increased corporate cash flow by cutting tax rates and letting companies repatriate their cash held overseas.

First of all, it is notable that the Wall Street ed board basically admits that the Trump corporate tax cuts

have fueled the explosion of stock buybacks. But, second, and more importantly, the Wall Street Journal makes no mention of the record amount that corporate America has announced in buybacks since the tax bill passed—\$1 trillion—or the many things corporations could invest in with their spare cash.

One thing the Journal never talks about is how income distribution is getting worse and worse and how the wealthiest at the top own more and more of our wealth and our income while the middle class is more and more worried about the future and even about paying their bills now.

What about workers' wages? Wouldn't America be better off if workers were paid more? Income distribution is the worst it has been in decades. Why not reward workers for increases in productivity with higher wages? Productivity has gone up over the last decade—I think since about 2000—and workers haven't gotten that gain, even though they have produced a lot of it.

What about pension funds? Listen to this. There are large numbers of corporate America that have not met the obligation of their pension funds—what they promised the workers they would pay to them in their retirement—and, instead, are using the money for corporate buybacks. How many of the S&P 500 have underfunded pension plans but are still authorizing billions of dollars for share repurchases? I think America would like to know that. In my view, I believe corporate America would have a hard time refuting that it is unconscionable for corporations to buy back billions in stock while letting its pension fund wither, breaking a promise to its workers, many of whom have spent decades and decades and decades working hard for their company and looking forward to a retirement with an amount of money that will not make them rich but at least allows them to live decently.

The Wall Street Journal makes no mention of any of these options. They said that buybacks are simply "one way a company can return cash to owners if it lacks better ideas for investment."

Well, if that is the case, a lot of companies are willfully ignorant. When 92 percent of profits are going to buybacks and dividends, corporations must be trying really hard not to think about workers, pensions, or R&D. To think about the maldistribution of income, to think how wealth is agglomerating to the top—it is all bad for America, both economically and politically, in the long term.

I refuse—refuse—to accept that corporate America's sole responsibility is to maximize return for executives and wealthy shareholders. The American economy has to work for workers and communities. The Wall Street Journal just defends the status quo as things get worse and worse and worse in terms of middle-class workers' viability, getting gains from their productivity in-

creases, and income distribution. It is a crisis in America.

No matter what the Wall Street Journal editorial board thinks, this topic deserves the Senate's attention. If they don't believe our solutions on buybacks are the answer, what is their solution to income maldistribution?

They said the tax cuts would work. I remember the President saying that every worker will get a \$4,000 increase. Where is that? Almost all of that money is going to wealthy shareholders and corporate CEOs as the buyback mania, if you will—92 percent—continues.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I get to my main topic, I just want to briefly respond to something the Democratic leader, the Senator from New York, said regarding the tax cuts bill that passed in 2017.

The Democrats, none of whom voted for it, obviously, have not ceased to criticize the passage of that tax relief bill, notwithstanding the significant economic progress that we have seen as a result of its passage, coupled with relief from regulations and other policies that have been implemented by this President in working with the Congress.

There is historic economic data to report. We have record unemployment rates all across the country. We have seen record wage increases.

The Senator from New York talked about how this hasn't benefited working Americans. That couldn't be further from the truth. If you look at the data, it is very clear that wage rates are growing. They are growing at the fastest rate in over a decade. Today, we actually have more jobs available in this country than we do people looking for jobs. That is also a historic first and something that has been happening now for many months in a row.

We have record low unemployment, record high wages, and growth in the economy that we haven't seen in over a decade either—3.1 percent in a calendar year, fourth quarter over fourth quarter. That is the first time we have seen north of 3 percent growth in our economy since 2005. So if you look at the evidence, it is pretty clear that the tax relief bill that was passed by the Congress and signed into law by the President in late 2017 is having the desired effect.

With respect to the arguments that were made that this is what is contributing to the debt and the deficit, just last week there was a piece in the Wall Street Journal by a former colleague of ours, Senator Phil Gramm from Texas,

who pointed out the Congressional Budget Office has adjusted its projections when it comes to growth in the economy since the tax bill passed.

In 2017, when it was in the process of being passed, the CBO was projecting 2 percent growth in 2018 and 1.7 percent growth in 2019. They have now modified those projections to 2.9 percent in 2018 and 2.7 percent in 2019.

What that means is—an additional percentage point of growth means higher government revenues. In fact, the CBO has adjusted their projections with respect to government revenues upward to about \$1.2 trillion over the next decade. Government revenues of \$1.2 trillion would be about 80 percent of what the projected cost of the tax bill was, about \$1.5 trillion. At the time, we projected we would see additional economic growth as a result of passing tax reform and allowing individuals and businesses, whether they are organized as C corps or whether they are organized as passthroughs, to benefit from these provisions and changes in the Tax Code—faster cost recovery and lower rates—that would encourage them to invest, grow, and expand their operations. That is exactly what has happened.

As a result of that, according to the CBO and based on their projections, you have seen government revenues going up and up by over \$1 trillion. Again, that is almost 80 percent and pays for the cost of the tax bill that the Democrats are so quick to criticize as contributing to the deficit and the debt.

So I would argue that if you look at the facts—facts are stubborn things—if you look at the record, if you look at the data, and if you look at the statistics, they all point to the impact of tax reform and other pro-growth policies that have been implemented by the Trump administration and this Republican Congress; they are having the desired effect. We are seeing increases in wages. Obviously, we are seeing a tremendous impact on growth and on jobs in this economy, and that is good for American workers.

Obviously, when you reduce tax rates, hopefully, that benefits everybody, but when you have a growing, vibrant, and robust economy, that lifts all folks. Everybody benefits from that, and we are seeing the effects of that as a result of this policy.

I know the Democrats all voted against it, so I suppose they have every reason to try to criticize it, but, again, if you look at the facts, if you look at the record, and if you look at the actual data, you get a very different conclusion from the one that they are trying to put forward and advance.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Madam President, last week, we confirmed John Fleming to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. The story of his confirmation process has been a familiar one over the past 2-plus years. He is a noncontroversial nominee being forced

to languish in limbo for months because Democrats will not agree to move the nominee forward outside of the lengthy cloture process.

As Senators, we have to take our confirmation responsibility seriously, and sometimes that means that we oppose a candidate who raises serious concerns about his or her suitability for the position for which he or she has been nominated. What it should not mean—what it should not mean—is that we reflexively slow-walk qualified candidates simply because we don't like the President who is doing the nominating. But that is what Democrats have done over the past 2 years, over and over and over. Again and again, the President has put up a qualified candidate the Democrats don't really object to, and, again and again, they have forced the leader to file cloture on the nomination, delaying confirmation for weeks or months.

How do we know the Democrats didn't have genuine objections to a lot of these candidates? We have the Democrats' votes to prove it. Nearly half of the recorded cloture votes in the 115th Congress received the support of 60 or more Senators when it came to a vote. More than one-third of the recorded cloture votes ultimately received 70 or more votes in support. That means that more than one-third of the time, 17 or more Democrats voted in support of ending debate on a nomination and moving forward to a vote. Yet, in each of those instances, Democrats delayed the nomination from coming to a vote by forcing the leader to file cloture.

In one particularly egregious instance of objection, Democrats forced the Senate to spend more than an entire week considering four district court judges, even though not one single Democrat voted against their confirmation. That is right. Not one single Democrat voted against their confirmation. These judges could have been confirmed in minutes by a voice vote. Instead, Democrats forced the Senate to spend more than an entire week considering the nominations, a week that could have been spent on the many issues—serious issues that are facing this country—or a week that could have been spent on nominations that actually needed to be debated on the Senate floor.

During the 115th Congress, Senate Democrats forced 128 cloture votes on President Trump's nominees—128 cloture votes. Do you want to know how many cloture votes Republicans forced during President Obama's first Congress, his first 2 years in office? Twelve.

In our democracy, you win some elections and you lose some elections. That is the way it goes. Sometimes you are a big fan of the person in the White House and sometimes you are not. That is the nature of free elections. That is the nature of life in a democracy.

But 2-plus years on, Democrats still can't accept that they lost the 2016

Presidential election. They have spent the past 2 years doing everything they can to oppose the President, even if the American people get hurt as a result.

There is a reason that Senators, during previous administrations, have not objected to votes on a President's nominees, even when they didn't like the President. It is because Senators have generally recognized that a President needs to fill vacancies in the executive branch so that the work of the government can get done. Senators have also tended to think that a President duly elected by the American people deserves to be able to staff the administration that the American people have chosen.

Democrats have apparently decided that it is more important for them to be able to express their antipathy to President Trump than for the government to be able to get its work done.

Democrats' unprecedented obstruction has also eaten up time that the Senate could have been spending on other priorities—from growing our economy to making healthcare more affordable, to helping Americans save for education and their retirement.

I would like to suggest to my Democratic colleagues that 2 years is long enough for throwing a tantrum over the 2016 Presidential election. It might be time to accept the election results and to work with Republicans to confirm the President's nominees in a timely fashion. After 2-plus years of Democratic obstruction, I am not holding out a lot of hope, but there is always a chance that Democrats will decide that it is time to stop playing partisan games and to start focusing on the business of the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF PAUL B. MATEY

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the nomination of Paul Matey, who has been nominated by President Trump to a New Jersey seat on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

The Constitution actually charges this body with a sacred obligation. This body is charged by our Founders and by our Constitution with providing advice and consent on the individuals the President nominates to serve on the Federal courts.

Over the last century, the United States has developed a process for carrying out that duty of evaluation, evaluating those nominees, but just a couple weeks ago, the body broke a century-old precedent. Until then, the Senate had never ever confirmed a judicial nominee over the objections of

both home State Senators. I looked into this through the Congressional Research Service, and they didn't find a single example where that has ever happened.

During the last century before the Trump administration, you could count on one hand the number of times the Senate had confirmed a judicial nominee when even one home State Senator had objected. That happened four times during the 1980s and once during the 1930s. That is it. But with the nominees now coming to the Senate floor, to this body, it is breaking a longstanding, bipartisan tradition and has jettisoned that rule and that idea. This has already happened—ignoring the objections of one home State Senator—five times.

Now that is happening in a doubling-down capacity. The Senate confirmed Eric Miller to the Ninth Circuit a couple weeks ago, and he was opposed by both of his home State Senators, my friends PATTY MURRAY and MARIA CANTWELL. This was the first time in a century that this body has disregarded the objections of both duly-elected Senators, who know their States, who know their communities. It was a breakdown of this longstanding, bipartisan tradition, this idea that this body is different from the majoritarian body in the House; that in this body, we believe home State Senators should have a say on the nomination of judges. Not that they are in line ideologically—clearly, when you have a Republican President, you are going to see Republican-appointed judges. But this breakdown has now undermined this tradition that in the Senate, we find a way to come together and work together on this sacred duty of putting people into that third branch of government.

What worries me now is this week, the Senate is on the brink of doing it again. Senate Republicans are moving to confirm an individual to the Third Circuit over the objections of both home state Senators—in this case, both home State Senators from New Jersey, Senator MENENDEZ and me. So this moment is personal to me, but more importantly, I want to sound the alarm yet again and not just sit as a bystander to history and let this Senate tradition be eviscerated.

When I first got to the Senate, I made it known that I really wanted to be a member of the Judiciary Committee. It took me years to get on that committee. I am so proud to be on a committee that has an incredible record of doing bipartisan work, whether it was the bill we passed out of committee to protect Robert Mueller or just last Congress when we worked together across the aisle to do comprehensive criminal justice reform.

I know the history of that committee. I have been watching it since I was much younger and had a lot more hair. I knew that this committee—as Senator DURBIN so eloquently described last week in our markup committee—this is a committee whose

Members have worked together to confront many great challenges. But now we find ourselves in a perilous position where important guardrails that were put in place to properly vet judicial nominees are being thrown by the wayside.

The latest development in the Senate is disregarding the blue-slip tradition, which over the last century has enabled home State Senators to have a meaningful role in the nomination process.

In late January of this year, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a markup meeting for 44 judicial nominees. Folks around here were literally calling it the monster markup. At that meeting, I told Chairman GRAHAM, just as I had told Chairman GRASSLEY last year, that the White House had not meaningfully consulted with me or Senator MENENDEZ ahead of that markup. In fact, I pointed out, the White House had not offered to even arrange a meeting between Mr. Matey and me or Senator MENENDEZ. We didn't get an offer of a meeting before the nomination. We didn't get an offer of a meeting before the confirmation hearing. We didn't get an offer of a meeting before the markup.

Chairman GRAHAM said he would make sure that Mr. Matey and I would be able to meet before the full Senate voted on his nomination, and we did. I really appreciate that and Senator GRAHAM being a man of his word. But when I met with Mr. Matey last week, our conversation was refreshingly honest because we both knew it was just a courtesy. We knew this process was completely backward. Two home State Senators had just been rendered completely irrelevant in the selection of a circuit court judge from their State.

I ask any of my colleagues to imagine this: that a person to the circuit court from their community—and Mr. Matey is from my city—that you don't even have a chance to meet with them, have a discussion, ask them questions. If it weren't for my presence on the Judiciary Committee, where I got 5 minutes to question him, this person would have sailed through without any consultation with two home State Senators. I ask my colleagues how they would feel if this happened to them.

This breaking of a century-old precedent has made it clear that we are going to keep on breaking it. This is something that is now going to become a part of this body. Are we all really comfortable with the implications of that?

The Republicans on the Judiciary Committee just voted out two Second Circuit nominees over the objections of their home State Senators—again, historically unprecedented—and three more nominees to the Ninth Circuit with the very same problem are about to come before this committee.

Senate Republicans seem to be intent on dismantling the century-old process for the vetting of judicial nominees. This is being done methodically—tak-

ing it apart piece by piece, whatever it takes to push through these nominees.

The pendulum does swing in this place. I was told by Senators whom I respect—I still remember coming here and sitting down with some of the statesmen in this area on both sides of the aisle. I still remember conversations with Senator Harkin, who is no longer here, and Senator McCain telling me to respect the traditions of this body, to understand that this body, as our predecessors said, should be the cooling of the partisan rage or passions of the time; that we should preserve those parts of this institution that create comity, that force us to come together. But the wound that is being created right now goes to the ability of any Senator in this body to truly represent their State.

Look, the pendulum is going to swing. Eventually, there is going to be a Democratic President. This body will shift again. Every single Senator, should they stay in this body, is probably going to see the time when, because of what we are doing today, they will have no say whatsoever when it comes to their constitutional duty of advice and consent.

My message to my colleagues is this: The feeling I had last week when I met with Mr. Matey is a feeling that everyone in this Chamber is going to have at some point if we do not stop this now. If we continue down this path, you will find yourself rendered irrelevant in the selection of judicial nominees from your State. You were duly elected by the people of your State, and there won't be a thing you can do to stand up for their interests in this process.

This will be a sad chapter if we allow it to be written into our history. It doesn't have to be this way. We could go back in this process. We could say: You know what, this guy is qualified. Why don't we go back and have the process done the right way—have the White House sit down with their home State Senators and see if they can work out a deal, as it was done before, to make sure we have a role in the process the Founders designed.

The guardrails we have established in this body have an important purpose: to enable the Judiciary Committee and Senators to properly vet judicial nominees, to ensure that those nominees are not just qualified to serve but that they are more in the mainstream, not ideologues, and to ensure that they have a good judicial temperament.

We cannot walk away from the longstanding Senate practice of respect for the views of home State Senators about the judges who will serve in their State. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this nomination because of the trashing of the processes that have been a time-honored way of doing things in the Senate. But let me be clear. This is about more than just the dismantling of the Senate procedures. As a Senator, I do have a perspective on the nature of some of the nominees who are being put forward to serve on

our courts, and I want to take a moment to speak to that.

The Constitution charges this body with vetting the President's judicial nominees for good reason. It is our duty as Senators to provide a check and balance on those nominations to ensure that people who serve as Federal judges can be fair and impartial. It is our duty to help protect the independence of the judiciary. But over and over, we are seeing that President Trump is selecting nominees precisely because they will bring an ideological agenda to the bench.

This will be seen as we soon consider the nomination of Neomi Rao to the DC Circuit Court. Ms. Rao is a prime example of how the administration is working to politicize our Federal courts to achieve far-right policy objectives that do not sit in the mainstream of America. The examples of this are not just rhetoric; the examples of this are clear.

The DC Circuit Court often gets the last word on legal challenges to important regulatory protections. Who is the person the President has chosen to sit on this court? Ms. Rao has dedicated much of her career as a law professor and as a Trump administration regulatory czar to tearing away critical protections for American citizens.

During her time in the Trump administration, Ms. Rao has overseen efforts to roll back an array of Federal protections, from fair housing to clean air and water, from women's rights to LGBTQ rights, from food safety to workers' rights, to so many areas that impact Americans of all backgrounds and all aspects of American life. She has also criticized landmark decisions by the Supreme Court. Other Trump nominees have not gone as far as she has. She literally criticized *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Lawrence v. Texas*, and *Roe v. Wade*.

Worse still, Ms. Rao has been unwilling to make the firm commitment to recuse herself from legal challenges to regulations that her office reviewed while she was a Trump administration regulatory czar. This is fundamental to the independence of our judiciary.

If you compare her position to others within the Trump administration, you will see that other judicial nominees, including President Trump's prior nominee to the DC Circuit, have pledged to recuse themselves from matters they worked on in the executive branch, but Ms. Rao is refusing to do the same.

Given her long track record of opposing critical Federal protections, the serious concerns about independence and recusal, Ms. Rao is the wrong person to sit on the DC Circuit Court, and I urge my colleagues to vote no on the nomination as well.

Most importantly, I urge my colleagues—all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans—who do not want to be rendered irrelevant in the selection of judges from their States to

stop—stop—this evisceration of a long-standing blue-slip tradition in the Senate.

I thank you for the time.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will continue to fill vacancies across the Federal bench.

This afternoon, we will vote to confirm Paul Matey to be U.S. Circuit Court Judge for the Third Circuit, and then we will move to the nomination of Neomi Rao for a seat on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals—the seat that was vacated by Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Throughout her career, Ms. Rao has served in all three branches of government. She clerked for Justice Clarence Thomas on the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge Harvie Wilkinson on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. She also worked here in the Senate on the Judiciary Committee for then-Chairman Orrin Hatch.

She has worked as Associate Counsel and Special Assistant to President George W. Bush and in her current position as Administrator for the Office of Administration and Regulatory Affairs—one of the most important and least understood Federal Agencies.

In addition to her outstanding career in public service, Ms. Rao was also an associate professor at the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University and is a leading scholar in the field of administrative law.

Knowing her impressive background, it was no surprise to see that the American Bar Association, once hailed by the minority leader as the “gold standard by which judicial candidates are judged,” rated her as “well qualified.”

When considering this particular seat, it is hard to imagine anyone better prepared. The DC Circuit Court of Appeals has sometimes been referred to as the “second highest court in the land” and is unique because its caseload is disproportionately weighted toward administrative law and litigation involving the Federal Government.

Despite her outstanding qualifications, our Democratic colleagues have attempted to tank Ms. Rao’s nomination over decades-old writings. That sounds pretty familiar, although, as I recall, Justice Kavanaugh was excoriated for things in his high school yearbook. At least we have moved on to college when it comes to Ms. Rao.

During her confirmation hearing last month, critics reverted back to that Kavanaugh playbook and began criticizing her for things she wrote in college rather than asking her productive questions about maybe what she has

learned since that time or how her views may have changed or how she has functioned as head of the OIRA or how her office has reduced regulatory costs by more than \$23 billion. Instead, critics chose to focus on her decades-old writings in college.

Over the years, Ms. Rao has done what we have all done: She has grown and learned from her experiences. She has repeatedly said that she no longer holds the views that she wrote about back in college.

I believe we should judge a nominee not by views they expressed in high school or college but what they have done since that time as mature adults and professionals. So just add me to the long list of people who believe Neomi Rao should be confirmed for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

Two dozen former Supreme Court clerks who worked alongside Rao sent a letter to the Judiciary Committee, touting her qualifications. They said:

Many of us have worked in government, at both the federal and state levels, some for Democrats and some for Republicans. . . . While our professional and personal paths may have diverged, one of things we have always shared is admiration for Neomi. We are confident she will serve our country well on the DC Circuit.

We have seen similar letters from her classmates at both Yale and the University of Chicago Law School, as well as a group of more than 50 of her former law students.

Her former students wrote:

Our views span the political spectrum; we have differing positions on the role and work of the Federal judiciary; and we have gone on to work in law firms, government, public interest organizations, and judges’ chambers. Yet despite her differences, we all agree that Professor Rao would make an outstanding addition to the bench. We have no doubt that, if confirmed, she would be a brilliant and fair arbiter of the cases that came before her.

I agree.

I supported Ms. Rao’s nomination in the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I will once again look forward to supporting her nomination when the full Senate votes on her nomination this week.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

Mr. President, on another matter, this Saturday will mark the 268th birthday of James Madison, the Father of the Constitution and an ardent advocate for open government.

It is no coincidence that near his birthday each year, we also celebrate something called Sunshine Week—a time to promote transparency in government and access to public information.

I have always been proud of the fact that Texas is known for having one of the strongest and most robust freedom of information laws in the country. As attorney general of Texas for 4 years, it was my privilege to enforce those laws.

We strive to maintain an open and honest government. Not only does it keep citizens in the know, it also helps keep government accountable.

As we all know, Justice Brandeis famously said: “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants.” When I came to Washington, I wanted to bring that same Texas sunshine to the national level.

During my time in the Senate, I have made government transparency a priority, and I have pressed for more openness in the Federal Government through commonsense legislation.

Over the last decade-plus, my closest ally in that effort has been my friend and colleague from Vermont, Senator PAT LEAHY. Some people consider us to be the odd couple when it comes to this topic because Senator LEAHY is on the other end of the political spectrum.

As a conservative, I think if people act in government as if their actions are going to be known and available to the people they work for—the taxpayers—it really changes their behavior. It doesn’t require Congress or the government to pass more regulation or more laws to get them to do what they know they should do if they knew that what they were doing was going to be made public; hence, my support for the Freedom of Information Act and public information law.

Senator LEAHY and I have worked so well together because we understand that this is not a Republican or Democratic issue. We both recognize that whether it is a Republican administration or a Democratic administration, everyone wants to trumpet their successes and hide their failures. That is just human nature. But in order for our government to run well and the American people to trust that it is running well, we need transparency and the accountability that goes along with it.

Safeguarding our right to public information is the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA. FOIA serves not as a weapon but as a shield, protecting the American people from a government that may seek to abuse its power or conceal fraud and abuse.

In the more than 50 years since FOIA was first enacted, we have seen a tug of war taking place in both Republican and Democratic administrations, with some favoring more openness and others favoring less. That is why it is so important that we fight here in the Senate to ensure that the balance doesn’t tilt away from transparency.

This is a great opportunity both to reflect on the important steps we have taken in the past and to recommit ourselves to the ongoing important work that we still need to do.

I believe the most significant legislation Senator LEAHY and I shepherded during our work together is the FOIA Improvement Act, which became law in 2016. It required government Agencies to operate under a presumption of openness when considering whether to release government information.

It also aimed to reduce the overuse of exemptions to withhold information from the public and to minimize the bureaucracy in the FOIA request process by requiring the creation of a single

portal through which individuals can submit a request to any Agency.

On top of that, that legislation required Agencies to proactively disclose documents that are likely to be of public interest in order to increase access to government documents outside the often bureaucratic and onerous FOIA request process. In other words, we built upon the work of our Founding Fathers and what they recognized hundreds of years ago: A truly self-governing people depends upon an informed citizenry to hold their elected leaders accountable.

While that was a big step in improving government accountability, our work, of course, is not done. I continue to look for new opportunities to improve the Freedom of Information Act process and to ensure that it remains robust and workable for all of our citizens.

I will continue to advocate for policies in the Senate that build on a more transparent government and bring more of that Texas sunshine to Washington, DC. I hope this Sunshine Week we can all grow even more committed to the mission of open and honest government that serves its people and not itself.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

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

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete the full duration of my remarks.

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

TRIBUTE TO SAM MAMET

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize a great citizen of the State of Colorado and a dear friend of mine, Sam Mamet. Sam is retiring at the end of March after 40 years of working with the Colorado Municipal League. CML is an organization that is dedicated to representing the best interests of cities and towns throughout the State of Colorado.

In 1979, shortly after receiving a master's in public administration from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Sam began his tenure at CML. For 26 years, he worked diligently to make sure that local communities had the proper tools to better serve themselves.

In 2005 he was appointed executive director of the organization. From this unique position, Sam was at the forefront of developing the organization's policies and executing vital programs with the overarching purpose of helping those who oversee communities become more effective leaders. It is clear to the people of Colorado that Sam has excelled in this position from day one.

It is unlikely you will find someone in Colorado government or politics who doesn't know Sam or hasn't worked with Sam, and there is no shortage of recognition for the incredible work he has done. If you need proof, you can look through the abundance of awards he has received, including a lifetime achievement award from the Colorado City & County Management Association earlier this year. It is also not surprising that Sam has his own day, Sam Mamet Day, on February 4, which was dedicated by the city of Greenwood Village as a thank-you for his years of sincere dedication to them. These are just a few of the many examples of appreciation that showcase the passion and zeal Sam has for the cities and communities across our great State.

I can't stress enough how Colorado communities have benefited and how the State of Colorado has benefited from the work of Sam Mamet. His years of persistence and dedication in his work have had a tremendous and monumental impact. His work transcends beyond partisanship, and I think that is the most important thing to talk about. When you see Sam Mamet, you don't think of left or right or red or blue. You see nonpartisanship in the work he does.

He cautions leaders to avoid demeaning an issue or individual on the other side, something so important in today's political environment, and to focus more on cultivating policies that will simply benefit each and every community based on the specific needs and requirements of the people. We need more leaders like Sam.

Sam has long believed public service is the highest calling. He recognizes the gravity the position holds and why it is so important that public servants are given the tools necessary to better the streets and neighborhoods and communities they belong to. This is what each and every citizen expects of their leaders and what he has dedicated his life to accomplish.

"Empowered Cities and Towns, United for a Strong Colorado," is CML's vision statement, and Sam is the embodiment of these words. Each and every day he worked to give the cities and towns around him the tools and knowledge to empower them, and for 40 years he helped to unite a stronger Colorado. While CML and the local municipalities they serve will be losing an exceptional, talented, and impassioned civil servant, I have every confidence Sam will continue to better the lives of the people of Colorado in his work going forward.

On a personal note, there are many times when Sam and I were on the same side of an issue and were able to work together and accomplish great things. There were also times when Sam and I were on opposite sides of an issue, and some of my most glorious defeats were at the hands of Sam Mamet. As legislation went down in flames of glory, thanks to work he was able to lead, I never took it personally

because Sam Mamet never took it personally. I remember meeting Sam through my father and his work on the city council years ago. When a leader like Sam steps down, he will be missed. He has big shoes to fill, but I know Kevin Bommer, the next executive director, will do an outstanding job.

I know we all wish for Sam to stay involved in his next endeavors that will continue to benefit our great people of Colorado. Thank you.

With that, I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Matey nomination?

Mr. PORTMAN. 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.

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 42 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Roberts
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Inhofe	Rubio
Cassidy	Isakson	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Harris	Rosen
Bennet	Hassan	Sanders
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Booker	Hirono	Schumer
Brown	Jones	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Markey	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Murray

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 legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, James E. Risch, Steve Daines, John Thune, Lindsey Graham, James M. Inhofe, Tim Scott, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Mike Crapo.

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 Neomi J. Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 43 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—46

Baldwin	Durbin	Manchin
Bennet	Feinstein	Markey
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Menendez
Booker	Harris	Merkley
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Cantwell	Heinrich	Peters
Cardin	Hirono	Reed
Carper	Jones	Rosen
Casey	Kaine	Sanders
Coons	King	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Schumer
Duckworth	Leahy	Shaheen

Sinema
Smith
Stabenow
Tester

Udall
Van Hollen
Warner
Warren

Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Murray

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). On this vote the yeas are 53, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 94

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, the entire Senate Democratic caucus and I are introducing a resolution that simply asks the Department of Justice to do what it is supposed to do—defend the duly enacted laws of this country.

This resolution shouldn't be necessary, but last year, as 19 States joined Texas in challenging the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, Attorney General Jeff Sessions refused to defend the ACA in court and, in fact, filed a brief arguing that several vital protections of the law should be ruled unconstitutional, including protections for Americans living with preexisting conditions.

In making his decision not to defend a duly enacted law, Jeff Sessions himself acknowledged that he was going against a "longstanding tradition of defending the constitutionality of duly enacted statutes if reasonable arguments can be made in their defense."

Guess what. There are many reasonable arguments for the ACA. Even conservative lawyers who previously argued against the ACA agree. One attorney filed an amicus brief in opposition to the Department of Justice's position calling it "dangerous," "beyond the pale," and "effectively [usurping] legislative power."

The Justice Department lawyer who authored the brief opposing the ACA, Chad Readler, was just rewarded with a confirmation to a lifetime position to the Sixth Circuit. In fact, Mr. Readler's circuit court nomination came on the exact same day that he filed the brief on behalf of the Department of Justice. Talk about yet another Trump nominee who auditioned for his position.

The Justice Department's actions were blatantly political and had a specific outcome in mind: accomplishing through the courts what Republicans have tried and failed to achieve through the legislative process; that is, repealing the Affordable Care Act.

Three career attorneys at the Department of Justice withdrew from the case in protest of their Department's failing to defend the ACA.

In December, a Federal court in Texas sided with the Trump administration, Texas, and 19 other States in declaring the entirety of the ACA unconstitutional. Of course, this will be appealed.

The Fifth Circuit—one of the most conservative appellate courts in the country—will hear the case next. The case is destined for consideration by the Supreme Court, wherein Trump-appointed Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh will cast two deciding votes on whether to uphold the ACA or cast it aside. I shudder to think which way they are likely to go.

The outcome of this case will have a profound impact on virtually every American, especially the 133 million people living with preexisting conditions.

This is not a game. Lives are at stake. Without the ACA's protections, millions of Americans living with conditions as common as diabetes, obesity, heart disease, or cancer could be charged exorbitant premiums or denied insurance coverage altogether.

The stakes in this ongoing court battle are incredibly high. Our resolution simply asks the Department of Justice to do its job, defend the ACA as a duly enacted act of Congress, and stand up to protect Americans living with preexisting conditions.

Although many of my Republican colleagues profess to support protections for those with preexisting conditions, not a single one of them has signed on to support this resolution.

Under new leadership, the Department of Justice can do the right thing. During his confirmation hearing, newly confirmed Attorney General Bill Barr indicated he was open to reassessing DOJ's decision to oppose the ACA in court. We shall see.

With this resolution, my Democratic colleagues and I urge him to reexamine the Department's position, consider the monumental impact this case would have on millions of Americans, and stand up for the 133 million Americans living with a preexisting condition.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 94 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, 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. Is there objection?

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, I often say that I like to see when people reveal themselves.

With this objection today, my colleague from Wyoming has sent a clear message to Americans living with preexisting conditions that the Republican Party doesn't care about them. I am disappointed with his objection, but I can't say that I am surprised. Today's

action is very consistent with the Republican Party's hostility to the ACA and their belief that healthcare is a privilege reserved only for those who can afford it.

To recap, Republicans voted dozens of times over the past 9 years to repeal the ACA in its entirety. The Senate came within one vote in July 2017 of repealing the law—one vote.

The majority leader and my Republican colleagues from South Carolina and Louisiana proposed—and came close to passing—a bill that would have gutted the ACA and cut hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicaid.

As part of their huge tax cut for the rich and corporations, Donald Trump and congressional Republicans eliminated the individual coverage requirement of ACA, driving up premiums across the country.

So the assault on healthcare continues. The American people are paying attention, and Republicans will be held accountable.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the Senate Resolution that is at the desk, expressing the sense of the Senate that efforts to create a one-size-fits-all government-run healthcare system referred to as "Medicare for All" should be rejected.

Madam President, 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. Is there objection?

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Reserving the right to object, this resolution is a cynical attempt to divide Democrats where no division exists. The Democratic Party is united behind the principle that healthcare should be affordable and accessible to all. As far as I am concerned, healthcare is a right, not a privilege reserved for those who can afford it.

Medicare for All is one way to get to universal healthcare that is affordable for everyone, but it is not the only way. While Democrats are working to build on the success of the Affordable Care Act to cover even more Americans, Senate Republicans have tried time and again to eliminate coverage for tens of millions of Americans. This is particularly evident in the President's budget—a budget that would make over \$2 trillion in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, programs that provide healthcare coverage to one out of every three people in our country.

I call on my Republican colleagues to join us to improve the ACA and expand coverage to more Americans rather

than trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act time after time.

It is unfortunate that my colleagues would rather offer this distraction than acknowledge that millions of Americans rely on Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA for healthcare. In offering this resolution, Republicans continue to do nothing except propose cuts to all three critical programs.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would just point out that what my friend and colleague from Hawaii described as a distraction is one of the key points of the Democratic Party.

Medicare for All, as they call it, is part of the so-called Green New Deal, which would bankrupt the country, which is unaffordable, unworkable. The fact is, this Medicare for All proposal, which so many of the Democrats have signed on to, would cost a minimum of \$33 trillion and maybe a lot higher after what we have heard from the Presidential candidate, BERNIE SANDERS, as to the things he wants to do going beyond just Medicare for All.

We know that taxes would increase significantly under their proposal. We know that for Americans who have health insurance right now through their work, over 150 million Americans would lose that. We know that for people on Medicare, it would make their ability to use Medicare much harder. Then, of course, there would be the issue of rationing for care—the lines and the time to wait.

There was an article in the New York Times, an opinion piece by David Brooks, on Friday, talking about why the so-called Medicare for All will not work, and it made reference to healthcare in Canada.

I would say to the Presiding Officer that as a Senator who is also a surgeon, I operated on people from Canada in my practice prior to becoming a U.S. Senator and while practicing in Wyoming. People in Canada—where the healthcare is paid for by taxes but is free—I have taken care of people who couldn't afford to wait the amount of time it would take to get their free operation.

The article in the New York Times on Friday made reference to the fact that the waiting times are so long that after you are actually seen by the primary care provider in Canada, the wait time to get to see an orthopedic surgeon is 9 months—9 months. The Democrats are proposing something that has given the people of Canada a waiting time of 9 months.

So what we see under this Medicare for All proposal—and I have just introduced today this Senate resolution saying that Medicare for All should be rejected, and there should also be a rejection of the tax increases, the loss of choice, and the long lines that will come from this Democrat-sponsored proposal for Medicare for All.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Very briefly, I simply want to ask my Republican colleagues whether they believe that healthcare should be accessible and affordable for all. Apparently, they do not, because they have offered absolutely nothing to make sure healthcare is accessible and affordable for all.

In fact, in their continuing efforts to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and, in fact, eliminate the Affordable Care Act, they would rather have a healthcare system where millions of Americans are without healthcare at all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, this month we celebrate the storied history of incredible women in our country. We recognize the sacrifices made and the battles fought to ensure a future where our daughters and granddaughters are born into a world of equality and limitless opportunity.

Throughout Women's History Month, we mark the historic strides women have taken to advance our culture, our sciences, our States, and our Nation. As we recognize these achievements, we must also assess and advocate for the work still to be done, including the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, the ERA. Ratifying the ERA would be a major milestone on the road to equality. Not only would ratification enshrine equal rights for women in the Constitution, it would also honor all of those who have fought for justice along the way.

One such inspiring woman is civil rights activist Juanita Jackson Mitchell. A Baltimore native, Mrs. Mitchell fought to end legally sanctioned segregation in her community while she simultaneously reached out to young people and mobilized them into civic engagement. After she received her law degree from the University of Maryland, she was the first African-American woman to practice law in our State, and she worked tirelessly on a number of cases to provide more job opportunities for African Americans. As the President of the NAACP in Baltimore, she advocated for integration and later convinced the city to hire Black social workers, librarians, and police officers, which bolstered the community by helping to bring an end to long-held systemic prejudices.

As a community activist and champion of women's rights, Mrs. Mitchell exhibited true bravery in her engagement with her community. She fearlessly paved the way for other women to join the movement. She worked with the Kennedy and Johnson administrations to find solutions for systemic social and educational discrepancies in communities of color. Mrs. Mitchell

understood the importance of representative democracy and of empowering those who could make differences in their communities. Juanita Mitchell is a shining example of why a constitutional amendment to guarantee women's rights is long overdue.

The ERA, which Congress approved in 1972, guarantees equal protection under the law regardless of one's sex. At that time, Congress imposed a 7-year deadline—later extended to 10 years—for the States to act. By the time this artificial deadline expired in 1982, 35 States had approved the Equal Rights Amendment—three short of the 38 States necessary to add it to the Constitution. Since then, two more States have approved the amendment, which leaves us just one State shy of reaching the goal. Congress must act to authorize additional time for the remaining States to consider the amendment.

Earlier this year, I and the senior Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI, introduced a bipartisan Senate resolution, S.J. Res. 6, to reopen consideration of the ERA. It may come as a shock to many that in a country to which the world looks as being an example of liberty and justice, our Constitution does not guarantee women the same rights and protections as men. That is why this bipartisan resolution is imperative as we urge Congress and the remaining States to finish what we started nearly 50 years ago to ensure equality under the law for all women.

In the early 20th century, women were disenfranchised and had little or no legal, financial, or social opportunities to pursue. Property ownership, jobs, and economic equality were privileges women did not have. Today, a century later, more women have entered the workforce than ever before. Women are filling leadership roles at unprecedented levels, and we are finally on the verge of ratifying the ERA. This change has boosted our economy, strengthened our families, and brought our society to new heights of innovation, enlightenment, and opportunity. We see that change is not only possible, it is essential to realizing our greatest potential as a nation.

While ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment is critical to giving women in our country the rights they deserve, it is not, in and of itself, enough. I will continue to fight for the ERA but also for women's economic opportunities and reproductive rights.

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. BLUMENTHAL. 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 NEOMI J. RAO

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, there are many reasons to care about our Federal judiciary. It touches all of us in our everyday lives even though we often fail to appreciate its enormous impact. No court of appeals in the United States is more important than the DC Circuit, and so few of the nominees whom we will consider in this body will be more important than Neomi Rao to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

It has a unique jurisdiction that makes it the court to most frequently hear challenges to the Federal Government's public protections. It considers issues of national consequence, ranging from workers' rights, nondiscrimination policies, consumer protections, immigration policies, money in politics, reproductive rights, access to healthcare, environmental justice, antitrust cases, and regulatory action, like the possible grounding of an unsafe airplane by the FAA.

I have called on the FAA to ground the 737 MAX 8 and MAX 9. I have asked the airlines to do it voluntarily. If the FAA does the right thing, as it should, and orders these planes grounded, its decision may be challenged in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit, and the safety of our skies and our airline passengers will hang in the balance. This is just one example of how the DC Circuit can matter not only to the lives of people within a particular geographic area but to, literally, the entire United States.

When I ask nominees questions that are designed to elicit their views, their opinions, their past positions, and their present policies, I expect direct, candid answers, but I received just the opposite from Neomi Rao on some of the critical, bedrock issues that are important to all of us in this Chamber when judging a nominee.

I asked Neomi Rao whether she thought *Brown v. Board of Education*—a pillar of our jurisprudence—was correctly decided. She declined to answer. She said she felt it was inappropriate for a nominee to the court to be giving views on specific cases. I asked her for her views and her position on that case. She declined to give them. She also declined to give them on *Roe v. Wade* and on *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

One of my Republican colleagues on the Judiciary Committee also has reservations about Neomi Rao's opinions in some of these cases. He fears that Ms. Rao actually supports a woman's right to choose and supports the legal doctrine of substantive due process. Unlike me, he met Ms. Rao in private, and he got straightforward answers about her views on those cases and on the underlying legal theories. She passed his test, the President's litmus test, and the test of those outside groups—extreme rightwing, conservative groups—that have been given authority as a result of the President's outsourcing of these decisions to, in effect, decide on the nominees to our highest Court.

She passed the test established by the President—that he would appoint judges who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

But as abhorrent and objectionable as I find many of her views and her failure to give straightforward answers, she has also written a number of very troubling articles and op-eds about her views on women's rights and women's healthcare. We have in this Chamber a term called "confirmation conversion," and I thought Ms. Rao would completely disavow and abandon those pieces.

In an op-ed about date rape, she wrote: "If [a woman] drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was part of her choice." In another op-ed criticizing aspects of feminism, Rao wrote that women "must be thoroughly educated about the consequences of their sexuality in order to prevent such problems" as date rape. From early in her career, these writings indicate that she believes women bear a major part of responsibility for date rape.

These writings are from early in her career, and I thought she would completely break with them and reject them, but she failed to do so. Only after the hearing did she disavow them, without directly apologizing, and that kind of confirmation conversion is inherently unbelievable.

Undermining her credibility even more are the actions she took later in her career—after those writings and before she was nominated.

She serves as the head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, also known as OIRA. Her job is to review all regulatory actions—all of them—proposed by the administration. In that capacity, Ms. Rao approved rescinding guidance provided to schools on how to address and prevent campus sexual assault. Under the new rules, sexual assault survivors would be required to undergo live cross-examination by their attacker's representative. In the course of an administrative proceeding, there would be cross-examination by the attacker's lawyer or other representative. Schools would be required to use a higher standard of proof for claims of sexual misconduct.

Under this administration's own analysis, these rules would have a profound, chilling effect on the number of campus sexual assault investigations that are conducted. That is the reason they are proposing the new rules—to discourage survivors from coming forward to seek justice.

It is not only Rao's early writings that stigmatize and blame women survivors of sexual assault; the recent policies she approved and authorized institutionalize these really regrettable and unacceptable views. Her deeply troubling positions on sexual assault and her victim-blaming rhetoric—which she tried to excuse initially as the reckless musings of a college student rather than breaking with them and rejecting them—place the

rights of women and others at risk. We should deny her confirmation.

Equally important, she has also used that position at OIRA to restrict reproductive rights.

Let's be clear. One of the important features of the Affordable Care Act is a requirement that health insurers cover contraceptives as an essential health benefit—no charge to consumers because it is an essential health benefit.

Last year, the Trump administration issued rules that would allow any and all private companies to deny contraception coverage if the CEO had a moral or religious objection. Two Federal courts found that the rules were illegal because they violate the due process clause—the legal process required by law to implement the new rules—and that objection was found to be an inadequate justification for, in effect, violating the rights of women who would seek that kind of care at no charge. As the head of OIRA, Neomi Rao not only approved of the substance of the new rules but was so committed to implementing them that she signed off on an illegal process to do so.

That is not all Neomi Rao has done to, in effect, discourage and deter reproductive health. The Department of Health and Human Services recently finalized a new title X regulation. Under this rule, "Any organization that provides or refers patients for abortions is ineligible for title X funding to cover STD prevention, cancer screenings, and contraception." As with any rule, OIRA had to conduct a cost-benefit analysis in order to approve that rule, and I am deeply troubled by Rao's views and actions on reproductive rights that led her to approve that rule and encouraged and condoned the rule and its disastrous effects on women's rights and healthcare.

We are living in an era fraught with abuses of power, under a President who has shown nothing but disdain for the rule of law. In this dark and dangerous era, it is all the more important that we have someone willing to set limits on executive power to prevent an imperial Presidency.

In fact, Ms. Rao is a proponent of a fringe theory on executive power known as the unitary executive theory. She believes that the President, as the head of the executive branch, holds absolute control over executive power.

As recently as 2014, she outlined the implications of this theory in the *Alabama Law Review*. According to her, the President must be able to remove at his sole discretion all principal officers, including the heads of independent Agencies.

She has criticized the Supreme Court's decision in *Morrison v. Olson*, which upheld the independent counsel statute in effect at that time. In her view, the President must be able to fire at will anyone in the executive branch. In her view, that includes special prosecutors tasked with investigating wrongdoing by the President.

In 2016, she was interviewed on Hugh Hewitt's radio show. She was asked

whether she believes the current special counsel regulations have similarly restrictive effect on executive power and whether the President can direct the actions of the Attorney General or Acting Attorney General. Her view? The Constitution vests all executive power in the President. He can direct his subordinates. He can fire the special counsel.

I hoped that during her confirmation proceedings, she would disavow those views. I asked her whether she thought the President could fire Robert Mueller, the current special counsel. She refused to answer my question.

That extreme view of Presidential power is deeply alarming when it is held by a member of one of the most important courts in the country, which may review decisions of that special counsel to subpoena the President or potentially indict the President or take other actions in the course of an investigation.

I am more than alarmed; I am strongly opposed to this nomination. I hope my colleagues will join me in voting no on final confirmation.

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

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

S. 556

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I recently reintroduced the Accountability through Electronic Verification Act this Congress, as I have in previous Congresses. This commonsense bill would require all employers to use E-Verify programs, which in turn would ensure that they are employing nothing but a legal workforce.

As most Americans have realized, the immigration debate here in the Congress today—and for a long time—has become highly partisan and obviously has been controversial. Of course, worst of all, it has become completely unproductive.

I believe there is a sliver of hope, however, and that is through the passage of an E-Verify program that makes E-Verify mandatory.

Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, whether you are for open borders or you want secure borders, we all ought to agree that enforcing the law and protecting Americans is a bipartisan goal.

In 1986, the Immigration Reform and Control Act made it, for the first time, a Federal crime to employ undocumented workers. Ten years later, in 1996, Congress created a new tool to verify employment eligibility known as E-Verify.

Today, E-Verify is a voluntary program that gives employers a web-based tool to verify the identity and employment eligibility of new employees.

I have worked to renew and expand the program for use in all 50 States and to allow for information-sharing between Federal Agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security.

Participating employers then tap into a user-friendly, free electronic system that cross-matches documents provided by employees on their I-9 forms with Federal records available to show the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Homeland Security. So the records of a worker applying for a job can be compared with government records to know whether somebody is legally in the country.

Today E-Verify provides instant verification for more than 750,000 employers and businesses all across America. In fact, my Senate office uses E-Verify when hiring employees whom the taxpayers pay for, but I am responsible for their employment. My Senate office uses E-Verify when hiring our staff, and I have found it to be quick and easy to use.

At my annual 99 county meetings that I have throughout Iowa, I regularly hear about the growing economy, rising wages, and the vitality on Main Streets. Iowa now ranks first in the Nation for the lowest level of unemployment. That also means there are growing challenges for employers in my State to hire the workforce needed to grow and expand. I will bet a lot of my colleagues hear that in their respective States as well.

We need to make sure hiring practices don't harm U.S. workers or those authorized to work in the United States. That is why I reintroduced the bill I announced in the first words of my speech today, the accountability through electronic verification bill.

This legislation will help businesses comply with immigration laws by certifying the legal status of their workforce. The bill will permanently authorize the E-Verify Program, and require employers to use the program to determine workers' eligibility. It would then make every employer have to use it, except as contrasted for the last couple of decades on a voluntary basis.

For decades, E-Verify has served as a proven tool for employers that want to use it. It has helped to reduce incentives for illegal immigration and safeguard job opportunities for Americans and other legal workers. Expanding the system to every workplace will improve accountability for all businesses and take another very important step toward putting American workers first.

Current law requires all contractors doing work for the Federal Government to use E-Verify, repeating for a third time now the mandatory aspect of this compared to the voluntary aspect of the present law.

States that have passed laws mandating the use of E-Verify also may require employers to participate, for example, as a condition of business licensing. With low unemployment

across the country, and with Iowa leading the way, policymakers have a responsibility to ensure the growing economy has the workforce it needs to continue to do the growth of the last few years.

As the former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I worked extensively to protect the integrity of employment visas and work permits for foreign workers. A top priority must be to ensure immigration policies aren't displacing American workers or depressing wages.

Making E-Verify a permanent and mandatory requirement for all U.S. employers will bring across-the-board certainty to hiring practices throughout our country. Certifying the legal status for prospective hires makes common sense, and having in place the tools at one's fingertips makes it a simple, convenient solution.

E-Verify is a proven tool to encourage legal immigrants to apply for unfilled jobs and to deter illegal immigration and human trafficking.

In addition to making E-Verify permanent and mandatory within 1 year of enactment, my bill will increase penalties for employers who illegally hire workers unauthorized to work in our country. The bill will also require employers to check the status of all current employees within 1 year using the E-Verify system and terminate employment of those found unauthorized to work in the United States.

This bill establishes a demonstration project in rural areas without internet capabilities to assist small businesses.

Finally, the bill will require the Social Security Administration to improve its efforts to detect identity theft using Social Security numbers.

Expanding E-Verify will help restore integrity and trust in our Nation's immigration system by curbing incentives for hiring persons unauthorized to work in America.

I was pleased to hear my colleague, now-Chairman GRAHAM of the Judiciary Committee, highlight the benefits of E-Verify in a Judiciary Committee hearing held last week. He is right. Nationwide E-Verify would go a long way to relieve concerns about illegal immigration and workforce displacement.

Let me repeat. This bill will not change immigration law. All it does is ensure that businesses are complying with existing Federal law through a quick, cost-efficient, and proven online method of proving that people are legally in the country and legally able to work here.

It is a simple first step toward tackling larger issues within immigration; in other words, bringing credibility to our immigration system where credibility has been lost because for the last 20 or 25 years, we in Congress have been telling the American people we are going to control the border and people can only come here legally, and we haven't done it.

We have to do things to build up credibility if we are going to deal with

issues like what do you do about the 10 or 11 million people who are unauthorized to live and unauthorized to work in America.

Some people say: Well, you are going to load them up and get them out of the country, but that isn't realistic, and it wouldn't be humanitarian. To deal with that issue, we have to have credibility for the whole immigration system, and E-Verify will help that, along with everything we are doing to control the borders, and we have to do more to control the borders.

Again, to repeat, this is a simple first step to tackling larger issues within immigration. Best of all, it has the support of the American people.

A recent Zogby poll showed that mandatory E-Verify enjoys widespread support from voters. Seventy-four percent of all voters polled support mandatory E-Verify. In fact, the support is very bipartisan. The poll showed that roughly 55 percent of Democrats, 78 percent of Independents, and nearly 91 percent of Republicans support the idea of E-Verify.

Support for Nationwide E-Verify isn't just nonpartisan, it is supported by Americans across all ethnic boundaries. Fifty-eight percent of Hispanic voters, 52 percent of Black voters, and 74 percent of Asian voters polled all support E-Verify.

I will close with this. Perhaps it is time that Congress and both parties take a very deep breath and listen to the American people instead of to our own echo chambers.

Before we discuss expanding guest worker programs or discuss comprehensive immigration reform, let's first codify E-Verify and restore the American people's trust in our immigration system.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MILITARY WIDOW'S TAX ELIMINATION BILL

Mr. JONES. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I rise today to talk about something that, quite frankly, I find to be completely abhorrent, and that is the short-changing of our Nation's military widows when it comes to survivor benefits they paid for and earned. It is something that I was dismayed to learn is happening to some 65,000 surviving spouses of American military servicemembers—including more than 2,000 Alabamians—who were killed in action or died as a result of service-connected causes.

After suffering the loss of a loved one, military widows and their families can find themselves unexpectedly losing out on vital survivor benefits they had planned to receive in these tragic

circumstances. That is because, under current law, surviving spouses are entitled to receive VA dependency and indemnity compensation benefits, or what is known as DIC.

Some families go a step further. Like many families in the private sector, many go a step further by voluntarily paying into the Defense Department's Survivor Benefits Plan, which acts like an additional life insurance policy. Again, they are entitled to the DIC benefits, but they pay for additional coverage should there be a tragic accident or tragic death, which acts like an additional life insurance policy. That policy is something these families voluntarily pay into, and like any other life insurance plan you or I might buy, they expect to get the benefits they have paid for.

For those who are entitled to receive these benefits from both programs, they are subject to what has been known as the widow's tax. Again, this is only for those folks who are getting benefits from both programs—the DIC and the survivor's benefit programs. That is because our law prohibits widows from receiving their full benefits from both programs. That is the widow's tax. Instead, their SBP annuity is prorated because their DIC payment is subtracted from it. They don't get the full benefit of both programs when one gets subtracted from the other.

Simply put, it is really a way for the Federal Government to save a few bucks by simply ripping off military widows whose family paid extra to receive these additional benefits. They voluntarily paid extra to receive these benefits.

This isn't just a problem facing Active-Duty families. It is far bigger, folks, because it impacts anyone who has a service-connected death.

To put that in context, in Alabama alone, there are over 60,000 Department of Defense retirees whose families could be impacted by the widow's tax if the veteran were to pass from a service-connected cause.

Now, I understand that we have to be careful stewards of taxpayer dollars. I am fully aware of that. But give me a break when it comes to military spouses and widows. This is a benefit that families paid for out of their own pockets. If they are not getting the money, then, it begs the question: Who is?

No surviving spouse should be faced with this kind of unexpected and completely unfair cut to the benefits they ought to be able to count on in these heartbreaking circumstances.

No surviving spouse should have to fight for what their families are owed—in the wake of family tragedy, no less. Again, this is what they are owed. This is the thing they have paid for in more ways than one.

No surviving spouse should have to mount a massive lobbying effort in the Capitol of the United States, of this great country, to get folks to understand that this is wrong and we need to

fix it. Every year, there is a campaign to fix this program. Yet, it doesn't get done.

Instead, these families should be focusing on helping their families begin to heal and find strength. They should be given the space and time to breathe.

It is an absolute shame that this is even a problem we need to address. That is why I have introduced bipartisan legislation with several of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—Senators COLLINS, TESTER, CRAPO, and 31 others—to repeal the law that prevents these families from receiving their just due.

The Military Widows Tax Elimination Act of 2019 reflects our belief that people who put their lives on the line for our country deserve to know their families will be taken care of if something, God forbid, ever happens to them.

Our bill has support from the Gold Star Wives of America, the VFW, the Military Officers Association of America, the National Military Family Association, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and so many others. In fact, some of the most dedicated activists from the Gold Star Wives are watching today from the Gallery right now, including Crystal Wenum, Harriet Boyden, and Donna Eldridge. I thank them all for their leadership and for their continued contributions to our country.

This legislation has been introduced in previous sessions of Congress, but it has yet to pass—in large part because of concerns about the cost. As I said, while I certainly understand that there is going to be a cost associated with this, we are talking about a benefits plan that these families paid for on their own accord. It is their money that went into this fund, not taxpayer money and not money that is appropriated every year. It is their money, and they deserve to get it back.

I think we can all agree that ending the widow's tax is the right thing to do for our military families. Why don't we finally get it done in this, the 116th Congress? Let's show our troops and their families that we support them not just in word but in deed. Let's show these surviving spouses and their children that we stand with them long after their loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country and long after we know that they, too, have made a sacrifice in the name of this country. Let's right this wrong and finally pass the Military Widows Tax Elimination Act.

I urge my colleagues to do the right thing. It is never ever too late to do it. Even though this has been tried before, it is never ever too late to do the right thing and support this bill.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

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

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

CHINA

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, China is no doubt a Communist country. It also has the largest population on Earth, which means it has the largest consumer market on Earth. It is a growing economy, although it has had a significant slowdown in the previous couple of years. It is a \$400 billion market for the United States currently, in our trade, and it is a significant place of trade when dealing with agriculture in particular.

We have a lot of issues and differences with China, but we should be able to work out those differences long term, as we do with every other nation. We have to resolve some of these things.

I am proud that the administration is full force taking on the issue of China. Over the past couple of decades, every administration has tried to work out some kind of ongoing conversation with China on trade, and all of them have been somewhat successful, but significant issues are still prevailing. This administration has had a singular focus on trade in dealing with China and trying to resolve those issues with them, and I hope it is successful long term. I hope that we will be very specific in how we actually handle that strategy and that at the end of it, we will still be openly trading and reducing some of those barriers.

It is a Communist country. It doesn't always play by the rules. It also uses some of the rules to its own advantage in ways unlike any other country. For instance, when they joined the WTO—the World Trade Organization—they self-declared themselves as a “developing nation.” Developing nations are able to waive a lot of the World Trade Organization rules because they are developing. May I remind this body that China is the second largest economy in the world—second only to ours? They are not a developing nation. They have used the rules of WTO to call themselves developing so they do not have to live up to the international standard of basic trade.

On March 22, 2018, President Trump signed a Memorandum on Actions by the United States related to what is called a 301 investigation. They are targeting what the White House calls “economic aggression” from China. Let me give some specifics on that.

China uses joint venture requirements on any foreign investment. They want to have ownership in those companies actually doing business there. They put pressure on technology firms to transfer their technology to China if they are going to actually sell to China. The result of that is that they may not take the product that is manufactured there, that those original companies sell back to the United States, but they will take that infor-

mation and then actually sell to other parts of the world from that stolen information from a technology transfer.

Akin to that, China maintains unfair licensing practices. Typically, in other parts of the world, our intellectual property that we have is guarded by that nation, or we actually have a licensing agreement with them that is fair market value. Not so with China. They put pressure on entities and actually cheat and steal our intellectual property at times. That doesn't happen with every company but especially certain types of firms, where, long term, China wants to produce it on their own rather than buy it from other countries. If that production is done in China, China will take the intellectual property, and the plan is clearly to then take that intellectual property and use it for themselves in the days ahead.

China is notorious for supporting cyber intrusions to take the information that they can't get, especially from American companies or Western companies. If there is a design they are interested in, whether that be an airplane or 3D printing or whatever it may be that is designed somewhere else, they reach in and try to hack and steal it. This is not recent; this has been going on for quite a while. In 2014, the Department of Justice indicted five Chinese military actors for cyber espionage against multiple U.S. corporations. Recently, in 2017, the Department of Justice charged three Chinese nationals with hacking and theft of trade secrets. And it goes on and on.

Just in the past couple of weeks, the World Trade Organization has agreed with the United States in our complaint against China and how they handle agriculture subsidies. Agriculture subsidies from any country are limited in that country, but China uses large ag subsidies through their farmers and ag companies to subsidize those products with state taxes. Let me give an example of that. Thirty-two percent of the return for rice in China is a government subsidy back to rice farmers.

I have heard folks say: Well, in the United States, we also have a farm program. We have a farm bill. We provide subsidies as well.

That is true, but our rice farmers have a 2-percent subsidy. Chinese rice farmers have a 32-percent subsidy.

The World Trade Organization agreed with us on this, and they have determined that China is in violation and the United States can retaliate on that.

China is using that policy and abusing that policy on subsidizing. It is not only causing problems in China and with trade with China and their pricing, what they sell for, it is also causing uncertainty worldwide. Let me give a for-instance. Cotton farming. Oklahoma is big in cotton farming, but China has oversubsidized cotton for years through its cotton farmers, and so they are overproducing what they need or what they can sell. Currently,

60 percent of the world's cotton supplies are stacked up in China, just in piles, not being used anywhere, but because China is subsidizing people to produce it, they are overproducing it in mass quantities. They have nowhere to send it, and they are just stacking cotton up in piles. The same thing with wheat. Forty percent of the world's wheat supplies are currently piled up in stacks in China. That destabilizes worldwide wheat prices and worldwide cotton prices because no one knows what China is going to do with that massive stack. WTO has considered them to be in violation for that, and we are allowed to reach back and retaliate.

The United States is not the only one watching China's trade policies and how they actually interact and the subsidies they give; the rest of the world sees this same issue with China. They would engage with us more to cooperate and push back on China, but currently, we have so many steel and aluminum tariffs on our friends around the world that they are not engaging with us to the level they could be to have a clear focus against China.

We need to not isolate our friends but gather friends and say that China and their policies are clearly a worldwide issue, and it needs to be resolved. Worldwide collaboration is going to be the only way that we are going to really isolate an economy as large as China.

I encourage our administration to resolve trade issues worldwide and resolve tariff issues with our friends worldwide. Instead of saying it is a national security threat with Canada and Mexico and others, and so we need to have steel and aluminum tariffs, see the real national security threat that we have from China, and gather a cooperative group and focus on that one area.

One of those areas is those 301 tariffs that I mentioned before. Any tariffs that go into place must first and foremost not hurt American consumers, American companies, and American workers. My concern is that 301 tariffs—as they have grown—will hurt and are currently hurting American consumers, American employees, and American companies.

The 301 tariffs—these are products that are manufactured in China. They are often designed so the engineering, the marketing, all of those things, the design of those—the intellectual property is here in the United States. Companies in the United States look for manufacturing expertise. They find expertise in certain types of products, like electronics, lighting, and other things, where there is a lot of that manufacturing and expertise—in China. It is a natural thing to say: There is a large body of groups and individuals and technology that is already there to do it. Let's do the manufacturing there and the design and engineering here.

It makes sense just on the supply chain function.

This administration has laid down tariffs—so far, three different tiers of tariffs.

The first tier. Every American company was allowed to say “Is there any other place that can do it?” and to ask for exclusions through that process. If they could find exclusions, they could petition the government and get out of it.

The second tier. They were also allowed to ask for exclusions through the process, to ask for basically a waiver, to say: This is the best place to do it. There is no other competition. There is no one pressuring us not to do it here.

But when the third and largest tier came out—\$200 billion in products—no exclusion process was given for these American companies. A 10-percent tariff was laid down on these companies. Here is what that means. If you are a company that produces a consumer electronic or lighting or one of the other resources that is manufactured in China, most of the people you are selling it to—you made a contract a year or two ago on what the price would be.

Whether selling to Lowe's or Home Depot or Walmart or Best Buy or whatever it may be, you made a deal about how much you are going to sell that product for and how much you are going to sell. With a 10-percent tariff laid down, who pays that tariff? It is not going to be the end user initially because the contract has already been made. It is not going to be the Chinese manufacturing location. It is going to be the companies doing the production in the United States. The American workers and the American companies pay the brunt of all of those, and, by the way, there is no way to file an exemption on this group. For \$200 billion worth of products, Americans are actually facing the brunt of that.

So far, Americans have paid \$12 billion in tariffs. It is not punishing the Chinese; it is punishing us. By the end of the year, if this continues, those contracts will have run out, and they will be repricing consumer electronics products all over the country, and the American consumer will be the one to pay higher prices on this. So 301 tariffs disproportionately hurt those in the middle class and those in poverty who have fixed incomes. This needs to be resolved.

First and foremost, there needs to be a way to have a waiver process. As we have done in the first two sections, there is no opportunity to get it out of the third and largest group. It is a reasonable thing for American companies to say: How can we actually produce this?

I have partnered with Senator COONS in the Senate and Representatives KIND and WALORSKI in the House, and we put together a basic bill dealing with import tax relief, dealing with this 301, laying down for the first time how we would actually manage tariffs in the days ahead and what exclusion process there would be and has to be.

It is reasonable to have a predictable level to benefit the American consumer, especially those in poverty and with fixed incomes, and to benefit American workers. We can't have tariffs on a foreign country that actually hurt American workers. That is an issue we still have to resolve. I am glad to have a partnership with Senator COONS to work on that, and we hope to get that done this year to guard workers for the future.

Along with that, in any trade negotiations, we have what is called trade promotion authority. We have basic standards. An example would be environmental concerns. We don't want to work with another country that is ignoring environmental concerns. We are concerned about where we are in the environment—the air we breathe and the water we drink. That is important to us as Americans because we want to protect our families. We understand it pushes up the cost of some products, but the long-term benefit is greater, and we are very careful in evaluating our regulations. When we overregulate and it drives up costs, we push back on that, saying that we don't want to overregulate and drive up costs, but we want to have clean air and water.

For the Chinese, that is not so. In many areas of China, you can't breathe, and on a regular daily basis people wear masks over their faces because of the exhaust, the fumes, and the toxic air they breathe, based on their limitations on the environmental quality of the air. It is becoming a worldwide issue because of the amount of trash the Chinese are allowing to go into the Pacific Ocean, filling the Pacific Ocean with plastic and trash.

Part of our trade promotion authority and one of the agreements we have is to lean in and have dialogue with individuals we trade with, saying that we want to resolve trade issues, but we also want to protect our environment, and we think it is a reasonable thing to do.

It is reasonable, as Americans, to place a high value on religious liberty and human rights. It is part of our trade promotion authority and, in fact, an area I worked very hard to get implemented as a part of our trade promotion authority—that when we negotiate trade issues with countries, we also deal with the basic issue of human rights and freedom of religion.

We, as Americans, believe that our religious belief is our most precious private property, and no government should be able to step in and steal private property. Your most private possession is your faith. Every individual should have the right to have any faith they choose, be able to change their faith, or have no faith at all. That should be their choice, but that is not so in China right now.

In fact, in 1999, the State Department designated China as what is called “a country of particular concern.” This

deals with the issue of religious freedom in their country and China's aggressive move to limit religious freedom in their country. Recently, President Xi has worked toward secularization of religion to try to make everything in the country—every area—equal and the same, stripping away religious symbols from buildings of all types, stripping away religious practice that is not approved by the Government of China. This discrimination has impacted Tibetan Buddhists, Muslims, Catholics, and Falun Gong practitioners. It has led to the destruction of houses of worship, demolition of religious educational institutions, restrictions in the practice and study of faith by people of whatever culture or language, restrictions on religious attire, religious rituals, and imprisonment of religious leaders and followers.

In fact, right now we are tracking the imprisonment of a pastor named Pastor Cao. Pastor Cao and his wife are American citizens, and his children are American citizens. He is allowed to have legal residency in the United States, but 2 years ago as of this month, he was imprisoned in China.

Pastor Cao has a hearing coming up on the 22nd of this month, and we hope for Pastor Cao and for his family that hearing happens. It has been postponed again and again.

On the 22nd of March, we anticipate the Chinese Government will have his hearing and will give him a moment to have this finally resolved. There is no reason for Pastor Cao to be in prison right now.

We don't want to see, in China, forced reeducation facilities, intimidation, lack of medical attention for people of faith. Let's see for the people of China what people worldwide have the opportunity to have—freedom of religion. In our trade conversations we think it is highly advisable to engage in that type of dialogue for people like Pastor Cao, whose children are looking forward to holding him in their arms again and for him to be released.

China is an important part of the worldwide conversation. They are a powerful nation. We should be able to work together on key issues. The Chinese Government needs to determine how they are going to trade and if they are a developing country or if they are really a worldwide leader.

We need to determine how we are going to do fair trade with them, and we need to determine who they are going to be on the world stage, dealing with human rights and dignity. It is not all about sameness of a world; this is about the power of the individual within the country.

I am sure the people of China are very proud of their country. We would love to engage with the people of China, and we appreciate their engagement with us as we receive thousands of Chinese students and visitors every single year.

This is a point where we should resolve the trade issues that have been

lingering for decades now, and we hope we can get to an agreement that is right, from our administration being attentive so that the tariffs don't hurt our own citizens to the Chinese economy that is slowing down due to the ongoing trade conversation. Let's work toward the benefit of all of our people to see if we can't resolve trade issues together.

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

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

ENES KANTER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I have come to the Senate floor this afternoon to talk about a young man named Enes Kanter, who plays basketball for my hometown Portland Trail Blazers.

I wish I could be here to run through Saturday's box score or preview tonight's match up against the Clippers, but, unfortunately, Mr. Kanter is facing dangers that are far more serious than the outcome of any basketball game. His family is now facing those dangers as well.

Mr. Kanter is from Turkey. His love of basketball brought him to the United States in 2009, and he was selected third overall in the 2011 NBA draft by the Utah Jazz. Enes is a bright, intelligent, and soft-spoken guy. He pays attention to what goes on back home in Turkey; he cares deeply about his country's future; and he rightfully believes that he ought to be able to express his opinion as he sees it on these important issues. For that, Turkey's President Erdogan has labeled Enes Kanter a terrorist.

President Erdogan and his cronies are too thin-skinned to tolerate Enes Kanter's eloquence and inspirational dissent off the court. Erdogan revoked Mr. Kanter's passport based on accusations that lacked any real proof. President Erdogan has demanded that INTERPOL issue a red notice on Mr. Kanter, which means he has to stay in the United States whenever his team travels outside the country. It has kept Mr. Kanter from going to London and going to Toronto.

As Mr. Kanter himself wrote in a recent Washington Post opinion article, "I am definitely a target, and Erdogan wants me back in Turkey where he can silence me."

Following strategies right out of "The Dictator's Playbook," Erdogan has responded like a coward to Mr. Kanter's criticism and has tried to silence him by threatening his family—his family who still lives in Turkey.

Mr. Kanter recently told reporters that his father would be going on trial this week, in just a few days, in Turkey. The details of that trial are shrouded in the fog of secrecy—where

authoritarians thrive. Yet Mr. Kanter's powerful words cut cleanly through that fog just a few days ago. When asked what his father was on trial for, Enes said for "just being my dad."

Enes is a young man who has already sacrificed so much. As a teenager, he moved thousands of miles away from home to pursue his dream of playing in the NBA. For the crime of just voicing his opinions on the future of Turkey—a nation that is supposedly an American ally—Enes was labeled a terrorist. Years ago, he cut off contact with his family because he believed Erdogan would punish them for speaking with someone who was critical of Erdogan's government. Now, without being able to contact them, Enes has to live in constant fear of what is going to happen to his loved ones back home.

So, as I stand on the floor of the U.S. Senate, I want to make sure there isn't any confusion on two important topics.

First, Mr. Erdogan, the world is watching how you treat Enes Kanter's father this week and in the weeks ahead. Mr. Erdogan, the world is watching how you treat Mr. Kanter both when he is on American soil and when Enes travels abroad.

Second, the United States cannot and must not stand idly by while Enes and his family are subjected to this autocratic torment.

I have called on Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to raise Mr. Kanter's case with his counterparts, and I have asked our Secretary of State to state clearly that our country will actively resist these contrived red notices or extradition requests. The fact is, our State Department should be taking all of the necessary steps to ensure that Mr. Kanter can travel safely with the Trail Blazers or to advocate for the freedom of his people. Enes Kanter is a young man—an American resident—who is exercising the right to free speech that is enshrined in our Constitution. The United States must not stay silent in the face of such a blatant attack on free thought and expression.

In my view, this is not exactly an isolated issue. It is certainly not just a sports story. The situation ought to be examined in a broader context—a government that is taking a supposed NATO ally down an increasingly authoritarian road.

When the Saudis brazenly killed Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi in a consulate in Turkey, Erdogan styled himself a fierce defender of journalists, but this is a classic situation of actions speaking louder than words, for Erdogan jails more journalists than do the Saudis. In fact, Erdogan jails more journalists than do the Russians, the Chinese, and more than any other authoritarian regime that is out there.

Erdogan does not only target journalists or independent media outlets, all of whom knowingly, bravely risk such oppressive actions when they just want to report the truth; Erdogan has thrown peaceful demonstrators into

jail as well. Just last Friday, he cracked down on people who were assembling peacefully in Istanbul for International Women's Day.

It gets worse—worse because Erdogan is brazen enough to push his assaults on democratic norms right here on American soil. Less than 2 years ago, Erdogan gave the go-ahead for his security detail to brutally attack non-violent demonstrators right here in the Nation's Capital. That assault, to emphasize the point, took place on American soil—right here, just a short walk from the White House. Americans ought to be outraged over this sort of behavior, especially from a supposed friend and ally like Turkey.

It has not gone unnoticed that Erdogan recently doubled down on his decision to make a major military purchase from Vladimir Putin's Russia, and his use of fraudulent INTERPOL red notices is right out of Vladimir Putin's playbook.

It is past time for the State Department to stand up to this behavior. The State Department needs to call this behavior out. It is not a far-off threat to other people the Federal Government can conveniently ignore. Erdogan's abuses are happening right here in our country, on American soil. People like Enes Kanter are the victims.

As a younger man back in the day, I went to school on a basketball scholarship. I often tell people at my townhall meetings that I wanted to play in the NBA—a ridiculous idea because I was too small, but I made up for it by being quite slow. My abilities on the court were certainly light years removed from Enes Kanter's, but I can tell you, from playing in college, I certainly remember the value of a full-court press. I am firmly committed and will state once more that our State Department must put a full-court press on Turkey to treat Mr. Kanter—and all of those who speak out against Erdogan's totalitarian regime—with respect for their human rights and freedom of expression.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the President's inauguration over 2 years ago was a historic moment. Though my candidate didn't win, I attended it in my capacity here in the U.S. Senate and saw a lot of people, but the one person I saw who was nothing short of remarkable was Jimmy Carter.

The reason why it was remarkable to see the former President, who left office in 1980—39 years ago—was the fact that most everyone had counted him

for dead. If you will remember, he was diagnosed with a form of cancer that was supposedly fatal. People were talking about making their last trip to Plains to attend his church on Sunday and hear his last sermon. I thought it was over, and most everyone did, too, but then something amazing happened. There was a new drug that came along, and it turned out to be just the right drug to save his life.

When I saw Jimmy Carter a little over 2 years ago, I thought to myself: I never thought I would see him again, and I never thought I would see him looking this good.

Those things don't just happen. Those drugs aren't just discovered. They are the product of a great deal of work and research and application.

I remember asking Dr. Collins at the National Institutes of Health what Jimmy Carter's story was. He explained that early research at NIH, which is the premier medical research facility in the world, had led to some new possibilities in treating cancers. It just so happened that Jimmy Carter's cancer was responsive to that drug. Others have been, too, and I hope that even more are discovered.

The good news is that the U.S. Senate and Congress understand this. Do you know what has happened over the last 4 years? What has happened over the last 4 years is a dramatic show of bipartisanship when it comes to medical research. ROY BLUNT, from Missouri, is in my neighboring State. I, of course, represent Illinois. He is the head of the Appropriations subcommittee that funds the National Institutes of Health. LAMAR ALEXANDER, from the State of Tennessee, is the chairman of the authorizing committee for the National Institutes of Health. PATTY MURRAY, my Democratic colleague from the State of Washington, serves in both the appropriations and authorization committees and couldn't be a stronger advocate when it comes to medical research. We have a little team together, the four of us, and we said we were going to do something or try to do something each year.

Here is what we set out to do. We set out to take the appropriations for the National Institutes of Health and give it 5 percent real growth every single year—because Dr. Collins told me: If you do that, Senator, then the people who do the research believe that next year could be a good year, too, to continue their research, and they will stick with it, and when they stick with it, amazing things happen.

So we did. I want to give credit to Senator BLUNT, Senator ALEXANDER, and Senator MURRAY. I was happy to be a part of the effort. For 4 straight years, we added 5 percent real growth to the National Institutes of Health. In total, when you look at all of the increase of that period, there is a 30-percent increase in medical research in a period of 4 years and more to follow—more to follow, if we get a chance.

That is why, when we received President Trump's budget yesterday, it was

such a heartbreaking disappointment. He has given up in terms of our continued increases in medical research. In fact, he wants to cut \$5 billion out of the appropriations for the National Institutes of Health.

Each of us decides why we want to be here and what is worth fighting for. I think medical research is worth fighting for. The team that has been fighting for it has been a bipartisan team in the Senate, and I hope they felt the same way I did—a feeling of real disappointment in President Trump's budget.

I have to tell you that he believes his wall is the most important thing on Earth. I believe medical research and saving lives are among the most important things on Earth. As for cutting money out of medical research—for whatever reason you are going to use it—I just have to say to the President and others that you are in for a fight. There are a lot of us who are standing up and representing patients that are counting on that research to find a breakthrough and families who are dealing with Alzheimer's.

How many friends of mine and how many families could I tell you about who have some form of Parkinson's or dementia or Alzheimer's that has changed the family dramatically? Can we and should we be looking for more medical research to delay the onset of Alzheimer's and, God willing, to find a cure some day?

We are reaching a point where this is going to absolutely take over the medical budget of America if we are not careful. Shortsighted cuts in medical research jeopardize those new cures for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and dementia.

The President is just wrong in his priorities—just wrong. Some of the other things he has done in the budget are equally troubling. According to his budget request, the President wants to cut \$1.5 trillion from Medicaid—\$1.5 million from Medicaid.

What is the Medicaid Program? It is health insurance for poor people. Who are those poor people? In my State of Illinois, out of all the babies born in my State each year, half of them are paid for by Medicaid. There are low-income moms delivering babies—we hope healthy babies—because Medicaid as health insurance is there to help them.

But that isn't the biggest charge on the Medicaid Program. The biggest charge on the Medicaid Program—that health insurance program—is for your mom, your grandmother, or your father. When they reach that stage in life where nothing is left, when there is no savings and maybe a little Social Security check, and they have medical needs, it is the Medicaid Program that comes through for them.

If we cut what the President is suggesting, \$1.5 trillion in Medicaid, which of those groups do you want to reduce care for—the mothers with their new babies or the parents and grandparents at a stage in life where they have no

place to turn and no savings to turn to? That is not a good outcome.

Then there was the suggested cut of \$845 billion in the Medicare Program. Medicare is health insurance for the elderly. When you reach age 65, you have paid into it through your working life and you have that Medicare insurance plan. The President cuts \$845 billion out of Medicare.

Does Medicare work? There is one way to test it. What is the life expectancy of senior citizens today, after Medicare, compared to their life expectancy before Medicare? It is dramatically different. People are living longer and more independent lives because Medicare gives them quality care when they reach age 65, and President Trump believes we should cut that program by \$845 billion. That, to me, is shortsighted.

When it comes to our health, is there anything more important? When it comes to the health of our families, of seniors, of the disabled, and of women who are about to have a baby, is there anything more important than to make sure that turns out right? It is hard for me to think of what it might be.

The cut to the Centers for Disease Control of \$1.3 billion in the President's budget is another one you just shake your head at. The Centers for Disease Control shows up when no one else will enter the room, when they are facing diseases that are life-threatening. For the Ebola crisis in western Africa and the fear that it would spread throughout that continent and maybe to the United States, it was the Centers for Disease Control that stepped in and said: We are going to tackle it. We will take it on.

They did, and they did it successfully.

We are only one plane ticket away from some of those diseases making it into the United States. I want the Centers for Disease Control to stop them in their tracks before they come to the United States, and the President cuts \$1.3 billion.

The SNAP food stamp program is another one—a cut of \$220 billion. This is a program that provides supplements for food for families. Many of them are working families who just don't make enough money to get by. I can't tell you how many food pantries I visited in Illinois where the people who run it—many of them volunteers with churches and charities—say: The people who are coming in to see us now are folks who are working and not making enough money.

Some of them qualify for food stamps, and some of them don't, but feeding America should be fundamental in this country; shouldn't it? Shouldn't that be one of the basic things we pride ourselves on as Americans?

Remember when President Trump spoke about the aging infrastructure of America during his campaign? Even though I wasn't supporting his candidacy, I certainly cheered those re-

marks. Infrastructure is bipartisan. The roads and bridges in Arizona and Illinois and in every other State all need help, and they count on us in Congress to come through with it. Well, the budget that the President released this week slashes infrastructure funding by 22 percent. When we should be putting more into making a more modern and more efficient infrastructure to build our economy, the President cuts it. He cuts 31 percent from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Today, I had a visit from the Illinois corn growers. We are proud. There is a lot of corn in Illinois, and we are proud of being No. 2 to Iowa, I might add, when it comes to corn production. But do you know what they talked about in addition to ag programs? They talked about the locks and dams on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Those are the avenues of commerce for agriculture in the Midwest, and they are old and getting older and falling apart.

The Army Corps of Engineers are counted on to modernize them, and the President cuts 31 percent of their budget—one-third of their budget—and 16 percent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The President's budget completely ignores the threat of climate change, cutting the Environmental Protection Agency by 30 percent.

Here is one that hits home. The President cut the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by an outrageous 90 percent. They did a survey a few years ago and asked the people of Chicago, the city I am proud to represent: What do you think is the defining characteristic of the city?

The overwhelming response was Lake Michigan. That beautiful lake, a part of the Great Lakes, is not just a source of pride, but it is a source of good, clean drinking water and of recreation and commerce. We know it is threatened in every direction, from chemical runoffs to invasive species, and we fight to make sure those lakes will survive for another generation. The President cuts the funds for that effort by 90 percent.

These are just a few examples of decisions made in the President's budget.

Needless to say, I have saved the best for last. Though he has cut everything I just talked about—from medical research to protecting our Great Lakes, to transportation and infrastructure, to taking care of senior citizens, to making sure that health insurance is there for expectant mothers—the President needs \$8.5 billion for his almighty wall, this wall on our southern border.

We have given the President 120 miles of fencing—new and replacement fencing—over the first 2 years he was in office. That is 120 miles to add to the 640 already on our border. Do you know how many miles have been built, as I stand here today, for the last 2 years that we have given the President? None. It takes a long time to build these fences, and the President is

learning it the hard way. Yet he wants to take money out of programs across the board on the possibility that they may be built in the future—needed or not. Congress needs to step up—and I hope on a bipartisan basis—to assert our constitutional authority and to find a bipartisan way to put together a budget that is much more balanced and that realizes the real values of America.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, Senate Republicans are looking to confirm two more circuit court nominations, which would make a total of six circuit court confirmations this year.

None of these six circuit court nominees have had any prior judicial experience. Some have had very little courtroom experience at all.

Four of them have been put forward over the opposition of Senators in their home State: Eric Miller, who was opposed by both Washington Senators; Chad Readler and Eric Murphy, who were opposed by Senator BROWN; and now Paul Matey, who was nominated over the objections of both Senators BOOKER and MENENDEZ.

I believe the Republican majority is making a serious mistake by abandoning blue slips for circuit court seats. They have set a precedent that could affect each and every one of our States.

Already, the Trump administration has nominated a person for a Ninth Circuit California seat, Daniel Bress, who has only lived in California for 1 year since high school and who practices in Washington, DC.

It is absurd to see a nominee to a California-based seat with such minimal ties to California. That is what the Republicans have brought about by abandoning circuit court blue slips. It is a big mistake.

This week, Majority Leader MCCONNELL plowed right through with a vote on Paul Matey, President Trump's nominee for a Third Circuit seat based in New Jersey. Mr. Matey had recently served for 4 years as the general counsel for University Hospital in Newark, N.J. While Mr. Matey was there, a patient safety organization gave this hospital annual grades of "C," "D," "D," and "F" for patient safety. The grades got worse while Mr. Matey was there.

Previously, Mr. Matey had been a longtime staff member to New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. He served as Governor Christie's chief ethics officer and deputy chief counsel. Mr. Matey said he provided a rigorous system of ethics training, monitoring, and oversight for staff members in the Governor's office; yet it is unclear what steps, if any, he took to ensure that ethics rules were followed. It certainly appears that Mr. Matey's ethics guidance fell way short during the so-called Bridgegate scandal in 2013. That is when Christie administration officials arranged to close lanes on the George Washington Bridge as retaliation

against a mayor who had not endorsed the Governor's reelection. The deputy chief of staff, Bridget Kelly, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for her role in this scandal.

In addition to being a former staffer to a Republican-elected official, Mr. Matey is a longtime member of the Federalist Society. But just because a nominee meets the ideological litmus tests of the Republican Party and the Federalist Society doesn't mean he has the experience and judgment to be a good circuit court judge. More likely, it is a sign the nominee will be an ideological judge.

New Jersey's two Senators opposed Mr. Matey's nomination, but the White House and Senate Republicans plowed right through with this controversial nominee.

Also this week, Senator MCCONNELL has scheduled a vote on D.C. Circuit nominee Neomi Rao. The DC Circuit is often considered the second most important court in the land, and typically the nominees to this court bring with them a wealth of legal and judicial experience.

Ms. Neomi Rao has virtually no practical experience in law. She has never tried a case in court. She has never argued an appeal in court. She has never made an appearance in an American court, and she has filed one court brief in her entire career.

How in the world could someone suggest that this woman get a lifetime appointment to the second highest court in the land, never having tried a case, never having argued an appeal, never having made an appearance in the court, and having filed only one court brief in her entire career?

She was a political appointee of the President, working at the Agency known as the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. When she was there, she set out to rescind a lot of Federal regulations—regulations, however, that might have been better left on the books—that protected workers, the environment, and Americans facing discrimination. She was out to put an end to those regulatory protections.

She has been an academic. She has written a lot. In the year 2009, she wrote: "The President may also decide not to follow Supreme Court precedent, and in the rare instance, may decide against the enforcement of a particular judgment."

That would be considered a radical statement by most standards. It is a radical view of Executive power that Ms. Rao put forward. It flies in the face of Supreme Court rules and decisions, where the final word on constitutional interpretation was decided and established two centuries ago in *Marbury v. Madison*.

Ms. Rao has also published a number of articles in college, in which I can't even describe to you what she was thinking. They were shocking and inflammatory writings on issues involving race, sexual orientation, sexual assault, and date rape.

In April of 1993, this woman—destined for the circuit court and a lifetime appointment, where she will use her judgment on a daily basis to decide the outcomes of cases and the legal framework of America—wrote: "Date rape exemplifies the attempts of the nurture feminists to develop an artificial, alternative world in which women are free from sexual danger and 'no always means no.'"

In October of 1994, she wrote of date rape survivors: "If she drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was part of her choice."

In September of 1994, she wrote that a group at Yale called the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Co-Op was "spreading myths about AIDS."

In November of 1993, she wrote:

Myths of sexual and racial oppression propagate themselves, create hysteria, and finally lead to the formation of some whining new group. One can only hope to scream, "Perspective, just a little perspective, darling!"

These are a few examples of writings, which are difficult to describe in the fairest terms and inflammatory at the least.

While she wrote a letter to the Judiciary Committee apologizing for some of these writings, what does it say about her values, her thinking, and whether she should be in this legal position for the rest of her life?

The bottom line is this. Ms. Rao has minimal practical experience in the law. Her legal views are beyond extreme, and her personal views, as reflected in her own personal writings, are deeply troubling.

I would like to say to the President and those who are in charge of picking his nominees: Please, isn't there a good Republican conservative somewhere in this area who has actually been in a courtroom, who has actually made an appearance in a case, who has maybe even tried a case, who has maybe even filed a motion, or who would know a courthouse if they saw it and not on television? Is that too much to ask for a lifetime appointment to the second highest court in the land?

This nominee may be ideologically perfect for somebody who decided she was destined for this court, but this nomination is not a perfection when it comes to the legal system in America. It is an imperfection, which, if approved by the Senate, is going to be with us for a lifetime.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF NEOMI J. RAO

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I come to the floor to oppose the nomination of Neomi Rao to be a judge of the second most powerful court in the country.

My decision boiled down to just this one question: Will Ms. Rao advance equal justice for all or will she continue to tilt the courts in favor of the rich and powerful?

Ms. Rao's record shows that she will continue to tilt our courts in favor of the powerful few and leave everyone else behind, and that is why I oppose her nomination, but that is also exactly why she was selected by the President for this important lifetime appointment.

In the last 2 years, with the Trump administration controlling the White House and Republicans, until January, controlling both Houses of Congress, the rich and powerful have had unparalleled access to the Federal Government, and they have been terrifyingly effective at making Washington work even better for themselves.

Just think of some of their high-profile victories: a tax plan that takes away money from working Americans and gives it straight to the biggest corporations and wealthiest individuals, rollbacks of countless protections to protect public health, consumer welfare, and environmental safety. Those are just the policies that people have been paying attention to.

For decades now, billionaire-funded rightwing groups have operated in the shadows to take over our courts by installing rightwing judges who will put the interests of giant corporations and wealthy individuals ahead of everyone else. For those special interests, Neomi Rao is the ideal candidate.

In 2017, I came to the floor to oppose Ms. Rao's nomination to lead the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs—the small but powerful Agency that reviews and signs off on economically significant Federal rules. I was concerned about Ms. Rao's advocacy for weakening or handcuffing Federal Agencies that are there to help protect the public from giant corporations that prey on consumers, that mistreat their workers, and that pollute our environment.

I worried that confirming her to lead OIRA would threaten the health and safety of all Americans. For example, Ms. Rao attacked the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—the Agency that has returned \$12 billion to working families who were cheated—arguing against its authority to protect consumers from predatory lending practices.

That was exactly the kind of candidate that Big Business and billionaires wanted, so the Republican-controlled Senate confirmed Ms. Rao, and the all-too-predictable happened.

Under Ms. Rao's leadership, OIRA approved the EPA's decision to roll back important environmental positions, OIRA rubberstamped changes at the Department of Labor that allowed certain employers to hide workplace injuries, and Ms. Rao blocked a proposed measure from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that would have helped uncover pay discrimination. The list goes on.

Ms. Rao pairs her pro-corporate stance with harmful, regressive views about sexual assault. In college, she wrote an article placing blame on the

survivors of sexual assault if they drank alcohol, claiming that such behavior was “part of their choice.”

At her hearing, she refused to fully disclaim this line of thought, claiming she was just recommending certain actions women could take to make themselves less likely to be assaulted.

If that wasn't worrisome enough, Ms. Rao also argued in a book review that public protections for women, for people of color, and for Americans with disabilities are bad because they have eroded the power of traditional elites, going so far as to call affirmative action the “bane of all good elitists.”

For President Trump, congressional Republicans, and their billionaire buddies, Ms. Rao's commitment to protecting the interests of the rich and powerful over everyone else was a feature of her tenure at OIRA, not a bug. Now, as a reward for spending a year and a half rolling back public protections and rubberstamping corporate America's wish list, the Trump administration has selected her to be a judge on the second highest court in this country.

At the DC Circuit, Ms. Rao would have even more power to stop Federal efforts to protect Americans from abusive corporations and billionaires. She would rule on attempts to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink. She would have the power to overturn protections for workers from unsafe working conditions, and she would have the chance to upend rules to prevent big corporations from discriminating against people of color, LGBTQ Americans, and other marginalized communities.

Throughout her career, Ms. Rao has made very clear what her preferred hierarchy looks like: corporations and billionaires up at the top, and everybody else at the bottom.

As a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ms. Rao will have an opportunity to practice that philosophy at an even larger scale.

Madam President, our Federal courts are supposed to defend equal justice for all Americans, not cater to the wealthy and well connected. Neomi Rao's record shows that she will continue the corporate takeover of our courts.

A vote for her is a vote against the millions of Americans who have already borne the consequences of the radical, pro-corporate policies she has advanced throughout her career. That is why I believe the Senate should reject her nomination.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM BEACH

Madam President, I also want to express my strong opposition to the nomination of William Beach to run the Bureau of Labor Statistics. BLS's accurate and impartial analysis is crucial to policymakers, workers, and businesses.

In Mr. Beach, President Trump has chosen someone who has spent years at so-called think tanks that are funded by radical rightwing billionaires pushing so-called studies that criticize So-

cial Security and support draconian budget cuts and tax cuts for the richest Americans—studies that have since been discredited. That is not whom we need running one of our country's most important statistical Agencies.

Besides Mr. Beach's radical, pro-corporate background, I want to join Ranking Member MURRAY in expressing my serious concern with my Republican colleagues' refusal to confirm Democratic nominees to other important Agencies for workers—the National Labor Relations Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. This obstruction is a total departure from precedent, and it is preventing these Agencies from protecting the rights of millions of American workers to bargain collectively and to go to work without worrying about illegal discrimination and harassment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for probably about 15 minutes, and should Senator VAN HOLLEN from Maryland—who is scheduled to arrive—arrive, that I be able to engage in colloquy with him.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, there is now no doubt that climate change is happening, that it is caused by human activity, and that we must act now to avoid the worse of it.

As science guy, Bill Nye, has said: “Climate change is happening, it's our fault, and we've got to get to work on this.”

For too long we have seen the fossil fuel industry and its army of front groups use manufactured doubt, phony doubt, as their weapon of choice to obstruct any solution. Well, science studies things, and it even studies doubt. A scientific study published by Nature has found that the evidence of human-caused climate change occurring has now achieved what scientists call the five sigma level of certainty.

What does that mean? This scientific standard means there is 99.9999 percent confidence that Earth is warming due to human activity. Put another way, there is a 1 in 3.5 million chance that human-caused warming is not occurring.

To compare, you have a 1 in 15,000 chance that you will be struck by lightning in your life. You have a 1 in 100,000 chance of being born a conjoined twin, and you have a 1 in 3.5 million chance the fossil fuel industry's phony doubt about climate change is true.

Yet, just one Republican has signed on to Senator CARPER's resolution stating the basics—that climate change is real and caused by human activity, and Congress should take action now to address it.

In an editorial last week—this one here—even the middle-of-the-road USA Today said climate change is “a true

crisis facing the United States and the world,” that “fossil fuel polluters keep using the atmosphere as a free waste dump,” and, finally, that “[t]he public is growing impatient.”

Well, last week, here on the Senate floor, we actually had something resembling a climate debate break out. It was a little weird. As a debate, it coughed and binged and sputtered, and we didn't really engage. Many of our Republican colleagues had a very hard time mentioning the actual phrase “climate change.” They found it impossible to talk at all about the costs of climate change—the floods, the fires, the rising seas, the worst yet to come. No one could mention the 1.5 degree centigrade limit that we need to meet.

They mostly wanted to have fun bashing an imaginary Koch brothers-invented version of the Green New Deal. However, some did say that they accepted the science. In particular, I was happy to see the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee clearly accept that climate change is real, that it is caused by humans, and that we have a responsibility to do something about it.

I appreciate that he pointed to the bipartisan work he and I have done on carbon capture and removal. I enjoyed working with him on that legislation, and I hope we can get its successor bill passed too. We just had a very good bipartisan committee hearing on it, but put those two bills together, and you are still nowhere near the scale of action that science demands.

Our scientists report that we must aim for net zero carbon emissions by the middle of this century to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. Carbon capture will be a part of that, but there is zero chance it alone will be sufficient, and any plan that falls short of that mark amounts to its own diluted brand of climate denial. Bashing the Green New Deal doesn't solve the problem.

This is a good moment for me to interrupt my remarks because I see the majority leader on the floor. If I may, I will yield to him to close out the Senate and then have myself and Senator VAN HOLLEN recognized at the conclusion of the majority leader's comments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Rao nomination expire at 12 noon tomorrow; 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. I further ask unanimous consent that if cloture is invoked on the Beach nomination, all postcloture time expire at 1:45 p.m. tomorrow; and 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. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. 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.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 19-12 concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$240.5 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

CHARLES W. HOOPER,
Lieutenant General, USA, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-12

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$219.6 million.

Other \$ 20.9 million.

Total \$240.5 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Australia has requested to buy defense articles and services from the U.S. Government in

support of the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS).

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred eight (108) AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Six (6) AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM Air Vehicles Instrumented.

Six (6) Spare AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Non-MDE: Also included are containers, weapon system support equipment, support and test equipment, site survey, transportation, repair and return warranties, spare and repair parts, publications and technical data, maintenance, personnel training, and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services, and other related elements of logistics support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (AT-D-YAI).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: AT-D-YLD.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 12, 2019.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Australia—AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles

The Government of Australia has requested to buy up to 108 AIM-120C-7 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); six (6) AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM Air Vehicles Instrumented; and six (6) spare AIM-120C-7 AMRAAM guidance sections. Also included are containers, weapon system support equipment, support and test equipment, site survey, transportation, repair and return warranties, spare and repair parts, publications and technical data, maintenance, personnel training, and training equipment, U.S. Government and contractor representative engineering, logistics, and technical support services, and other related elements of logistics support. These items are in support of Australia's purchase of the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS). The estimated total program cost is \$240.5 million.

This sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a major ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Western Pacific. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist our ally in developing and maintaining a strong and ready self-defense capability.

This proposed sale is in support of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Project LAND 19 Phase 7B for acquisition of a ground based air and missile defense capability. Australia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, Arizona. There are no known offset arrangements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Australia.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 19-12

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. AIM-120C Advance Medium Range Air-to-Air (AMRAAM) is a radar guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic counter measures, and interception of high flying and low flying and maneuvering targets. AIM-120C Captive Air Training Missiles are non-functioning, inert missile rounds used for armament load training, and which also simulates the correct weight and balance of live missiles during captive carry on training sorties. The AIM-120C-7, as employed in the National Advanced Surface-to-Air System (NASAMS), protects national assets from imminent hostile air threats. The AMRAAM All Up Round is classified CONFIDENTIAL, major components and subsystems range from UNCLASSIFIED to CONFIDENTIAL, and technology data and other documentation are classified up to SECRET.

2. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

3. A determination has been made that Australia can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

4. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Australia.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HARRY C. LABONDE, JR.

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today I recognize the distinguished career of Harry C. LaBonde, Jr., who, following decades of service in the State of Wyoming, is retiring this week.

Harry began his career shortly after graduating from college with a civil engineering degree. His first job allowed him to specialize on issues related to water and wastewater treatment. In 1991, he became the public works director for the city of Riverton. He went on to serve in the same position for the city of Laramie, until he later became city manager. For the past 15 years, Harry worked for the State of Wyoming, first as Wyoming's Deputy State Engineer and, more recently, as director of the Wyoming Water Development Office.

When at the State Engineer's office, Harry was involved with addressing a backlog of coal-bed methane reservoir permits in the Powder River Basin and transitioning the office from paper to electronic records, which required the modernization of millions of documents related to water and permits.

Wyoming was also facing severe water shortages due to an extended period of drought, requiring Harry to make the difficult decisions resulting from those shortages.

As director, Harry was instrumental in carrying out key responsibilities of Wyoming's Water Development Office: developing Wyoming's water resources through sound water planning and use. Water is a precious resource in the west. It is key to maintaining an excellent quality of life, economic security, and growth. Through Harry's leadership, numerous water storage projects are underway in the State, which will help Wyoming realize its water storage potential for today and to serve communities tomorrow. Whether it is through the reconstruction of the Middle Piney Dam or the storage enhancement project at Fontenelle Reservoir, Harry understands the importance of securing water resources in the State for future Wyoming generations.

In addition to reservoir planning and construction, Harry oversaw the development of river basin plans, weather modification projects, addressing watershed threats from wildfires, and carrying out the Small Water Project Program. Water affects everyone. Making sure Wyoming's water resources are used efficiently and responsibly for the benefit of the people of Wyoming is a responsibility Harry takes very seriously.

Harry's expertise and the strong relationships he has fostered throughout the basins we share with neighboring States is invaluable. He has contributed to a number of regional water supply efforts, including the Colorado River Basin States Salinity Control Program. He also serves as Wyoming's representative on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program, a cooperative agreement with Nebraska, Colorado, and the Federal Government, to maintain water usage and development by implementing conservation practices for certain endangered and threatened fish and birds.

We are fortunate Harry chose early in his professional life to use his skills and talents to focus on water. He has dedicated his career to being a water advocate for the people of Wyoming and to finding long-term solutions to securing Wyoming's water needs. We are all better for his efforts.

I invite all members of the Senate to join me in congratulating Harry on his retirement, and wishing both him and his family much happiness and success in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO STEVE CANNON

● Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I congratulate Steve Cannon, who is retiring after a 42-year career in Idaho television.

Steve Cannon translated his deep interest in weather as a youth into a longtime career. He retired this month from his position as weatherman for KIDK Eyewitness News 3, which has

coverage in my hometown of Idaho Falls and the Pocatello area. He got his start in front of the camera in 1977, when he went to work for the former KID TV 3, but he began his broadcasting career in radio, working for a radio station in Rexburg. Leading up to his career in weather reporting, Steve graduated from Idaho Falls High School, studied journalism at Brigham Young University, served a mission in Great Britain, and finished his degree at Idaho State University.

Steve's love for his profession and deep understanding and appreciation for the people of eastern Idaho show in his thoughtful reporting. He is known for his humor, relatability, dependability, and strong work ethic. Steve has reported with agility and skill, as he has navigated significant advancements in weather reporting over the past four decades. Steve's weather reporting has shaped how countless Idahoans have planned their days, and his attentive reporting has been instrumental as he has reported on the major weather events that have had considerable impacts on lives.

In addition to his career, Steve has given his time and talent in support of service projects in the community. This includes his assistance with the creation of the Idaho Falls Citizen's Watch Patrol for the Idaho Falls Police Department.

I understand that Steve has looked forward to being able to dedicate all his time to his family and loved ones during retirement that begins as his wife also retires from teaching. I wish you both well, and thank you for your outstanding work in our community.●

REMEMBERING GEORGE DAUGHERTY

● Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, my home State has truly lost a shining star. We have lost a devoted West Virginian, a noble Army Veteran, a gifted performer, and a dear friend to all. George Daugherty's enthusiasm for life was infectious to anybody who had the privilege of knowing him, and it is an honor to recognize his life and legacy.

You could often find George on Morgantown's High Street next to the bronze statue of Don Knotts singing a rousing chorus of "Hail West Virginia." He would usually tack on a phrase at the end about beating Pitt that was met with rousing applause from those who stopped on the street to cheer him on. He was quite a character and best known as a musician, but he made a life for himself by practicing law.

Despite his musical comedy role in the Charleston jamboree, George's professionalism working on medical malpractice cases never faltered. He said he never had a bad relationship with a doctor he sued, and he generally ended up becoming friends with them. That was just who he was.

Another key component that made George the person he was, affecting his

music and life, was his unwavering patriotism. His father was a World War I veteran and instilled in him the pride and, of course, the patriotic songs that George would perform on stage, dressed in American flag-themed attire. He instilled these values in his children and grandchildren, encouraging them to be grateful for our freedom and to always remember where they have come from, and our statewide community is better for it.

It was an honor to call George my friend, a man who proudly showcased our State through performances across the Nation as "the Earl of Elkview" or "the Duke of Dunbar." He and my Uncle A. James were dear friends for many years, and I know he would have been so very proud to see all that George did to promote the State we love. Whether performing on the Capitol City Jamboree and the Mountain Stage, contributing over 50 years of excellence and professionalism practicing law, or giving back to his community, George represented the best of West Virginia, which is saying quite a lot. He was a proud representative of our beautiful State no matter where life took him.

What is most important is that he lived a full life, surrounded by dear friends and family. It is my hope that his loved ones are able to find peace, strength, and support in one another. I extend my condolences to Mary Jarvis Currence and their children, Dick, Nancy, Sallie, and Thomas, their grandchildren, Kiera, Devlin, Aidan, Jamie, and Beth, as well as to George's many dear friends and extended family. I know he is looking down on all of you with a smile. I am honored to join each of you in honoring George's memory, as well as the unwavering love he had for his family, our great Nation, and our home State.●

TRIBUTE TO DAN O'NEILL

● Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Robert F. Kennedy once said: "We want to make sure that we bequeath to our descendants a better and safer world than the one in which we live today." For nearly four decades, Dan O'Neill has dedicated himself to creating that better, safer world for future generations. As he prepares to step back from his work and enjoy a much-deserved retirement, I want to share a few thoughts about this wonderful individual.

As a young man volunteering for an NGO in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, Dan came face to face with some of the worst that humankind has to offer: extreme poverty, oppression, famine, and war. At first, he documented these horrors in photos, articles, and journals, until one day when he decided he couldn't just watch anymore. In the face of relentless horror and carnage, specifically the brutal genocide in Cambodia and coverage of the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields, Dan's conscience wouldn't allow him to just

sit by as a witness. He knew he had to act; and act he did.

In 1979, he founded the Save the Refugees Fund to give lifesaving aid to hundreds of thousands of Cambodians fleeing for their lives and safety. Three years later, he expanded on that effort by cofounding Mercy Corps, a global nongovernmental, humanitarian aid organization with the goal of alleviating suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build just, secure, and productive communities.

Thirty-eight years later, Dan has traveled the world to meet with political and religious leaders; worked on the ground to establish and run Mercy Corps programs in some of the least hospitable places on Earth; and witnessed, firsthand, natural disasters, human catastrophes, political upheavals, war, and famine. The organization that he created, Mercy Corps, has provided over \$4 billion in lifesaving assistance to more than 220 million people in need in at least 122 countries.

Today, amid the world's most dire situations, you can always count on Mercy Corps to be there, building the foundation for those just, secure, and productive communities. Where this is a desperate challenge, you are likely to find Mercy Corps at work, providing vital aid and assistance to refugees in Jordan; giving water to famine-stricken families in South Sudan; or bringing desperately needed public attention to today's worldwide refugee crisis. All of that is, in no small measure, thanks to Dan O'Neill's inexhaustible passion and leadership.

So to Dan O'Neill, who has done so much, for so many, for so long, I simply want to say, thank you. I wish him all the best as he begins this next chapter of his life.●

RECOGNIZING JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT USA

● Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, today I want to recognize Junior Achievement USA, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. In 1919, Junior Achievement opened its doors to young people, with the simple goal of helping students succeed in their future careers. This was accomplished by helping students develop skills necessary to make smart choices in their academic and economic futures.

Junior Achievement strives to positively impact students by providing skills centered on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. They focus on preparing tomorrow's workforce by bridging the gap between traditional education and the obtaining of career skills and competencies needed to succeed beyond a student's high school years. Junior Achievement provides classroom programs, capstone educational experiences, and entrepreneurship summits, all while partnering with companies who value relevant hands-on learning.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Junior Achievement impacts a diverse

population in all 50 States. Today Junior Achievement USA reaches almost 5 million students in over 22,000 classrooms across the country. It employs nearly 1,600 people and approximately 250,000 volunteers help inspire students along the way.

Throughout its history, Junior Achievement USA has had an impact on more than 110 million students, making them one of the Nation's most accomplished organizations dedicated to providing young people the skills necessary to plan for the future and create their own economic success. We need more organizations like Junior Achievement that work to empower young people and help them recognize the opportunities and realities of life and work in the 21st century. Junior Achievement USA has and will continue to be valued and appreciated for their significant contributions to the State of Colorado and to the country as well.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 12957 ON MARCH 15, 1995—PM 6

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 with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2019.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and to maintain in force com-

prehensive sanctions against Iran to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 12, 2019.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:29 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 758. An act to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account or customer transaction at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency.

H.R. 974. An act to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to provide a written report, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1122. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas.

H.R. 1414. An act to amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies.

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1. An act 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.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 758. An act to provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account or customer transaction at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 974. An act to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to provide a written report, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1122. An act to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas and expand access to opportunity areas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1414. An act to amend the duties of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) to ensure FinCEN works with Tribal law enforcement agencies, protects against all forms of terrorism, and focuses on virtual currencies; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 333. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-5).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

*Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

*Jeffrey Nadaner, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

*Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2023.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

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. UDALL (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 738. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. SMITH, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 739. A bill to protect the voting rights of Native American and Alaska Native voters; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 740. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 741. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require group and individual health insurance coverage and group health plans to provide for cost sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 742. A bill to protect children through eliminating visa loopholes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ERNST, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JONES, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 743. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), commonly known as "Merrill's Marauders", in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in the jungles of Burma during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 744. A bill to amend section 175b of title 18, United States Code, to correct a scrivener's error; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, Mr. UDALL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 745. A bill to establish the position of Climate Security Envoy within the Department of State, who shall develop policies to address security concerns with climate change and serve as a liaison with other Federal agencies and international partners on climate security issues, to express concern with, and improved preparedness for, growing security issues in the Arctic, to establish the position of Special Representative for the Arctic, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 746. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the accessibility of websites of the Department of Veterans Affairs to individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 747. A bill to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 748. A bill to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KING (for himself, Mr. BURR, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 749. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and make fully refundable the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, to increase the maximum amount excludable from gross income for employer-provided dependent care assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 750. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 751. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a penalty for assault against journalists, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 752. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. CAPITO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PETERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 753. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of receipt of outpatient observation services in a hospital toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 754. A bill to encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. HARRIS:

S. 755. A bill to require carbon monoxide detectors in certain Federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 756. A bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 757. A bill to require a study on the public health and environmental impacts of the production, transportation, storage, and use of petroleum coke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 758. A bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 759. A bill to help provide relief to State education budgets during a recovering economy, to help fulfill the Federal mandate to provide higher educational opportunities for Native American Indians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 760. A bill to enable registered apprenticeship programs to better serve veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 761. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to allow the heads of certain Executive departments to accept conditional gifts on behalf of Executive departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 762. A bill to provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 763. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 764. A bill to provide for congressional approval of national emergency declarations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental 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. RUBIO:

S. Res. 104. A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. Res. 105. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2019 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 106. A resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Negro College Fund; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 107. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Taubert; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 104

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 104, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for automatic continuing resolutions.

S. 132

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to establish the Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

S. 225

At the request of Mr. ISAKSON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) 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. 236

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 236, a bill to require a Special Counsel report, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to assist employers providing employment under special certificates issued under section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to transform their business and program models, to support individuals with disabilities to transition to competitive integrated employment, to phase out the use of such special certificates, and for other purposes.

S. 279

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) 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. 382

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to authorize a special resource study on the spread vectors of chronic wasting disease in Cervidae, and for other purposes.

S. 383

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 383, a bill to support carbon dioxide utilization and direct air capture research, to facilitate the permitting and development of carbon capture, utilization, and sequestration projects and carbon dioxide pipelines, and for other purposes.

S. 479

At the request of Mr. TOOMEY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 479, a bill to revise section 48 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes.

S. 509

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPRITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 509, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the United States Coast Guard.

S. 511

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 511, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 523

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 523, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals and systems in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with the cause of death of a registered individual, and for other purposes.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 577, a bill to require the establishment of a process for excluding articles imported from the People's Republic of China from certain duties imposed under section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, and for other purposes.

S. 621

At the request of Mr. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 621, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require each State to implement a process under which individuals who are 16 years of age may apply to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, to direct the Election Assistance Commission to make grants to States to increase the involvement of minors in public election activities, and for other purposes.

S. 670

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 670, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent, and for other purposes.

S. 678

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 678, a bill to declare English as the official language of the United States, to establish a uniform English language rule for naturalization, and to avoid misconstructions of the English language texts of the laws of the United States, pursuant to Congress' powers to provide for the general welfare of the United States and to establish a uniform rule of naturalization under article I, section 8, of the Constitution.

S. 679

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 679, a bill to exempt from the calculation of monthly income certain benefit paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 680, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 691

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 691, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance prescription drug affordability by expanding access to assistance with out-of-pocket costs under Medicare part D for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 701, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Program, and for other purposes.

S. 720

At the request of Mr. UDALL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 720, a bill to require the student loan ombudsman of the Department of Education to provide student loan data to the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 738. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for E-rate support; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, the Federal Communications Commission Schools and Libraries program, commonly known as E-Rate, has helped connect our schools and libraries to high-speed broadband. Recent changes allowed for schools to pay for Wi-Fi on campuses, recognizing that students are using laptops and other devices for learning. This bill, cosponsored by my friends Senators GARDNER, CORTEZ MASTO, and WHITEHOUSE, would allow schools to receive reimbursement for Wi-Fi on school buses—an idea inspired by a New Mexico high school student. A few years ago, a football player from Hatch Valley High School in Hatch, New Mexico told me how, after being on a bus for hours after a game, he would sit in the dark parking lot of his school doing his homework—because he didn't have high-speed broadband at home. Making Wi-Fi available on school buses is one piece to solving the homework gap—especially in rural areas. Adequate internet is an absolute necessity in this day and age. And I will continue to work with my colleagues to make sure every home in the country has adequate internet access.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 738

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

SECTION 1. E-RATE SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL BUS WI-FI.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “school bus” means a passenger motor vehicle that is—

(1) designed to carry a driver and not less than 5 passengers; and

(2) used significantly to transport early child education, elementary school, or secondary school students to or from school or an event related to school.

(b) RULEMAKING.—Notwithstanding the limitations under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(A) of section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)) regarding the authorized recipients and uses of discounted telecommunications services, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall commence a rulemaking to make the provision of Wi-Fi access on school buses eligible for support under the E-rate program of the Commission set forth under subpart F of part 54 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr.

WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 747. A bill to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2019, or DERA, which I am introducing today with Senators INHOFE, BARRASSO, WHITEHOUSE, SULLIVAN, BOOKER, CAPITO, GILLIBRAND, CRAMER and VAN HOLLEN.

In today's hearing, we will be focusing on legislation that reauthorizes a program that is near and dear to my heart—the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, or DERA. I would like to say thank you to my DERA co-pilot, Senator INHOFE. Senator INHOFE has been a staunch supporter of DERA since day one. I greatly appreciate his continued support and the hard work of his staff on this legislation. I also thank our cosponsors from last Congress who have joined us again this year, Chairman BARRASSO and Senator WHITEHOUSE. Chairman BARRASSO and his staff teamed up with us last Congress to make DERA work even better, and I appreciate his strong support. I also would like to say thank you to our new cosponsors this year, Senators SULLIVAN, BOOKER, CAPITO, GILLIBRAND, CRAMER and VAN HOLLEN.

In all my years of public service, it's not every day that I've seen programs that generate this much bipartisan support—but, then again, not many programs are as effective and common-sense as DERA.

Our Nation still relies heavily on diesel power to transport commuters and kids, harvest our crops and build our infrastructure. Today diesel engines are found everywhere, from our schools to our ports, and from our highways to our agricultural fields.

Many of my colleagues have heard me say that the great thing about diesel engines is that they last a long time. And the bad thing about diesel engines is that they last a long time. Diesel engines are reliable and efficient, but older diesel engines are big polluters. Dirty diesel engine emissions are some of the biggest contributors to our Nation's smog, soot and black carbon air pollution. These dirty diesel emissions harm our health and our climate.

Because of smart emission standards, new and retrofitted diesel engines using American technology are now much cleaner than older diesel engines—over 90% cleaner. Unfortunately, diesel engines run forever and there is little incentive for a diesel engine owner to replace an engine before it breaks down. That's why today, more than a decade after diesel emission standards were implemented by the EPA, millions of older diesel engines that lack the latest pollution control technology are still in use and will remain in use for decades to come.

Back in 2005, my very good friend, the late-Senator from Ohio, George Voinovich, came to me with an idea to help solve this problem—he came to me with the idea for DERA. Senator Voinovich said to me, let's provide financial incentives for people to replace or retrofit their older diesel engines with American-made clean vehicle technology. He told me that we can dramatically reduce diesel emissions, protect our health and create jobs here at home. I said "Sign me up!" And I've been DERA's strongest supporter ever since. In 2005, Congress passed DERA faster than I think we've passed any EPA program ever before. This simple idea has turned into one of EPA's most effective clean air program on the books today.

For every dollar spent in the DERA program, our Nation sees \$13 in economic and health benefits. The emission reductions have helped States meet clean air standards and resulted in more than \$12.6 billion in health benefits alone since the program's inception.

From requests for electric school buses, to replacement ferry engines, to simple diesel retrofits, EPA tells us that the requests keep coming in—but, unfortunately, funding for DERA far exceeds the program's available funds. With millions of dirty diesel engines on our roads, DERA is as important today as it was when it first started. Now, we must work together to ensure that every State, Tribe and territory can still benefit from this unique program.

At a time when our Nation is looking for ways to create jobs, have healthier air and a better climate, cleaning up dirty diesel engines through DERA stands out as a prime example of what works.

Today, I'm proud to continue the bipartisan tradition that started more than 15 years ago with my good friend, Senator Voinovich. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass reauthorization of DERA this Congress.

Thank you Mr. President.

By Mr. KAINÉ (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 752. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for teacher and school leader quality enhancement and to enhance institutional aid; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President. As career opportunities and the requisite skills for success adapt to the demands of the 21st century, so too must the instruction and preparation students receive. Educators are tasked with designing educational experiences that rise to the rigorous State academic standards and reflect the needs and interests of our Nation's diverse student population. We have become accustomed to welcoming the start of the school year with news headlines describing overfilled classrooms and districts struggling to fill teacher vacancies. Though

the challenge of teacher and principal shortages is felt broadly across the country, with a particularly acute impact on our rural communities, it is an issue we can remedy.

The reauthorization of the Higher Education Act is an opportunity to strengthen the preparation and leaders and to further support State efforts to successfully implement the Every Student Succeeds Act. It is also an opportunity to address the fact that schools in high-need communities are often staffed by a revolving door of underprepared and inexperienced teachers who are unable to meet students' needs. This in part due to State teacher shortages.

This is why I am pleased to introduce today with my colleague Senator COLLINS, the Preparing and Retaining Education Professionals Act, or PREP Act. As schools across our Nation continue to face growing class sizes, many are struggling with a shortage of qualified teachers. Rural communities in particular are experiencing a dearth of teachers equipped to meet their growing needs. The PREP Act aims to create high-quality teacher residency programs to develop a diverse workforce that is well-prepared to provide the educational opportunities students need to be successful in the 21st century.

More specifically, this legislation would expand the definition of "high need" districts under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to include those experiencing teacher shortages in rural communities and in areas such as special education, English language, science, technology, engineering, math, and CTE, to allow for access to additional support and improvement. It would also encourage school districts to establish partnerships with local community colleges and universities to ensure their education programs are developing future teachers in content areas where there is currently a shortage of educators. It would increase access to teacher and school leader residency programs and preparation training while requiring States to identify areas of teacher or leader shortages by subject across public schools and use that data to target their efforts. Additionally, the PREP Act bolsters support for teacher preparation programs at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) or Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to invest in a diverse and well-prepared educator workforce.

Improving our Nation's educational system is contingent on our ability to prepare, support, and retain quality educators. Research shows that better prepared teachers stay longer in the profession and are more likely to remain in their roles and positively impact young people and their communities. As we look to reauthorize the Higher Education Act, I hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle see the PREP Act as a commonsense opportunity to help ensure that students

in every zip code across the country have the well-prepared teachers and school leaders they deserve.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 763. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 763

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Climate Change Resiliency Fund for America Act of 2019".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sec. 101. Establishment of Climate Change Advisory Commission.

Sec. 102. Duties.

Sec. 103. Commission personnel matters.

Sec. 104. Funding.

Sec. 105. Termination.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

Sec. 201. Climate Change Resiliency Fund.

Sec. 202. Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act.

Sec. 203. Funding.

TITLE III—REVENUE

Sec. 301. Climate Change Obligations.

Sec. 302. Promotion.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

Except as otherwise provided, in this Act:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the Climate Change Advisory Commission established by section 101(a).

(2) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Climate Change Resiliency Fund established by section 201(a)(1).

(3) QUALIFIED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PURPOSE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "qualified climate change adaptation purpose" means an objective with a demonstrated intent to reduce the economic, social, and environmental impact of the adverse effects of climate change.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "qualified climate change adaptation purpose" includes—

(i) infrastructure resiliency and mitigation;

(ii) improved disaster response; and

(iii) ecosystem protection.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a commission to be known as the "Climate Change Advisory Commission".

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members—

(1) who shall be selected from the public and private sectors and institutions of higher education; and

(2) of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(c) **TERMS.**—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(d) **INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy on the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(g) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

SEC. 102. DUTIES.

The Commission shall—

(1) establish recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for a Federal investment program funded by revenue from climate change obligations issued under section 301 for States, municipalities, and other public entities, including utility districts, transit authorities, and multistate regulatory bodies that—

(A) improves and adapts energy, transportation, water, and general infrastructure impacted or expected to be impacted due to climate variability; and

(B) integrates best available science, data, standards, models, and trends that improve the resiliency of infrastructure systems described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) identify categories of the most cost-effective investments and projects that emphasize multiple benefits to commerce, human health, and ecosystems.

SEC. 103. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,

United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) **STAFF.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate such personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) **MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.**—The rate of pay for personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 104. FUNDING.

The Commission shall use amounts in the Fund to pay for all administrative expenses of the Commission.

SEC. 105. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on such date as the Commission determines after the Commission carries out the duties of the Commission under section 102.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

SEC. 201. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established within the Department of Commerce the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund”.

(2) **RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY.**—The Secretary shall take such action as the Secretary determines to be necessary to assist in implementing the establishment of the Fund in accordance with this Act.

(b) **CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS.**—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, shall carry out a program to provide funds to eligible applicants to carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

(c) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—An entity eligible to participate in the program under subsection (b) shall include—

(1) a Federal agency;

(2) a State or a group of States;

(3) a unit of local government or a group of local governments;

(4) a utility district;

(5) a tribal government or a consortium of tribal governments;

(6) a State or regional transit agency or a group of State or regional transit agencies;

(7) a nonprofit organization;

(8) a special purpose district or public authority, including a port authority; and

(9) any other entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(d) **APPLICATION.**—An eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an application for a project for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including data relating to any benefits, such as economic impact or improvements to public health, that the project is expected to provide.

(e) **SELECTION.**—The Secretary shall select projects from eligible entities to receive funds under this section based on criteria and guidelines determined and published by the Commission.

(f) **NON-FEDERAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.**—In order to receive funds under this section, an eligible entity shall provide funds for the project in an amount that is equal to not

less than 25 percent of the amount of funds provided under this section.

(g) **MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**—All amounts deposited in the Fund in accordance with section 301(a) shall be used only to fund new projects in accordance with this Act.

(h) **APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.**—Nothing in this Act waives the requirements of any Federal law (including regulations) that would otherwise apply to a qualified climate change project that receives funds under this section.

SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH DAVIS-BACON ACT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by or assisted in whole or in part by and through the Fund pursuant to this title shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of title 40, United States Code.

(b) **LABOR STANDARDS.**—With respect to the labor standards specified in this section, the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 203. FUNDING.

The Secretary shall use funds made available to the Secretary and not otherwise obligated to carry out the program under section 201(b).

TITLE III—REVENUE

SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (referred to in this title as the “Secretary”) shall issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code (referred to in this title as “climate change obligations”), the proceeds from which shall be deposited in the Fund.

(b) **FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.**—Payment of interest and principal with respect to any climate change obligation issued under this section shall be made from the general fund of the Treasury of the United States and shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

(c) **EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL TAXATION.**—All climate change obligations issued by the Secretary, and the interest on or credits with respect to such obligations, shall not be subject to taxation by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

(d) **AMOUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the aggregate face amount of the climate change obligations issued annually under this section shall be \$200,000,000.

(2) **ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.**—For any calendar year in which all of the obligations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) have been purchased, the Secretary may issue additional climate change obligations during such calendar year, provided that the aggregate face amount of such additional obligations does not exceed \$800,000,000.

(e) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary shall use funds made available to the Secretary and not otherwise obligated to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 302. PROMOTION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall promote the purchase of climate change obligations through such means as are determined appropriate by the Secretary, with the amount expended for such promotion not to exceed \$10,000,000 for any fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

(b) DONATED ADVERTISING.—In addition to any advertising paid for with funds made available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall solicit and may accept the donation of advertising relating to the sale of climate change obligations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2020 through 2024, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 104—CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN TO FULFILL REPEATED PROMISES OF ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE OF ROBERT LEVINSON, THE LONGEST HELD UNITED STATES CIVILIAN IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

Mr. RUBIO submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 104

Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a resident of Coral Springs, Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, father of their seven children, and grandfather of their six grandchildren;

Whereas Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;

Whereas after traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, Robert Levinson disappeared on March 9, 2007;

Whereas, in December 2007, Robert Levinson's wife, Christine, traveled to Kish Island to retrace Mr. Levinson's steps and met with officials of the Government of Iran who pledged to help in the investigation;

Whereas, for 12 years, the United States Government has continually pressed the Government of Iran to provide any information on the whereabouts of Robert Levinson and to help ensure his prompt and safe return to his family;

Whereas officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007;

Whereas, in November 2010, the Levinson family received a video of Mr. Levinson in captivity, representing the first proof of life since his disappearance and providing some initial indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas, in April 2011, the Levinson family received a series of pictures of Mr. Levinson, which provided further indications that he was being held somewhere in southwest Asia;

Whereas Secretary of State John Kerry stated on August 28, 2013, "The United States respectfully asks the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to work cooperatively with us in our efforts to help U.S. citizen Robert Levinson.";

Whereas, on September 28, 2013, during the first direct phone conversation between the heads of governments of the United States and Iran since 1979, President Barack Obama raised the case of Robert Levinson to President of Iran Hassan Rouhani and urged the President of Iran to help locate Mr. Levinson and reunite him with his family;

Whereas, on August 29, 2014, Secretary of State Kerry again stated that the United States "respectfully request[s] the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran [to] work cooperatively with us to find Mr. Levinson and bring him home";

Whereas, on January 16, 2016, the Government of Iran released five United States citizens detained in Iran;

Whereas, on January 17, 2016, President Obama stated that, "even as we rejoice in the safe return of others, we will never forget about Bob", referring to Robert Levinson, and that "each and every day but especially today our hearts are with the Levinson family and we will never rest until their family is whole again";

Whereas, on January 19, 2016, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest stated that the United States Government had "secured a commitment from the Iranians to use the channel that has now been opened to secure the release of those individuals that we know were being held by Iran . . . to try and gather information about Mr. Levinson's possible whereabouts";

Whereas the Government of Iran's most recent commitment to assist in and the diplomatic channel dedicated to locating and returning Robert Levinson have not yielded any meaningful results;

Whereas, on November 23, 2016, the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (UNWGAD) issued Opinion No. 50/2016, concerning Robert Levinson in which the UNWGAD found Iran responsible for the arbitrary detention of Mr. Levinson;

Whereas, on April 25, 2017, the Department of State issued a statement noting that "[o]n the sidelines of the April 25 meeting in Vienna of the Joint Commission overseeing implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the U.S. delegation raised with the Iranian delegation its serious concerns regarding the cases of U.S. citizens detained and missing in Iran, and called on Iran to immediately release these U.S. citizens so they can be reunited with their families";

Whereas, on March 9, 2018, Department of State Spokesperson Heather Nauert stated, "Iran committed to cooperating with the United States to assist us in bringing Robert Levinson home and we call on Iran to fulfill this commitment.";

Whereas, on November 26, 2013, Mr. Levinson became the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history;

Whereas March 9, 2019, marks 12 years since the disappearance of Robert Levinson from Kish Island, Iran; and

Whereas the Federal Bureau of Investigation continues to offer a \$5,000,000 reward for information leading to Mr. Levinson's safe return: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that Robert Levinson is the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history;

(2) notes that repeated pledges by officials of the Government of Iran to provide their Government's assistance in the case of Robert Levinson have not led to any meaningful progress in locating or returning Robert Levinson;

(3) urges the Government of Iran to take meaningful steps towards fulfilling its repeated promises to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson, including by immediately providing all available information from all entities of the Government of Iran regarding the disappearance of Robert Levinson to the United States Government;

(4) urges the President to make clear that the return of Robert Levinson is a priority to the United States and commit to redoubling United States Government efforts to secure the release of Robert Levinson;

(5) urges the President and the allies of the United States to continue to press the Government of Iran at every opportunity to locate and return Robert Levinson, notwithstanding ongoing and serious disagreements the United States Government has with the

Government of Iran on a broad array of issues, including Iran's ballistic missile program, sponsorship of international terrorism, destabilization of the Middle East, and human rights abuses;

(6) notes that in addition to these other serious issues, further delay in locating and returning Robert Levinson remains a significant obstacle to improving United States-Iran relations; and

(7) expresses sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson for their anguish and hope that their ordeal can be brought to an end in the near future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 105—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2019 AS "NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 105

Whereas colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men and women combined in the United States;

Whereas, in 2019, it is estimated that 145,600 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and approximately 51,020 individuals will die from the disease;

Whereas colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable forms of cancer because screening tests can find polyps that can be removed before becoming cancerous;

Whereas screening tests can detect colorectal cancer early, which is when the disease is most treatable;

Whereas the Secretary of Health and Human Services estimates that if every individual who is 50 years of age or older had regular screening tests, as many as 60 percent of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for patients with localized colorectal cancer is 90 percent, but only 39 percent of all diagnoses occur at that stage;

Whereas colorectal cancer screenings can effectively reduce the incidence of colorectal cancer and mortality, but approximately 1 in 3 adults between 50 and 75 years of age are not up to date with recommended colorectal cancer screening;

Whereas public awareness and educational campaigns on colorectal cancer prevention, screening, and symptoms are held during the month of March each year; and

Whereas educational efforts can help provide information to the public on methods of prevention and screening and symptoms for early detection of colorectal cancer: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports—

(A) the designation of March 2019 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month"; and

(B) the goals and ideals of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 106—COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr.

BROWN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 106

Whereas the United Negro College Fund (referred to in this preamble as "UNCF") was established on April 25, 1944, by Dr. Frederick D. Patterson—

(1) who served as the president of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) from 1935 to 1953; and

(2) to make a united appeal to the national conscience;

Whereas UNCF was established with 27 member colleges and a combined enrollment of 14,000 students;

Whereas, since the establishment of UNCF, the nonprofit organization has grown to become 1 of the oldest and most successful African-American higher education assistance organizations in the United States;

Whereas the famous slogan of UNCF is "A mind is a terrible thing to waste";

Whereas the mission of UNCF is—

(1) to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of underrepresented students who become highly qualified college graduates through the support of UNCF; and

(2) to ensure that the current network of 37 member Historically Black Colleges and Universities (referred to in this preamble as "HBCUs") is a respected model of best practices in moving students to and through college;

Whereas UNCF has raised more than \$4,800,000,000 and benefitted more than 450,000 students—

(1) by annually awarding \$100,000,000 in scholarships to more than 10,000 students through 400 scholarship programs;

(2) by providing financial support to the 37 member HBCUs; and

(3) by serving as a leading advocate in the United States for the importance of minority education and community engagement; and

Whereas UNCF advocates on behalf of the following member HBCUs and the students served by those HBCUs:

- (1) Allen University.
- (2) Benedict College.
- (3) Bennett College.
- (4) Bethune-Cookman University.
- (5) Claflin University.
- (6) Clark Atlanta University.
- (7) Dillard University.
- (8) Edward Waters College.
- (9) Fisk University.
- (10) Florida Memorial University.
- (11) Huston-Tillotson University.
- (12) Interdenominational Theological Center.
- (13) Jarvis Christian College.
- (14) Johnson C. Smith University.
- (15) Lane College.
- (16) Le Moyne-Owen College.
- (17) Livingstone College.
- (18) Miles College.
- (19) Morehouse College.
- (20) Morris College.
- (21) Oakwood University.
- (22) Paine College.
- (23) Philander Smith College.
- (24) Rust College.
- (25) Saint Augustine's University.
- (26) Shaw University.
- (27) Spelman College.
- (28) Stillman College.
- (29) Talladega College.

(30) Texas College.

(31) Tougaloo College.

(32) Tuskegee University.

(33) Virginia Union University.

(34) Voorhees College.

(35) Wilberforce University.

(36) Wiley College.

(37) Xavier University of Louisiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Negro College Fund (referred to in this resolving clause as "UNCF");

(2) celebrates the successes of UNCF in providing—

(A) support to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (referred to in this resolving clause as "HBCUs"); and

(B) financial aid to help underrepresented students gain access to postsecondary education; and

(3) reaffirms the mission of UNCF—

(A) to build a robust and nationally recognized pipeline of underrepresented students who become highly qualified college graduates; and

(B) to ensure that HBCUs are a respected model of best practices in moving students to and through college.

SENATE RESOLUTION 107—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. TAUBERT

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 107

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Taubert*, Cr. No. 19-21, pending in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Erin Kurvers, an employee of the office of former Senator Al Franken;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former Members and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Erin Kurvers, a former employee of the Office of Senator Al Franken, and any other former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant testimony may be necessary, are authorized to testify in the case of *United States v. Taubert*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Senator Franken and any former employees of his office in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of myself and the distinguished

Democratic leader, Mr. SCHUMER, I send to the desk a resolution authorizing the production of testimony and representation by the Senate Legal Counsel, and ask for its immediate consideration.

Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony in a criminal action pending in New York Federal district court. In this action the defendant is charged with making threats, in the course of telephone calls to former Senator Al Franken's office, to kill and inflict bodily harm upon a former President of the United States. A trial is scheduled for March 18, 2019.

The prosecution is seeking testimony from one of the Senator's former staff assistants who heard the statements at issue. Senator Franken would like to cooperate with this request by providing relevant former employee testimony from his office.

The enclosed resolution would authorize that staffer, and any other former employee of the Senator's office from whom relevant testimony may be necessary, to testify in this action, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel of such staffers and Senator Franken.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 192. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 91, designating March 3, 2019, as "World Wildlife Day".

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 192. Mr. MCCONNELL (for Mr. COONS) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 91, designating March 3, 2019, as "World Wildlife Day"; as follows:

In the 25th whereas clause of the preamble, in paragraph (3), strike "poses" and insert "could potentially pose".

In the 27th whereas clause of the preamble, strike "approximately 100,000,000 sharks are killed annually" and insert "millions of sharks are killed every year in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries".

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. GARDENER. Mr. President, I have 11 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 BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing CFPB's semi annual report and on the following nominations: Jeffrey Nadaner, of Maryland,

to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "The road ahead for the World Trade Organizations."

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Michael J. Fitzpatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador, and Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, both of the Department of State.

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 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Simplifying the FAFSA and Reducing the Burden of Verification."

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 12, 2019, at 3:15 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Recommendations from the President's task force on the United States Postal Service, focusing on a path to sustainability."

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "GDPR and CCPA, focusing on opt-ins, consumer control, and the impact on competition and innovation."

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight hearing to examine Indian programs on the Government Accountability Office High Risk List."

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 06, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 06, 2019, at 2:45 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Com-

mittee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND THE INTERNET

The Subcommittee on Communication, Technology, Innovation, and The Internet of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing entitled "Impact of broadband investment in rural America."

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2019 AS "NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 105, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 105) supporting the designation of March 2019 as "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that 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. 105) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 106, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 106) commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Negro College Fund.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; and that 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. 106) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. TAUBERT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 107, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 107) to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Taubert.

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. 107) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 91 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 91) designating March 3, 2019, as "World Wildlife Day."

There being no objection, the Committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 91) was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Coons amendment to the preamble at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that 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 amendment (No. 192) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the 25th whereas clause of the preamble, in paragraph (3), strike "poses" and insert "could potentially pose".

In the 27th whereas clause of the preamble, strike “approximately 100,000 sharks are killed annually” and insert “millions of sharks are killed every year in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 91

Whereas wildlife has provided numerous economic, environmental, social, and cultural benefits during the course of human history and wildlife conservation will secure those gifts for future generations;

Whereas plant and animal species play an important role in the stability of diverse ecosystems around the world and the conservation of that biodiversity is critical to maintain the delicate balance of nature and keep complex ecosystems thriving;

Whereas millions of individuals in the United States strongly support the conservation of wildlife, both domestically and abroad, and wish to ensure the survival of species in the wild;

Whereas the trafficking of wildlife, including timber and fish, comprises the fourth largest global illegal trade after narcotics, the counterfeiting of products and currency, and human trafficking and has become a major transnational organized crime with an estimated worth of as much as \$23,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas increased demand in Asia for high-value illegal wildlife products, particularly elephant ivory and rhinoceros horns, has triggered substantial and rapid increases in poaching of those species;

Whereas the trafficking of wildlife is a primary threat to many wildlife species, including elephants, rhinoceroses, tigers, pangolins, and sharks;

Whereas many different kinds of criminals, including some terrorist entities and rogue security personnel, often in collusion with corrupt government officials, are involved in wildlife poaching and the movement of ivory and rhinoceros horns across Africa;

Whereas wildlife poaching presents significant security and stability challenges for military and police forces in African nations that are often threatened by heavily armed poachers and the criminal, extremist allies of those poachers;

Whereas wildlife poaching negatively impacts local communities that rely on natural resources for economic development, including through tourism;

Whereas assisting institutions in developing nations, including by providing material, training, legal, and diplomatic support, can reduce illegal wildlife trade;

Whereas wildlife provides a multitude of benefits to all nations and wildlife crime has wide-ranging economic, environmental, and social impacts;

Whereas the African Elephant Status Report 2016 issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature revealed that the elephant population of Africa has recently seen a dramatic decline, mainly due to poaching, and the continental population is now thought to be approximately 415,000;

Whereas, from 2007 to 2012, the number of elephants killed in Kenya increased by more than 800 percent, from 47 to 387 elephants killed;

Whereas, between 2002 and 2013, as a result of poaching, about 65 percent of the forest elephant population in Central Africa was killed and forest elephants lost 30 percent of the geographical range of forest elephants, placing forest elephants on track for extinction in the next decade;

Whereas fewer than 50,000 wild Asian elephants remain and poaching of these popu-

lations is on the rise, with an average of 1 elephant poached every week in Burma, driven by demand for elephant skin products;

Whereas the number of rhinoceroses killed by poachers in South Africa—

(1) dramatically increased from 13 in 2007 to 1,215 in 2014, an increase of more than 9,000 percent; and

(2) was 769 in 2018;

Whereas—

(1) the 3 species of Asian rhinoceroses also remain under constant threat of poaching; and

(2) the total populations of Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros number fewer than 100 individuals in the wild;

Whereas fewer than 4,000 tigers remain in the wild throughout Asia;

Whereas pangolins are often referred to as the most trafficked mammal in the world;

Whereas all 8 pangolin species spanning Africa and Asia are faced with extinction because pangolin scales are sought after in the practice of traditional Chinese medicine and pangolin meat is considered a delicacy;

Whereas the oceans—

(1) cover $\frac{3}{4}$ of the surface of the Earth;

(2) contain 97 percent of the water on the Earth;

(3) represent 99 percent of the living space on the earth by volume; and

(4) contain nearly 200,000 identified animal species;

Whereas the global market value of marine and coastal resources and industries is estimated to be approximately \$3,000,000,000,000 per year, representing about 5 percent of global gross domestic product;

Whereas more than 3,000,000,000 people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods;

Whereas an estimated 8,000,000 metric tons of plastic enter the ocean every year, harming a wide range of wildlife species;

Whereas illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (referred to in this preamble as “IUU fishing”) represents a multibillion dollar criminal industry that—

(1) undercuts the economic livelihoods of legitimate fishermen;

(2) weakens marine animal populations;

(3) could potentially pose a threat to international security; and

(4) threatens food security for communities around the world;

Whereas overfishing—

(1) contributes to the rapid depletion of many species of fish; and

(2) hinders efforts to save and restore global fisheries and the jobs relating to those fisheries;

Whereas millions of sharks are killed every year in illegal, unreported, and unregulated fisheries, often targeted solely for their fins, and unsustainable trade is the primary cause of serious population decline in several shark species, including scalloped hammerhead sharks, great hammerhead sharks, and oceanic whitetip sharks;

Whereas the vaquita porpoise of Mexico, with fewer than 14 individual porpoises remaining, is being driven to extinction;

Whereas penal and financial deterrents can—

(1) improve the ability of governments to reduce poaching, trafficking, and IUU fishing; and

(2) enhance the capabilities of those governments to manage their resources;

Whereas the United States is developing and implementing measures to address the criminal, financial, security, and environmental aspects of wildlife trafficking;

Whereas Congress has allocated specific resources to combat wildlife trafficking and IUU fishing and address additional threats to wildlife;

Whereas Congress passed the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking

Act of 2016 (16 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) to strengthen the response of the United States to the global wildlife trafficking crisis;

Whereas Congress passed the Save Our Seas Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-265; 132 Stat. 3742)—

(1) to address land- and sea-based sources of marine debris; and

(2) to promote international action to reduce the incidence of marine debris;

Whereas, in December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 3 as World Wildlife Day to celebrate and raise awareness of the wild fauna and flora around the world;

Whereas March 3, 2019, represents the sixth annual celebration of World Wildlife Day;

Whereas, in 2019, the theme of World Wildlife Day is “Life below water: for people and planet”; and

Whereas, in 2019, World Wildlife Day commemorations will—

(1) raise awareness about the breathtaking diversity of marine life;

(2) highlight the crucial importance of marine species to human development; and

(3) encourage future generations to continue efforts to protect marine ecosystems: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 3, 2019, as “World Wildlife Day”;;

(2) supports raising awareness of the benefits that wildlife provides to people and the threats facing wildlife around the world;

(3) supports escalating the fight against wildlife crime, including wildlife trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing;

(4) applauds the domestic and international efforts to escalate the fight against wildlife crime;

(5) commends the efforts of the United States to mobilize the entire Federal Government in a coordinated, efficient, and effective manner for dramatic progress in the fight against wildlife crime; and

(6) encourages continued cooperation between the United States, international partners, local communities, nonprofit organizations, private industry, and other partner organizations in an effort to conserve and celebrate wildlife, preserving this precious resource for future generations.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, moving right along, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 13; 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 resume consideration of the Rao nomination under the previous order.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, when we yielded to accommodate the majority leader, I was talking about the episode on the Senate floor with the Republican Senators coming to bash the Green New Deal. I wanted to go on to say that the USA Today editorial—the one saying climate change is “a true crisis facing the United States and the world”—also said this about the Green New Deal critics:

Republicans in the White House and Congress are having a grand old time mocking the Green New Deal. . . . But the critics owe this and future generations more than scorn; they have an obligation to put better ideas and solutions on the table.

So far we have not seen much from my Republican colleagues by way of better or, indeed, any solutions.

Madam President, I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude and appreciation to Senators MURKOWSKI and MANCHIN for the joint piece that they wrote in the “Washington Post” recently.

I ask unanimous consent to have that article printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks.

So we get that my colleagues don’t like the Green New Deal.

Let’s consider other proposals. We have lots of them on the Democratic side. We have had cap and trade. We have had “keep it in the ground.” We have had Green New Deals. We have had revenue-neutral carbon fee proposals.

Senator VAN HOLLEN, of Maryland, is here to discuss his ideas. We are ready here.

Republicans said last week they wanted innovation to address climate change—great, me too. But you can’t count on the innovation fairy to fly down and wave innovation fairy dust on the problem and make it go away. One of the reasons that Senator BARRASSO’s and my bipartisan carbon capture bill was necessary is because there was not enough innovation because, quoting the USA Today article, “fossil-fuel polluters keep using the atmosphere as a free waste dump.”

It is really hard to spur innovation when there is no revenue in the business model. So our bill put revenue in the business model. We did it in the form of tax credits.

But the big driver for developing innovation and for developing innovative, new technologies would be a price on carbon, just like Senator SCHATZ and I have in our American Opportunity Carbon Fee Act—a revenue-neutral, border-adjustable carbon fee. This bill passes all the major Republican tests. It is a market solution that fixes a market failure. It does not grow government or regulation, and it does not put American industry at a disadvantage against foreign competitors. It

will drive innovation: Put a \$50 per ton price on carbon emissions, and every polluter paying the price has an incentive to spend up to \$49 per ton on solutions. That is how you get innovation.

This carbon pricing idea has support from a swath of senior Republican officials, including seven Chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers, six current and former Members of Congress, four EPA Administrators, three Secretaries of State or Treasury, two Chairs of the Federal Reserve, and one Congressional Budget Office Director—all Republicans. Some of these Republicans were members of a group of prominent economists, including 27 Nobel Prize winners, who recently published this statement in the Wall Street Journal editorial page supporting just the kind of carbon fee model that is the basis of Senator SCHATZ’s and my legislation. Since then, over 3,500 U.S. economists have signed this statement, and that is because it is pretty obvious how you have to solve this problem, once you want to.

Former Republican Congressman Bob Inglis has been very active in this area. He said of our carbon fee proposal: “Democrats . . . have offered Republicans an olive limb, not just an olive branch.”

We are trying to reach out. We are trying to get to yes, and that olive branch will remain extended as long as it takes.

If you think all of our bills are no good, come up with something better, for Pete’s sake. Give it a try. I am ready to work with Republicans on passing a carbon fee or other climate change legislation. I think I have proved that by working in a bipartisan fashion. But when Republicans will not propose anything and will not agree to anything—even an olive limb offered to them—then, that is a pretty strong sign that there is something more going on than objections to a Green New Deal. If you don’t like the Green New Deal, tell us what you do like. Go the carbon fee route. Go “leave it in the ground”—whatever. But please, let’s get together and solve this problem.

As USA Today said, “the American people are getting impatient.”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, March 8, 2019]

LISA MURKOWSKI AND JOE MANCHIN: IT’S TIME TO ACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE—RESPONSIBLY

(By Lisa Murkowski and Joe Manchin)

Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, represents Alaska in the U.S. Senate, Joe Manchin, a Democrat, represents West Virginia in the U.S. Senate.

The two of us have more in common than might meet the eye. We come from different parties, but we are both avid outdoorsmen and represent states that take great pride in the resources we provide to the nation and to friends and allies around the world. Alaska and West Virginia know that resource development and environmental stewardship must move in tandem, which is why we are com-

mitted to putting forward bipartisan solutions to help address climate change.

There is no question that climate change is real or that human activities are driving much of it. We are seeing the impacts in our home states. Scientists tell us that the Arctic is warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world. Rising temperatures and diminishing sea ice on Alaska’s shores are affecting our fisheries and forcing some remote communities to seek partial or total relocation. In summer 2016, West Virginia experienced unprecedented flooding that killed 23 residents and inflicted tremendous damage across the state.

Congress is in the middle of a debate about the appropriate way to tackle climate change. This is often portrayed as an issue with just two sides—those who support drastic, unattainable measures to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and those who want to do nothing. We believe the time for sensationalism is over. And we are seeking ideas that will bring people together, rather than drive them apart.

On the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we are working together to find pragmatic policies that can draw strong and enduring support. In our hearings this year, we have heard from a range of experts who are helping us to gather facts that shape these efforts.

Just this week, we held a hearing focused on climate change and the electricity sector. We heard that utilities are pursuing cleaner energy technologies and integrating them into their networks. These changes to the generation mix reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 28 percent between 2005 and 2017 and lowered costs to consumers.

Yet, our witnesses also agreed that to effectively mitigate the impacts of climate change, we must do more to pursue low- and zero-carbon technologies that will continue to lower emissions.

The United States leads the world in research and development. Our national labs and universities are working toward the next scientific breakthrough, and private investors are pursuing the next game-changing technology. The United States is at the forefront of clean-energy efforts, including energy storage, advanced nuclear energy, and carbon capture, utilization and sequestration. We are committed to adopting reasonable policies that maintain that edge, build on and accelerate current efforts, and ensure a robust innovation ecosystem.

The impact of developing these new technologies will be felt by Americans from all walks of life, including residents of rural communities and other areas served by older technologies. Transitioning these communities to more efficient forms of energy will provide them with cleaner energy that is also more stable and has lower costs, which will bring about additional benefits.

American ingenuity has solved many of the great challenges of our time and is key to addressing climate change. If the United States is going to lead by example, we must continue to lead the world in the development of new and improved technologies. On the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we agree it is time to act. And that is why we will work to find responsible solutions worthy of West Virginians, Alaskans and all Americans.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am now honored to yield the floor to my distinguished colleague from Maryland who has been working on this issue in the House before he came to the Senate and has become a real leader in our Senate caucus, Senator VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Thank you, Madam President. I want to start by thanking my friend, the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, for his leadership on addressing the climate issue for many, many years, taking to the floor of the Senate time and again to raise the alarm about the dangers of climate change and what it means to communities throughout this country and people throughout the world, and, much more than that, putting forward very specific ideas—constructive ideas—on how we can address this issue together. I am proud to join the legislation that he referenced, along with Senator BARRASSO, to look at carbon capture technologies and to incentivize those technologies, as Mr. WHITEHOUSE indicated. It is a small measure but maybe a first baby step that we can work on here together.

Like the Senator from Rhode Island, I have been listening carefully to the floor discussion over the last couple of weeks. I have heard many of our Republican colleagues come to the floor. They have come to criticize the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal, of course, is a very ambitious set of goals to address the crisis of global climate change and to put out some ideas for how we address this generational challenge.

While I heard a lot of criticism, as Senator WHITEHOUSE said, I didn't hear a single—not one—idea about how we can work together to significantly address this challenge, which is why Democrats have asked our Republican colleagues to join us in supporting S. J. Res. 9, which was introduced by Senator CARPER, along with the Democrats and, I am pleased to say, one Republican. The question, of course, is where are the other 52 Republicans when this is the language? I am going to read it because it is very straightforward, and I think the American public will ask themselves why we don't have 100 Senators on this piece of legislation:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the sense of Congress that—

- (1) climate change is real;
- (2) human activity during the last century is the dominant cause of climate crisis; and
- (3) the United States and Congress should take immediate action to address the challenge of climate change.

It is simple, straightforward. I want to just take these very quickly, one at a time.

"Climate change is real." Look, we all know that there are a few greenhouse gases. You have methane, which is a very potent greenhouse gas. But the most prevalent one, of course, is carbon dioxide. It is a greenhouse gas, and you can measure the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. You can go out and take samples and measure it.

In doing that, we find that we have seen huge increases in the concentration of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere over the last 100 years.

I am proud to represent the State of Maryland, which is home to NASA

Goddard, where they do a lot of climate science, and home to NOAA, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. I am holding the latest measurement they did in January 2019. It shows the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere at 411 ppm. That is a jump just from 2006, when it was at about 380 ppm. If you look at that over time, you see a big jump in concentration. These are greenhouse gases, and that is why you see, of course, the increasing temperatures.

I am now holding in my hand something from NASA that just came out on February 6 of this year, headlined "2018 fourth warmest year in continued warming trend, according to NASA, NOAA." It points out that globally 2018 temperatures ranked behind those of 2016, 2017 and 2015, and it goes on to say that the past 5 years are collectively the warmest years in modern record.

So there are large concentrations of CO₂ and rising temperatures. I hope our Republican colleagues will agree with us on that point in the resolution.

No. 2 is that it is caused by "human activity." There is no doubt that if you look at how fossil fuels that were in our Earth for millions of years have been released during the Industrial Revolution in the last century—be it from coal-fired powerplants, oil, or gas—all of a sudden you saw this carbon which had been trapped in the Earth released into the atmosphere through human activity, and that also is measurable.

So I hope our Republican colleagues will agree with us on those two points, and if they agree with us on those points, then I hope they will agree with us that we should all do something about it, because the consequences of climate change are very real, and we can see them all around us.

Senator WHITEHOUSE mentioned a recent study that showed that the probability that the scientists were wrong was .001 percent—negligible.

We just saw last Thanksgiving—this last year at Thanksgiving time—that 300 U.S. scientists issued the Fourth National Climate Assessment. I have a copy of part of that in my hand right here, and they make it very clear—these are U.S. scientists—that the impact of these growing temperatures is real and, of course, we see them all around us in the form of much more extreme and frequent droughts. We see it in the form of more forest fires. We see it in the form of flooding and sea level rise. We see it all over our country in every community and all over the world. The costs of doing nothing are mounting by the day.

If you look at this report that was issued around Thanksgiving, they also talk about the regional impact of disruption and of the impacts of climate change. They look at different regions around the country, including the Northeast. Of course, Senator WHITEHOUSE represents Rhode Island, and I have the honor of representing Maryland. It says these areas, these regions,

will get hot faster than many other areas.

It also talks about the impact of climate change on the Chesapeake Bay, which is a national treasure and is very important to Maryland's economy. They predict stronger and more frequent storms and an increase in rain, which will lead to more pollution in the bay, increased water temperatures, and sea level rise. By the way, one island has already disappeared in the Chesapeake Bay, and a couple more look like they will be going under in the coming years because of sea level rise.

If you go to the Naval Academy in Annapolis and you talk to folks there, they will tell you that they are already experiencing the negative impact of flooding and sea level rise right there at the Naval Academy. Of course, our military has warned for years about the consequences of climate change.

I just want to give a very simple analogy since I mentioned the Chesapeake Bay. Like many of us, we have worked hard to protect water bodies in this country, and the Chesapeake Bay is an incredible natural estuary. Years ago, everyone recognized that the bay was dying. We saw more sewer overflows into the bay because we didn't have enough sewage treatment plants. We saw runoff from suburban roads and highways. We saw nutrient runoff from farms in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The bay was on its way down fast. Of course, with all of those nutrients in the watershed, you lose the oysters, the crabs, and the seafood industry. You lose the Chesapeake Bay.

The same thing is, of course, happening to our planet. Just like with the Chesapeake Bay, there is a limit to how much carbon pollution you can put on our planet. We have all seen those amazing photographs of the Earth from outer space. The Earth is telling us that there is a limit as to how much carbon pollution we can spew into it, and it is telling us by its screaming out with these extreme weather events. So the real question is, What are we going to do about it?

As Senator WHITEHOUSE said, there are many things we should be doing. I will close my remarks by mentioning one that also involves putting a price on carbon because, among the array of tools we need to deploy, that really needs to be one of them. It is really based on the simple idea we have pursued in this country to fight pollution, which is that the polluter pays, right? The folks—the industries—who are causing the pollution that is impacting our communities in harmful ways should pay. How do you make them pay? You put a price on the carbon pollution that is being emitted. When you put a price on the carbon pollution that is being emitted, there is an incentive to emit less of it, and there is an incentive for others to find innovative ways to generate energy without there being carbon pollution.

That is why, for many years, I proposed what is called the cap and dividend bill, which looks at the science and says: OK, if we want to make sure to avoid these huge costs to our communities, we have to limit the amount of carbon pollution that is being emitted.

We base that cap on science, and that generates a price for carbon. That means, as Senator WHITEHOUSE said, that in order to avoid that price, people will look for ways to reduce carbon emissions. We take the funds generated from putting a price on carbon, and we rebate those funds to the American people. A study by an economist at the University of Massachusetts Amherst found that if you do that—if you rebate the funds you generate by putting a price on carbon and making polluters pay and if you rebate that to American households—80 percent of American households will actually have more money in their pockets at the end of the day than they started with. That doesn't even count the additional benefits from there being a cleaner environment and fewer storms and severe weather events. It also doesn't include the incredible economic opportunities that would be unleashed by having more people invest in clean energy technology and energy efficiency.

So it is really a pleasure to be here with my friend Senator WHITEHOUSE because that is one tool among others, including the need to invest in more research. The Senator said you have to put some resources behind research and innovation. It doesn't just happen by magic. We can have clean energy portfolio standards, we can do a lot of things, but we need to start with something real. That is why we are here, because that is the final part of that resolution. It is a very simple resolution that says that climate change is real, that it is caused by human activity, and that the U.S. Congress should take immediate action to address the challenge.

It is time for our colleagues to stop criticizing everybody else's ideas and to put their own ideas on the table. We are ready to work with our colleagues on a bipartisan basis to address this most pressing of issues that face our country and the world.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If I may, Madam President, I would like to remark on the figure that Senator VAN HOLLEN used of the recent measurement in our atmosphere of a carbon dioxide concentration of 411 parts per million. Standing on its own, that may not seem particularly significant, so let's put that into context.

NASA, which Senator VAN HOLLEN mentioned and which has important facilities in Maryland, has been measuring this for a long time.

By the way, I think NASA's scientists have demonstrated they know what they are talking about. They have rovers driving around on Mars right now, so they know what they are talking about.

The scientists have gone back and determined what the carbon dioxide levels were on Earth over a period of 400,000 years. If you look back, there is a graph that NASA has that shows the carbon dioxide levels ramping up and down, up and down, over 400,000 years. For that entire time, the levels have stayed between 180 parts per million and 300 parts per million. That was the range within which the entire human species experienced our development—180 parts per million at the low and 300 parts per million at the high. At 411, we are now out of that range by almost the entire range. We are not out by a little; we are out of that range by a lot.

Also, 400,000 years is a very long time. If you look at how long humankind has been farming—kind of the basic, organized activity of our species—the common view is that we really started farming about 12,000 years ago. Some people push that number further, more towards 20,000 years. We invented the wheel a little over 5,000 years ago in Mesopotamia. If you think about the first people who put seeds in the ground and planted farms, you only go back 12,000 to 20,000 years. If you think about the first people who rolled a wagon or a chariot on a wheel, you only go back about 5,000 years. This record goes back 400,000 years. They know it because you can go into ancient ice, and you can find bubbles of air from tens and hundreds of thousands of years ago, and you can test them. I have been to the freezer at Ohio State University, which is where they keep the cores they have drilled out of glaciers, and I have seen how they go back and do these micro measurements that let you know what the carbon dioxide levels were. So we are not off by a little, folks; we are off by a lot.

When you consider the known scientific effect of carbon dioxide concentrations, we have known what it has done. This has been a greenhouse gas since Abraham Lincoln rode around in his top hat. This is not scientific news; we know this stuff.

When you consider that we are that far out of the range that has made human life and development comfortable on this planet throughout the entire duration of our species—that we are out of that range for the first time in 400,000 years and are out of that range by an amount that is practically equal to the entire range itself—if that is not a signal for us to wake up and pay attention, I don't know what is. The fact that the fossil fuel industry can drown out that signal with its political signal in this body is astounding.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, if I might, that is why it is always interesting to hear some of the critics of climate change say: Do you know what? Carbon dioxide has been around since the beginning of the planet, so it can't possibly be harmful.

Of course it has been around forever, but, as Senator WHITEHOUSE pointed

out, it has been around for hundreds of thousands and millions of years at a certain concentration. If you look at all of the evidence from NASA scientists and others, you will see that level of concentration bumped up and down within a certain range for all of those millennia that the Senator talked about. Yet, in the last 150 years, especially the last century, it shot straight through the roof. It is an excellent example of the phrase "everything in moderation."

Obviously, carbon dioxide has been part of our planet's gases all along, but the fact is that we have unleashed that carbon dioxide, in the form of fossil fuels, that has been trapped in the Earth for millions and millions of years. We have somehow just let it out within the last 100, and that is what is creating harmful, poisonous levels of carbon dioxide that are poisonous for the planet. Just like with a human being, when you put poison in the body, the body lets you know. The Earth is screaming out in all of these different ways to let us know that it has reached its limit when it comes to carbon dioxide pollution. That is why we have to do something about it.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Arsenic, too, is a naturally occurring substance, but you don't want too much of it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. There you go.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank Senator VAN HOLLEN for joining me in this colloquy and for speaking today on the floor.

I see the distinguished ranking member of the Finance Committee here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, just before they leave, I thank both Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator VAN HOLLEN for conveying the urgency behind this climate change issue. Both of them have gone through the specifics of what this is all about. Suffice it to say, I share many of the concerns they have been discussing here this evening. I thank them.

NOMINATION OF NEOMI J. RAO

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, tonight, the Senate is debating another Trump judicial nominee who is attempting to run away from appalling statements they wrote in the not-so-distant past. This time, it is Neomi Rao, who is up for a lifetime appointment to the powerful DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

While studying at Yale, Ms. Rao wrote that sexual assault victims were partly to blame for having been assaulted.

She ridiculed feminism and women's rights activists. She attacked groups that promoted multiculturalism and minority rights. She belittled those who fought for LGBTQ rights. She wrote that warnings about what we now identify as climate change are, in effect, fake news. And that's not all.

After these writings came to light, she stuck to the same script as the other Trump nominees have done who found themselves in the same position.

They say: It is all way in the past. I have grown up. I no longer hold those views.

Except in Ms. Rao's case, she cannot plausibly claim the views she put into writing back then would have no bearing on how she would decide cases as a judge today. That is because you can see those extreme views reflected in the work she is doing right now as the head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

This is an office that doesn't get a lot of time in the spotlight, but the individual in charge of that office has more power to shape Federal rules than almost anyone outside the Oval Office.

During Ms. Rao's time as the head of this program, she has taken a buzz saw to protections for women's health, for sexual assault victims on college campuses, for LGBTQ Americans, and for Black and Latino Americans.

Under her watch, the Trump administration has allowed polluting corporations to poison Americans' air and water, propped up dirty powerplants that belch carbon into the skies, and added to the extreme dangers of climate change.

During her nomination hearing, she called—and this was her description—some of what she wrote “cringeworthy.” She wrote a letter to the Judiciary Committee saying she was sorry, and that's all well and good, but it doesn't change the fact that she has helped turn those same extreme views—those same extreme views—into Federal policy under President Trump.

To help spell this out, as they say on so many television shows: Go to the tape.

In the long essay titled “The Feminist Dilemma” published in the mid-1990s, Ms. Rao laid out her views on a range of issues dealing with women's rights and sexual violence. At the time, our country was waking up to the fact that most sexual assaults are not random acts of violence committed in dark alleyways; they are committed by someone the victim knows.

The term “date rape” was relatively new to a lot of people. In this essay she wrote: “Although I am certainly not arguing that date rape victims ask for it,” she did exactly that—several times. She put the burden on women to prevent their assaults.

She also described “The dangerous feminist idealism which teaches women that they are equal.” That is an exact quote—“dangerous idealism which teaches women that they are equal.”

She went on, “Women believe falsely that they should be able to go anywhere with anyone.” That is a quote. “Women believe falsely that they should be able to go anywhere with anyone.”

Now, as I noted already, Ms. Rao has tried to separate herself during her

nomination from those thoughts—what she wrote as a younger person—but she continues to double down on these views and their influence in her current position.

A few years ago, there was an effort to strengthen Federal rules to reduce sexual assaults on campus and compel schools to do a better job of protecting women. With Ms. Rao's help, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and Donald Trump are now rolling those protections back.

Ms. Rao has also taken steps to roll back rules designed to fight wage discrimination and sexual harassment against women in the workplace. She worked to make it harder for women to get no-cost contraception under the Affordable Care Act.

Now I am going to turn to her views on the rights of other groups. LGBTQ Americans, Black, and Latino Americans are just several examples.

Here she has attacked so-called multiculturalists, writing: “Underneath their touchy-feely talk of tolerance, they seek to undermine American culture.” When you read that sentence, it seems like she believed the American culture in need of protecting is actually one of intolerance.

Now, she protested that “homosexuals want to redefine marriage and parenthood,” to which I say: Anyone like Rao, who defines marriage and parenthood by limiting the definition of love, is just wrong and, frankly, un-American.

She even blasted African-American and Latino fraternities and sororities, arguing they were the ones who didn't understand the true meaning of Dr. King's “I Have a Dream” speech.

In a book review, she praised an author for writing:

Perhaps it is time to stop thinking of blacks—and having them think of themselves—as a category. Let them rise or fall as individuals.

A nominee for the Federal bench ought to be able to recognize that the design of racism has been to have society and governments at all levels in this country discriminate against African Americans as a category and to prevent individuals and their families from rising from this hardship.

Again, Ms. Rao can try and try and try some more to distance herself from these writings, but she cannot distance herself from the work she does right now in her current job.

Civil rights activists scored a major victory in a recent Supreme Court case, *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project*. The case dealt with what have come to be known as the “disparate impact” regulations. The Court held that housing policies that inadvertently discriminate against minorities violate the Fair Housing Act. That type of “disparate impact” regulation exists across Federal law. But right now, with Ms. Rao's help, Donald Trump is working to undo these protections. Here I quote from the *Washington Post*:

The Trump administration is considering a far-reaching rollback of civil rights law that would dilute Federal rules against discrimination in education, housing, and other aspects of American life.

This article continues:

Past Republican administrations have done little to erode the concept's application, partly out of concern that the Supreme Court might disagree, or that such changes would be unpopular and viewed as racist.

Apparently, that is not a big enough concern to stop Ms. Rao and the Trump administration.

Now, briefly, I would like to look at her writings on climate and environmental protection.

She mocked what she called the “three major environmental bogey-men, the greenhouse effect, the depleting ozone layer, and the dangers of acid rain.”

In an extraordinary twist of logic, she suggested that people who warned about climate change were clinging to a “dangerous orthodoxy”—her quote—“with no reference to the prevailing scientific doubts.”

Her work at the Trump administration shows no change in perspective.

Fuel economy standards that reduce carbon emissions and save drivers money at the pump have been axed by the Trump administration and Ms. Rao. The Clean Power Plan—gone under with the Trump administration and Neomi Rao. Rules cracking down on mercury pollution, which causes brain damage to kids, weakened by the Trump administration and Ms. Rao. Rules designed to protect workers from exposure to dangerous chemicals on the job—rolled back again by Ms. Rao and the Trump administration. The list can go on.

This nominee's record shows, in my view, that an apology is not enough—even a written one—because the shocking and offensive views she put into words in the past are reflected by her work in the present.

It is all right here in her CV as a Trump official. She is responsible for those policies that lead to more discrimination, that are taking rights and protections away from women, Black Americans, and Latino Americans.

She doesn't even have a long record of legal experience which she can fall back on and cite qualifications. Her qualifications seem to be her extreme views and membership in the far-right Federalist Society—a well-funded outside group that the Trump administration has empowered to fill the judiciary with extreme nominees from well outside the mainstream.

Actions Ms. Rao has been green-lighting have been challenged in court, and rulings against them have made clear that the Trump administration is willing to break the law to get their preferred ideological outcome.

For example, just last week, a Federal judge slammed Ms. Rao's actions to undo efforts to crack down on wage discrimination. The judge said Ms. Rao's decision was arbitrary, it was capricious, and unsupported by any analysis.

Perhaps that is why, during her nomination hearing, she refused to recuse herself from cases involving issues she worked on during the Trump administration.

So here is my bottom line. The Senate has seen this before—Trump nominees with extreme, offensive, and what are essentially incendiary writings from the past. In Ms. Rao's case, there are current examples of how she has not left those views in the past.

When it was Ryan Bounds nominated to the Ninth Circuit, this body—the U.S. Senate—stood up and said no. Mr.

Bounds' views were extreme. More importantly, he knew it, and he hid them.

In my view, it is time to take a stand once more in the Senate, where Ms. Rao's views are on display for all to see. I am going to be a no on the nomination of Neomi Rao. I urge my colleagues to join me.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 9:30 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate March 12, 2019:

THE JUDICIARY

PAUL B. MATEY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH
WALSH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th birthday of veteran, father, husband, and friend to many, Joseph Walsh.

Joe was born on March 18, 1919 in East Orange, New Jersey. After graduating from high school, Joe was inspired by a family friend's stories of World War I to enlist in the Marines in April 1938.

Joe was serving in the Marine Corps' Third Defense Battalion at the Navy Yard in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, one of the most pivotal days in American history. Joe was attending a morning color guard ceremony when the attack began. The next two hours were "all confusion," as Joe characterizes it. His battalion fired anti-aircraft machine guns at the Japanese planes as they headed towards the Navy Yard.

Joe never spoke about his experience at Pearl Harbor when his children were growing up. He is the last surviving member of the Pearl Harbor Survivor Association's North County Chapter 31 and served as the organization's president for many years. As President, Joe organized the annual memorial ceremony at Oceanside Harbor and campaigned for the installation of Oceanside's Pearl Harbor memorial monument in 2006.

Joe met LaVonne "Bea" Phaneuf in 1945 at a friend's wedding. Many years later, Joe still remembers the baby blue dress Bea wore that night. Bea was one of 23,000 women who enlisted in the Marines during the war. She was a member of the Aviation Women's Reserve Squadron 21 at Quantico, Virginia. Joe and Bea have been married since 1946 and have six children.

As parents, Joe and Bea instilled values of telling the truth, respecting others, and taking care of those in need. Joe was always giving away things that others needed even when his family had very little. Joe can talk to anyone and somehow make them laugh.

Joe Walsh has lived an incredible and full life. He is a true inspiration for our community, and we cannot thank him enough for his service to his country.

Joe Walsh will be celebrating his birthday on March 18 with friends and family in Vista, California. I am honored to pay tribute to Joe, and I wish him a very happy 100th birthday.

MAJ SEAN M. DONOHUE TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major Sean M. Donohue of the

United States Army for his extraordinary dedication to duty and service to the U.S. House of Representatives and our Nation. Major Donohue will soon transition from his current assignment as an Army Congressional Liaison in the U.S. House of Representatives to serve as the Command Surgeon for the Center for Initial Military Training at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. This unit is the largest charged with training all initial entry Soldiers in the Army.

A native of Tacoma, WA, Major Donohue began his military career after graduating from the University of Puget Sound, enlisting after the 9/11 attacks as a medic in 2002. He was commissioned in 2009, completed his clinical training as a Physician Assistant at Fort Carson in Colorado and promptly deployed to Afghanistan as a Battalion Surgeon with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team. Since then, Major Donohue has served in numerous leadership and staff positions around the world. His wife, Lexey, is a dedicated military spouse and they have three handsome boys: William, Jack and Maximus.

In 2017, Army Medicine selected Major Donohue to serve as Legislative Liaison in the Army House Liaison Office. In his role as a legislative liaison, Major Donohue served as the primary liaison between Members of the 115th and 116th Congresses, their Staff, Legislative Committees, and the U.S. Army. In this role, he planned, coordinated, and accompanied Congressional and Staff Delegations on numerous worldwide fact-finding and investigative missions. Major Donohue built the relationships and trust needed to increase the trust and confidence the U.S. Congress has in the U.S. Army.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the selfless service of Major Donohue and his family as they continue to serve our great Nation in the next chapter of his remarkable career.

REMEMBERING MODEANE
THOMPSON

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the late Modeane Nichols Thompson, a founding member of the Memphis Panel of American Women, whose quiet resolve to establish racial and sectarian reconciliation and understanding during tense times in the 1960s will be long remembered. Mrs. Thompson, a longtime family advocate with Family Service of Memphis, died February 25 at the age of 89. An African American and Roman Catholic, Mrs. Thompson joined with Joyce Blackmon, Dorothy "Happy" Jones, Jeanne Varnell and Jocelyn Wurzburg to demonstrate that people of different races and religions could establish lasting relationships and bridge cultural divides. Mrs. Thomp-

son was a calming influence in Memphis as a voice and early advocate for the communities of South Memphis where lives were disrupted by urban renewal. She was quoted in the nationally circulated Redbook magazine in 1964 in an article about racial prejudice entitled "What Can I Tell My Children?" She was a natural fit for the women's panel, which she told The Commercial Appeal was "designed to confront historically difficult issues in an open and civil manner. We hoped open dialogue and minds between people for the first time." A lifelong member of the NAACP and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, her work was honored by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati in 2006 and by the Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis, with its Legends Award, in 2014. I extend my condolences to her five children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, her extended family and her many friends.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBEN GALLEGOS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. GALLEGOS. Madam Speaker, I missed two votes on 3/11/2019. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call No. 119, and "yea" on Roll Call No. 120.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. SÁNCHEZ. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call Number 119, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1122, to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to carry out a housing choice voucher mobility demonstration to encourage families receiving such voucher assistance to move to lower-poverty areas to expand access to opportunity areas, I was unavoidably detained and missed the vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for Roll Call Number 120, On motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 758, To provide a safe harbor for financial institutions that maintain a customer account or customer transaction at the request of a Federal or State law enforcement agency.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

• 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.

HONORING THE KEISER UNIVERSITY MEN'S SWIMMING TEAM ON WINNING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS NATIONAL TITLE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Keiser University men's swimming team and their coach Adam Epstein on winning the 2019 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national title.

Coach Epstein leads by example. His dedication to Keiser University and its swimming program is truly commendable. Not only has Coach Epstein been named Coach of the Year for the second time, since forming his team in 2017, but in just three seasons he has led the Seahawks to two NAIA national titles.

This year's championship team had many standout swimmers. Junior Marcel Nagy won three events and was named the NAIA Swimmer of the Year. Freshman Pol Roch won the 500 meter free-style and set a national record in winning the 400 meter individual medley. Lukan Macek and Joel Hannson made their teammates proud with their respective performances in the 200 breaststroke, and Jan Suchan won his third national championship in the 100 meter breaststroke. The Seahawks won all five relays in the competition and totaled 622 points to win the national title.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Dr. Arthur and Mrs. Belinda Keiser, the Keiser University Seahawks' Swim Team, and Coach Adam Epstein on this momentous win. It is my distinct honor to be the University's representative in Congress. I wish Keiser University and its swimming program many more years of continued success.

HONORING WYOMING GAME AND FISH DIRECTOR SCOTT TALBOTT'S RETIREMENT

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scott Talbott on his retirement as Director of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Talbott for many years, and his tireless work to ensure hunting and recreation in Wyoming remains available and open to the public is much appreciated.

A third-generation Wyoming native, Mr. Talbott spent much of his adult life working to protect and preserve wildlife in Wyoming. During his 34 years at the department, Mr. Talbott has served in several positions working his way up to eventually serve as Director. It has been a privilege working with Mr. Talbott to ensure stewardship of Wyoming's world-class wildlife.

Again, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate and thank Scott Talbott for his years of dedicated service to the people and wildlife of Wyoming.

HONORING FATHER P. MARTIN "MARTY" DONNELLY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, it is with deepest sorrow, highest esteem, and abiding gratitude that I include in the RECORD the tribute delivered by Father Tony Gallagher in honor of the life of Reverend Paul Martin "Marty" Donnelly on February 1, 2019 at the Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Toledo, Ohio. Father Marty will be dearly remembered as a faithful Roman Catholic priest, a servant of God, who gave his unselfish and purposeful life to the people of Greater Toledo. Following the tribute is Father Donnelly's obituary.

HOMILY: MARTY'S FUNERAL MASS (EXCERPTS)
(Isaiah 61:1–11, Psalm 27, Acts 10:34–43, Luke 10:25–37)

A giant among us has left us. Reverend Marty Donnelly has transitioned to the joy of eternal glory, but hurt in our pain of loss.

First and understandably, we all offer special and prayerful sympathy to those closest to Marty: Pat, his only brother-in-law; his devoted nieces and nephews; his close friend Tom Landgraff; and his beloved cousins, particularly his second cousin Dorothy Taylor (I always found it awkward to call her "Buck"). Unquestionably, Buck warrants the deep gratitude of all of us for her many, many years of extraordinary, dedicated, and unselfish caretaking for Marty right up to the end.

But what is the end? What is death? Here is my version of another better-phrased story: freighter fully loaded leaving a dock at Toledo Terminal on the Maumee River—dock workers shout "There she goes" as the ship is seen as a speck between the water of the bay and the sky—fully, loaded the ship is observed by someone on Put-in-Bay who shouts "Here she comes"—the loaded ship is the same, the absence or change is in the Toledo workers—and that is death.

Today we grieve the absence of Marty Donnelly. Yet we believe that angels have already shouted "Here he comes." Marty Donnelly knew that if life has the last word, then love must overcome negativity and discord, forgiveness must overcome bitterness, and generosity must overcome greed.

Marty had such faith. Yet, with great zest he appealingly owned his own humanity and was clearly animated by a profound prayer life, by the teachings of Vatican II and Pope Francis, and by a continued embrace of Sacred Scripture.

Consider our first reading from Isaiah: the lowly hear good news, the broken-hearted are healed; captives are set free; prisoners are released; mourners are comforted and given happiness, fancy attire, and called oaks of justice; ancient ruins are rebuilt; ruined cities are restored; everlasting joy will be with people who will be in a covenant with the Lord.

In his meaningful and large life Marty understood this mission. He remained, in his own words, "terminally hopeful." In that light he was one of 27 co-founders of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests during a retreat in August 2011 and an active member of its local chapter's Social Justice Subcommittee. The intended vision of that new Association, now numbering some 1,200 nationally, is to be a voice of priests for the complete teachings of Vatican II.

Fearless in his dedication to the social dimension of the WHOLE Gospel, particularly

as a very public voice in and for our African American community. Impressive was his commitment to that community AND to their youth. Noteworthy was his vision in education in his many years at Central Catholic, where he assembled an enormously gifted staff committed to the Catholic social justice tradition. His education vision continued in the Central City's Martin de Porres Parish. With the generous support of his high school classmate, he implemented a renovation of the Bancroft-Detroit campus and created the Pacesetter Program which provided some 100 Central City youth scholarships first to Central Catholic and then to Xavier University. When St. Ann School had to close, he and his classmate imaginatively created a Charter School called The Peace Academy to carry on Gospel-based values in a creative and legal way.

You and I are here today to celebrate the powerful witness that Marty himself gave us. Marty wanted us to be in a life-giving movement that is about demonstrating God's goodness, God's mercy and compassion, God's love—demonstrating those to the larger societal movement. Marty realized that we could do all sorts of pious things and still not actually follow Jesus.

Marty uncompromisingly and generously lived as a Good Samaritan. You, I, and our faith communities could profitably do an honest reality check about our own efforts to dress wounds, bring to an inn, offer care, and cover expenses for those in our area who are somehow stripped, beaten, and left half-dead.

We knew that Marty was not perfect . . . my goodness, his fussing and fuming on a golf course was a spectacle. However, he dared to dream big, out loud and in public. He intervened with grand imagination. He emphasized Gospel-based action, not self-reverential pieties. Marty invited us to move doctrines and teachings to the level of actual experiences and an authentically Christian lifestyle.

Although Marty creatively forged new paths of service in Toledo and received many honors, he himself lived as a serf, not a prince. He never constructed a clerical pedestal for himself.

As Christ did, Marty pointed to the Kingdom of God already in our midst. And he did this even as his brain functions slowly worsened over the years. When his usually fine words could not do so he did this by actions, to the end. To observe Marty in any phase of his adult life was to know God's Kingdom hiding in plain sight.

Wow!! What a remarkable friend and family man!! What an authentic servant leader!! What a genuine man of God and of the people!! If each of us would follow Jesus Christ the way Marty did, our faith communities may actually be "field hospitals."

Now, in our celebration of Eucharist we join together with Christ in gratitude to our loving, gracious Father for the beautiful gift of Paul Martin Donnelly. We thank God for who he was to us, for what he was to us, and for how he was to us. Then, fed by the Eucharist, we are missioned to go live the Gospel in our own lives.

May our gracious God give eternal peace and joy to our noble Good Samaritan we endearingly called Marty.

Amen.

FATHER P. MARTIN "MARTY" DONNELLY

Father P. Martin "Marty" Donnelly was sent by God on August 16, 1938, which began a lifelong walk in service to others. This journey touched many in the greater Northwest Ohio community. Fr. Marty's journey of service ended when he passed away January 27, 2019, surrounded by family and friends. A life well done!

He was born the son of Leonard and Agnes Donnelly, who were founding members of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, where Marty attended elementary school. Marty then attended Toledo Central Catholic High School and was a member of "the great class of 1956". Many of Marty's classmates remained lifelong friends and gathered regularly. After Central Catholic, Marty followed his older brother Bob's path into the priesthood.

Marty attended St. Meinrad Seminary College and earned his bachelor's degree in 1961. Subsequently, Marty attended Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1964. Fr. Marty also received a Master in Education in 1973, from the University of Notre Dame.

Once Fr. Marty entered the priesthood his life of service accelerated with assignments at Norwalk St. Paul Parish and High School from 1964-1968, and Lima Central Catholic from 1968-1973. It was in 1973, that Fr. Marty returned to his alma mater, Toledo Central Catholic, as an Assistant Principal. In 1976, he was named the seventh Principal and later the first Pastor and President of Toledo Central Catholic, a role he served until 1987. Fr. Marty became Pastor at St. Ann and St. Theresa parishes in 1987, and served as pastor of St. Martin de Porres from 1990 to 2005. In 2005, he returned to his roots as Pastor of Most Blessed Sacrament Parish until his retirement in 2011.

Through his years of faith filled service, Fr. Marty mentored and supported youth from his schools, parishes and neighborhoods, helping them to weave the fabric of their communities. He will always be remembered for his dedication to the poor and furthering social justice causes in the community.

Fr. Marty was affiliated with many organizations including Central City Ministries of Toledo, the Erase the Hate Campaign, the Ohio Coalition against gun violence and the Multi-Faith Council of Northwest Ohio. Through his advocacy for these organizations and others, Fr. Marty touched the lives of many.

Being a servant to others, he never sought or wanted recognition for himself, however he earned many, including Toledoan of the Year, receiving a Key to the City in 2005; Central Catholic Golden Shamrock Award 2001; a Humanitarian of the year award; Drum Major for Justice in 2005; the St. Katherine Drexel award in 2006; a Voice for All People in 2007, and the Central City Ministry Service Award in 2011.

In addition to his passionate service to others Fr. Marty was truly family centric, encompassing the Donnelly, Hendricks and greater Quinn clans. Fr. Marty fully loved and looked forward to the annual Quinn reunions where everyone anticipated his creative costumes based upon the theme of the family party.

Fr. Marty was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Agnes Donnelly; brothers, Leonard "Quinnie", Most Reverend Robert Donnelly, Auxiliary Bishop of Toledo and sister, Mary Hendricks. Surviving are his brother-in-law, Patrick Hendricks, nieces, Ann (Tim) Doran, Kay (William) Byrne; nephews, Larry (Sharon) Hendricks, Jim (Julie) Hendricks, Mike (Kaye) Hendricks and David (Betsi) Hendricks, 16 great and 10 great great nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Pro-Medica Ebeid Hospice Residence for their care and comfort during Fr. Marty's final journey. A special thanks also to cousin, Dorothy "Buck" Taylor for her years of dedication, love, care and friendship with Fr. Marty.

Visitation will be from 2 to 7 p.m. with evening prayer to follow at 7 p.m., on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral, 2535 Collingwood Boulevard, Toledo. Thursday's visitation will be hosted by his faithful parishioners of St. Martin de Porres. On Friday, February 1, 2019, visitation will be from 9 to 10:45 a.m., at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2240 Castlewood Dr. Toledo, followed by Words of Remembrance at 10:45 a.m. and the Funeral Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be private to family.

The family would suggest any memorial donations be made to Toledo Central Catholic High School, Most Blessed Sacrament or St. Martin de Porres Parishes.

His mantra for all to remember: "Love One Another!"

Arrangements entrusted to the Ansberg-West Funeral Directors.

Online condolences may be sent to Fr. Marty's family at www.ansberg-west.com.

HONORING VERNON DAVIS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Vernon Davis, a District of Columbia native, for his outstanding achievements as a core member of the Washington NFL team and for his Vernon Davis Foundation.

Vernon Davis was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in the Petworth neighborhood with seven siblings, including his brother Vontae Davis, who is currently a member of the NFL's Buffalo Bills. Vernon Davis attended Truesdell Elementary, Paul Public Charter School and Dunbar High School. He was a letterman in football, basketball and track and field, and went on to attend the University of Maryland, where he was a Consensus All-American in football in 2005.

Vernon Davis, tight end of the Washington NFL team, started his NFL career in 2006 with the San Francisco 49ers. He went on to become a Super Bowl champion, Second-team All Pro and NFL receiving touchdowns leader. As a core member of the Washington NFL team, Davis' love for football and influence on the team's culture are displayed with pride on a daily basis.

Off the field, Vernon is known for his dedication and commitment to children and families in the Washington, D.C. area through his Vernon Davis Foundation. These efforts are highlighted through his work to promote reading among our youth through his READ 85 campaign, support mentoring programs with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington and strengthen families in collaboration with the National Center for Children and Families. Davis is also a loving father and one of the best-dressed players in football.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Vernon Davis for his outstanding contributions through his work as a sports hero and as a role model for Washington, D.C. residents.

CELEBRATING THE PALM CENTER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the Palm Center on the occasion of their 20th anniversary. Founded in 1998 by the University of California, Santa Barbara, the Palm Center conducts policy research on key social and political issues affecting the most vulnerable Americans. For 20 years, the Palm Center has been a trailblazer in efforts to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) service members. The organization has worked diligently against the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy, which prohibited service members of the LGBT community from disclosing their sexuality while serving.

The Palm Center's independent research has enhanced the quality of public dialogue and contributed to the work of independent scholars, students, journalists, members of the public, and policymakers, like myself. In 2009, the Palm Center's research was a welcomed resource that allowed me to introduce the Open and Honest Testimony Act. This legislation addressed the discriminatory DADT policy by allowing LGBT troops to testify openly without the risk of discharge and ensured that Congress based its decision on the best possible information.

In 2013, the largest collection of research on DADT policy was published in the Journal of Homosexuality. This publication was composed of the work of Palm Center scholars, as well as reviews of the literary works of Palm Center authors. The Palm Center was the first to release a study on openly gay military service members following the repeal of DADT. Even after its repeal, the Palm Center has continued its work against other anti-LGBT military policies.

The Palm Center's current research focuses on transgender military service. This research comes at a pivotal time when President Trump's Administration threatens the ability of transgender men and women to serve in our military. The Palm Center's scholarship has made it abundantly clear that the transgender ban would weaken our military readiness, cause substantial disruptions, deprive the military of talent, and wreak havoc on the lives of military families. The research the Palm Center is conducting is crucial to negating the misinformation and belittling rhetoric the Trump Administration continues to engage in regarding our brave transgender service members.

Madam Speaker, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Palm Center on its 20th anniversary. The work they are doing to provide the public with accurate and evidence-based information is invaluable to us all. I look forward to continuing my work with the Palm Center, and wish them many more years of great success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ADAM
DAVID NUSZEN

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Adam David Nuszen who lost his battle with mental illness and addiction a little over 3 years ago. With an insatiable curiosity and unparalleled connectivity to the world around him, Adam's bright future was as limitless as the night sky he so admired. As a gifted musician, poet, writer, philosopher and inventor, Adam enlightened everyone who had the honor of meeting him, and as the oldest of three siblings, he was the protector of his family with a fierce loyalty that was only surpassed by his quiet quest for justice.

At the age of 22, Adam was diagnosed with schizophrenia, which sent him in and out of hospitals in an attempt to balance his mental illness with some semblance of an everyday life, but he succumbed to the dangerous and devastating world of opioid addiction. Even in his darkest days, Adam always encouraged his loved ones to "look up" so they didn't miss the beauty he saw in the world around them.

In November 2015, Adam lost his battle with addiction, but only after leaving an indelible mark on his family, friends and community. During his last conversation with his mother Linda, Adam carried this same positive sentiment and tone, which has stayed with Linda to this day and inspired the creation of the non-profit foundation Look Up for Adam.

The rise of the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic has affected so many families across Long Island and our entire nation, and Look Up for Adam provides support for these families as they embark on "the difficult journey of loving a person who is addicted to drugs." Even in the darkest of days, Look Up for Adam reminds these families to look up just as Adam did, and in honor of his enduring spirit and character, I'd like to support his mother's request in declaring March 12th, Adam's birthday, as National Look Up Day.

There are so many families across our entire nation who are battling the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic, who when down in the trenches sometimes forget to look up at the world around them. National Look Up Day serves as a reminder for these families to keep a positive outlook, but also for us as Members of Congress to never stop fighting to combat the heroin and opioid abuse epidemic and never waver in our support for the families affected by it.

HONORING ROB WYNBRANDT

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the contributions of Rob Wynbrandt, who will retire on March 15th as Executive Director and General Counsel of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS). I commend his 30 years of legal service and guidance for cardiothoracic surgeons and their patients.

Mr. Wynbrandt graduated from Northwestern University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, and obtained a Juris Doctor with Honors from the University of Michigan in 1979. He worked for many years as a partner in a Chicago law firm, serving clients such as The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the American Academy of Dermatology, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Radiology, and the American College of Surgeons. In 2002, Mr. Wynbrandt was named STS Executive Director and General Counsel.

Once Mr. Wynbrandt took the helm at STS, he expanded its staff and oversaw the development of programs on patient safety, public reporting, and professional medical education for cardiothoracic surgeons. It was under Mr. Wynbrandt's legal expertise that the STS launched its now world-renowned National Database. As a result of his leadership, the database has become the gold standard for clinical outcomes registries and serves as the bedrock for quality improvement initiatives involving heart and lung surgery patients.

I congratulate Mr. Wynbrandt on a distinguished career at STS, and join his family, friends, cardiothoracic surgeons, and their patients from around the country in extending my best wishes in his retirement.

HONORING THE CASPER CHAPTER
OF FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA
WINNING THE NATIONAL
FFA FARM AND AGRIBUSINESS
MANAGEMENT CONTEST

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Casper Chapter of Future Farmers of America on their victory at the National FFA Farm and Agribusiness Management Contest.

Future Farmers of America is a national organization dedicated to educating and encouraging young people on the importance of sustainable farming and agribusiness. The young men and women of the Casper Chapter have distinguished themselves among chapters from all across the nation. They truly are some of the best that Wyoming has to offer. They are the future of agribusiness in Wyoming, and the country.

Again Madam Speaker, I extend my congratulations to the Casper Chapter of Future Farmers of America on their victory and applaud their commitment to an industry that is vital to our nation.

HONORING THE BLANCHE ELY
BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM FOR
WINNING ITS SECOND STRAIGHT
CLASSIC 8A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Blanche Ely boys' basket-

ball team and their coach Melvin Randall on their 57–52 victory to claim its second straight Class 8A boys basketball state championship at Lakeland's RP Funding Center on March 9, 2019.

Coach Randall's dedication to Blanche Ely High School and its basketball program is truly commendable. Before the game, Coach Randall provided the team the same piece of advice he always does: "piece by piece". The All-USA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year and Broward County Sports Hall of Fame Inductee led his team by example, providing them with the courage, resilience, and wisdom needed to win.

The Blanche Ely boys' basketball team would not be a success without their tremendous commitment to the sport. Senior Joshua Scott will be the first player in the program's history to win four back-to-back state titles. Aderes Stanton-McCray also was critical to his team's win. His block brought the team back into the lead in what Coach Randall described as the "play of the game".

I would also like to recognize the entire Tiger basketball team, which includes: Tyreke Francois, Jayden Fye, Daniel Merrius, Eric Guerrier, Aderes Staton-McCray, Javier Zapata, Jeremiah Mathieu, Jair Copeland, Derrick Lovett, Joshua Scott, Malachi Hazelton, Lance Rainer, Javon Williams, Lamont Evans, Colby King, and Bryson Williams.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate Principal Dr. Karlton O. Johnson for his outstanding leadership of Blanche Ely High School, as well as Coach Melvin Randall, and the entire Blanche Ely boys' basketball team. They had a tremendous season and should be extremely proud of themselves. I wish the Blanche Ely High School and their basketball program many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM HENRY
PECKHAM III

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to pay special tribute to William Henry Peckham III, a great American and a great Texan, on his 90th birthday. Even with nine decades of life behind him, he remains a vibrant part of his beloved central Texas community.

Many go through life wondering if they've made a difference. William doesn't have that problem. As a successful small business owner, respected race horse owner, and devoted family man, he represents the very best of Texas values.

Over his incredible life, William witnessed his nation's brave soldiers defend freedom on foreign shores, watched a humble midwesterner take mankind's first steps on another world, and marveled at technological advances beyond any of his dreams. He saw how America has been defined by extraordinary men and women who fought to make our nation a beacon of hope and freedom, always willing to learn from the past, confront the challenges of the present, and hopeful enough to embrace a better tomorrow.

March 11, 2019 makes a special day for an extraordinary man. I join William's family and

friends in celebrating his long life and the incredible impacts he's made. We wish him the happiest of birthdays and nothing but health and prosperity in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO THE MILWAUKEE
URBAN LEAGUE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Ms. MOORE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Milwaukee Urban League as it celebrates 100 years of service to the Milwaukee area Community. The Milwaukee Urban League was established in 1919 as an affiliate of the National Urban League (NUL) in response to the migration of African Americans who moved north from southern states in search of greater opportunities and a better way of life. They assisted in their transition to urban life and employment, helping African Americans in Milwaukee secure economic self-reliance, parity and power, and civil rights.

The Milwaukee Urban League become a hub and sought to meet the various needs of the African American Community. They established a medical clinic in the 1920s and sponsored a community center for holiday gatherings, youth recreation and crafts, and taught boxing skills. In 1926 the Urban League released a study that established the need to eliminate poor housing as a high priority. In subsequent years, it was instrumental in ending legalized racial discrimination in housing and creating the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council which still exists today. In the 1930s, the Milwaukee Urban League established the Industrial Relations Project to improve job opportunities and working conditions through relationships with business establishments.

Over the years the Urban League has continued to promote employment and economic self-sufficiency through such initiatives as apprentice programs, and pre-employment skills training. Other employment help includes on the job placement and training and older workers and job ride programs. The Milwaukee Urban League has promoted business ownership and development through efforts such as the Franchise Initiative designed to help African Americans acquire franchises, thereby, generating wealth and increasing the number of jobs in the community. It hosts an annual Youth Leadership Summit to promote civic engagement.

The Milwaukee Urban League has been on the front lines of the struggle for equality by both performing research that establishes the case for change and taking actions that result in change to help the next generation succeed. The Urban League continues to collaborate on many issues to enhance the well-being of the community it serves to achieve positive outcomes, including: seeking alternatives to incarceration, working with organizations to speak out against hatred and bigotry, improving academic achievement and social growth among students, and eliminating barriers to employment including enhancement.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons I rise to recognize and pay tribute to the Milwaukee

Urban League as it celebrates its 100th anniversary and continues its efforts to benefit the Fourth Congressional District and the State of Wisconsin.

HONORING SHERIFF JOE MAX
TAYLOR

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, former Galveston County Sheriff Joe Max Taylor passed away on Monday, February 11, 2019.

Sheriff Taylor was a veteran, husband and father who dedicated his life to public service. His colleagues describe him as an innovator, mentor and a skilled politician. The Sheriff served Galveston County for 54 years, 19 of those years he served as sheriff.

Sheriff Joe Max Taylor's legacy is one filled with a deep love for his Galveston community. During his career, he assisted in growing the sheriff's office from nineteen deputies to more than 300 deputies. He was also instrumental in helping form the mental health division and the auto crimes task force.

Those who knew Sheriff Taylor know he was more than a sheriff, he was someone who did so much for our community. He will be greatly missed, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACHER
VICTIMS' FAMILY ASSISTANCE
ACT OF 2019

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019. It is well known that this country faces a gun violence epidemic. In fact, in the 2018 school year alone, there were 24 school shooting incidents. This is the highest annual number of school shootings in recent history, averaging out to one school shooting incident every seven and a half school days. The pain and heartache that result from this tragic and needless loss of life sends shockwaves through our communities, but especially through the families left behind. Today, our teachers must contend with not only the awesome responsibility of preparing our children for bright and meaningful futures, but also with protecting them from the very real threat of active shooters and others wishing to harm our children and grandchildren. Too often, the teachers themselves are casualties in this epidemic, leaving the families of the slain teachers, many with small children, unprepared financially.

The Teacher Victims' Family Assistance Act of 2019 directs the Secretary of Education to provide assistance to the immediate family members of K-12 teachers who are killed during their performance of duties at a public or

private school. This bill provides victims' families with funeral assistance; a death benefit payment to the surviving spouse, dependent child, or other next of kin; monthly living assistance for the surviving spouse; and undergraduate education assistance for each dependent child.

In time, it is my sincere hope that the need for the crucial assistance provided by this measure will not be necessary as fewer and fewer families are forced to cope with the sudden, tragic loss of a loved one at school. However, until that time, we must do all we can for our dedicated and hardworking teachers and their families, and that is exactly the spirit with which this legislation is put forward.

Madam Speaker, I urge this body to expeditiously pass this measure. Doing so will reaffirm America's solidarity, gratitude, and support for our nation's dedicated educators, who work tirelessly on behalf of our children.

COMMEMORATING THE TWENTY-
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CRYSTAL CHORDS

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crystal Chords.

The Crystal Chords are a group of extraordinary women who come together to share their love of music and sing a cappella in the barbershop style. For twenty-five years the women of Crystal Chords have graced the communities of the Corning-Elmira area, singing at a variety of community functions. They are a proud chapter of Harmony, Inc., a non-profit international organization, whose mission is to empower women through education, friendship, and a cappella singing in the barbershop style.

The barbershop quartets of the Crystal Chords share their talents throughout the year, singing for civic and charitable events. They have sung at community events such as the Corning Parade of Lights and Horseheads' Holly Days, and regularly perform at local churches. The Crystal Chords are committed to charity in their communities as they fundraise for the Food Bank of the Southern Tier at all of their concerts and events.

The Crystal Chords are proudly directed by the husband-wife team of Bill and Donna McKay. Their years of barbershop quartet experience and unwavering dedication have led the Crystal Chords from its inception twenty-five years ago to continued success today.

Twenty-five years of uniting members of our communities with music is certainly a cause for celebration. I congratulate the Crystal Chords on this impressive milestone and look forward to their continued success in the years to come.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crystal Chords.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1769–S1805

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 738–764, and S. Res. 104–107. **Pages S1792–93**

Measures Reported:

S. 333, to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with cybersecurity consortia for training. (S. Rept. No. 116–5) **Page S1792**

Measures Passed:

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 105, supporting the designation of March 2019 as “National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month”. **Page S1799**

United Negro College Fund 75th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 106, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Negro College Fund. **Page S1799**

Authorizing testimony and representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 107, to authorize testimony and representation in *United States v. Taubert*. **Page S1799**

World Wildlife Day: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 91, designating March 3, 2019, as “World Wildlife Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S1799–S1800**

McConnell (for Coons) Amendment No. 192, to amend the preamble. **Page S1799**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 on March 15, 1995; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–6) **Page S1791**

Rao Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, of

the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Pages S1777–89

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 43), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1777**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 12 noon, on Wednesday, March 13, 2019; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, all post-cloture time expire at 1:45 p.m., on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. **Pages S1788–89**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. **Page S1800**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 42), Paul B. Matey, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit. **Pages S1776–77, S1805**

Messages from the House: **Page S1791**

Measures Referred: **Page S1791**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1792**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1793–94**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1794–98**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1789–91**

Amendments Submitted: **Page S1798**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1798–99**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—43) **Pages S1776–77**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S1800.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE INITIATIVES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities concluded a hearing to examine artificial intelligence initiatives within the Department of Defense, after receiving testimony from Peter T. Highnam, Deputy Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Michael A. Brown, Director, Defense Innovation Unit, and Lieutenant General John N.T. Shanahan, USAF, Director, Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, Office of the Chief Information Officer, all of the Department of Defense.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jeffrey Nadaner, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Claudia Slacik, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator.

CFPB SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress, after receiving testimony from Kathy Kraninger, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

BROADBAND INVESTMENTS IN RURAL AMERICA

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet concluded a hearing to examine the impact of broadband investments in rural America, after receiving testimony from Justin Forde, Midcontinent Communications, West Fargo, North Dakota; Mark A. Jamison, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, D.C.; Denny Law, Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Wall, South Dakota; and Carol Matthey, Matthey Consulting LLC, Bethesda, Maryland.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the road ahead for the World Trade Organization, after receiving testimony from Robert E. Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Michael J. Fitzpatrick, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Ecuador, and Ronald Douglas Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, both of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine recommendations from the President's task force on the United States Postal Service, focusing on a path to sustainability, after receiving testimony from Gary Grippio, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Public Finance; Robert G. Taub, Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission; David C. Williams, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, Postal Service; and Margaret Weichert, Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

REAUTHORIZING THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorizing the Higher Education Act, focusing on simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and reducing the burden of verification, after receiving testimony from Kristina Scott, Alabama Possible, Birmingham; Michele Scott Taylor, College Now Greater Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio; Michael P. Meotti, Washington Student Achievement Council, Olympia; and Mark Wiederspan, Iowa College Student Aid Commission, Des Moines.

GAO HIGH RISK LIST OVERSIGHT

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Indian programs on the Government Accountability Office High Risk List, after receiving testimony from Jessica Farb, Director, Health Care, Government Accountability Office; Tony Dearman, Director, Bureau of Indian Education, and Darryl LaCounte, Acting Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, both of the Department of the Interior; and Rear Admiral Michael D. Weahkee, Principal Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

GDPR AND CCPA

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine GDPR and CCPA, focusing on opt-ins, consumer control, and the impact on competition and innovation, after receiving testimony

from Will DeVries, Google, Mountain View, California; Alastair MacTaggart, Californians for Consumer Privacy, Sacramento; David Hoffman, Intel, Santa Clara, California; Gabriel Weinberg, DuckDuckGo, Inc., Paoli, Pennsylvania; Thomas Lee, Mapbox, Roslyn Layton, American Enterprise Institute, and Michelle Richardson, Center for De-

mocracy and Technology, all of Washington, D.C.; and Jane Bambauer, University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, Tucson.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee held closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 26 public bills, H.R. 6 and 1678–1702; 1 private bill, H.R. 1703; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 217–219, were introduced. **Pages H2678–80**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2681–82**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Espaillat to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2649**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:41 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H2654**

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Rabbi Claudio J. Kogan, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine, Edinburg, TX. **Page H2654**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov: H. Res. 156, amended, calling for accountability and justice for the assassination of Boris Nemtsov, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 416 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 121; **Pages H2657–60, H2673–74**

Crimea Annexation Non-recognition Act: H.R. 596, amended, to prohibit United States Government recognition of Russia's annexation of Crimea, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 427 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 122; **Pages H2660–62, H2675**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: "To prohibit United States Government recognition of the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over Crimea, and for other purposes." **Page H2675**

Vladimir Putin Transparency Act: H.R. 1404, amended, to strengthen the United States response to Russian interference by providing transparency on the corruption of Russian President Vladimir Putin; **Pages H2662–64**

Keeping Russian Entrapments Minimal and Limiting Intelligence Networks Act: H.R. 1617, to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit intelligence assessments of the intentions of the political leadership of the Russian Federation; **Pages H2664–65**

Electronic Message Preservation Act: H.R. 1582, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require preservation of certain electronic records by Federal agencies, to require a certification and reports relating to Presidential records; **Pages H2665–67**

Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019: H.R. 1608, to amend the Federal Advisory Committee Act to increase the transparency of Federal advisory committees; and **Pages H2667–71**

Federal Register Modernization Act: H.R. 1654, amended, to amend title 44, United States Code, to modernize the Federal Register, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 426 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 123. **Pages H2671–73, H2675–76**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995 is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2019—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 116–20). **Page H2657**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2673–74, H2675, and H2675–76. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Committee Meetings

TREASURY'S ROLE IN COMBATting FINANCIAL CRIMES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a hearing

entitled “Treasury’s Role in Combatting Financial Crimes”. Testimony was heard from Sigal Mandelker, Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Department of the Treasury.

APPROPRIATIONS—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the House of Representatives. Testimony was heard from the following House of Representatives officials: Paul D. Irving, Sergeant at Arms; Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House; Philip G. Kiko, Chief Administrative Officer.

PUBLIC WITNESS TESTIMONY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a hearing entitled “Public Witness Testimony”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Testimony was heard from Eric Dreiband, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice.

APPROPRIATIONS—RELATED AGENCIES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on Related Agencies. Testimony was heard from Chief Judge Robert N. Davis, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; Karen Durham-Aguilera, Executive Director, Army National Military Cemeteries; and public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a budget hearing on the United States Capitol Police. Testimony was heard from Matthew Verderosa, Chief of Police, U.S. Capitol Police.

STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES: PASSENGER RAIL DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Stakeholder Perspectives: Passenger Rail Development”. Testimony was heard from Jason Orthner, Rail Division Director, North Carolina Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES: PROTECTING STUDENTS AND TAXPAYER DOLLARS FROM PREDATORY PRACTICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled “Oversight of For-Profit Colleges: Protecting Students and Taxpayer Dollars from Predatory Practices”. Testimony was heard from Senator Durbin and public witnesses.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Agriculture officials: Ann M. Coffey, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations; Phyllis Fong, Inspector General; and Gil Harden, Assistant Inspector General.

UPDATE ON RECOVERY EFFORTS FOR 2017 AND 2018 DISASTERS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Update on Recovery Efforts for 2017 and 2018 Disasters”. Testimony was heard from Pete Gaynor, Deputy Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

OUTSIDE PERSPECTIVES ON MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Military Personnel held a hearing entitled “Outside Perspectives on Military Personnel Policy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE PRESIDENT’S 2020 BUDGET

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The President’s 2020 Budget”. Testimony was heard from Russell Vought, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget.

GROWING A HEALTHY NEXT GENERATION: EXAMINING FEDERAL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Committee on Education and Labor: Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services held a hearing entitled “Growing a Healthy Next Generation: Examining Federal Child Nutrition Programs”. Testimony was heard from Cheryl Johnson, Director, Child Nutrition and Wellness, Kansas State Department of Education; Donna Martin, Director, School Nutrition Program, Burke County Board of Education, Georgia; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATING TO SAFEGUARD THE FREE AND OPEN INTERNET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Legislating to Safeguard the Free and Open Internet”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 HHS BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “The Fiscal Year 2020 HHS Budget”. Testimony was heard from Alex Azar, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

HOLDING MEGABANKS ACCOUNTABLE: AN EXAMINATION OF WELLS FARGO’S PATTERN OF CONSUMER ABUSES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Holding Megabanks Accountable: An Examination of Wells Fargo’s Pattern of Consumer Abuses”. Testimony was heard from a public witness.

SECURING OUR NATION’S CHEMICAL FACILITIES: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON IMPROVING THE CFATS PROGRAM

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Securing Our Nation’s Chemical Facilities: Stakeholder Perspectives on Improving the CFATS Program”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING; COMMITTEE FUNDING FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a business meeting on Committee Resolution 116–08; and a hearing entitled “Committee Funding for the 116th Congress”. Committee Resolution 116–08 was adopted, without amendment. Testimony was heard from Representatives Cummings and Jordan.

HISTORY AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties held a hearing entitled “History and Enforcement of the Voting Rights Act of 1965”. Testimony was heard from Catherine Lhamon, Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Paige Whitaker, Legislative Attorney, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship held a business meeting on the Subcommittee’s Rules of Procedure and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration Bills; and Request for DHS Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 1548. The Subcommittee’s Rules of Procedure and Statement of Policy for Private Immigration Bills was adopted. Request for DHS Departmental Reports on the Beneficiaries of H.R. 1548 was agreed to.

THE STATE OF COMPETITION IN THE WIRELESS MARKET: EXAMINING THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED MERGER OF T-MOBILE AND SPRINT ON CONSUMERS, WORKERS, AND THE INTERNET

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law held a hearing entitled “The State of Competition in the Wireless Market: Examining the Impact of the Proposed Merger of T-Mobile and Sprint on Consumers, Workers, and the Internet”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, AND THE POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest Service, and the Power Marketing Administrations”. Testimony was heard from Mike Nedd, Deputy Director, Operations, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Chris French, Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest Systems, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and the following Department of Energy officials: Kenneth Legg, Administrator, Southeastern Power Administration; Mike Wech, Administrator, Southwestern Power Administration; Elliot Mainzer, Administrator, Bonneville Power Administration; and Mark Gabriel, Administrator, Western Area Power Administration.

WOW 101: THE STATE OF WILDLIFE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing entitled “WOW 101: The State of Wildlife”. Testimony was heard from Valerie Covey, Commissioner, Precinct Three, Williamson County Commissioner’s Court, Williamson County, Texas; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS OF CARCINOGENS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy held a hearing entitled “Examining the Public Health Risks of Carcinogens in Consumer Products”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ENGINEERING OUR WAY TO A SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing entitled “Engineering Our Way to a Sustainable Bioeconomy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CHALLENGES IN SBA’S STATE TRADE EXPANSION PROGRAM

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Rural Development, Agriculture, Trade, and Entrepreneurship held a hearing entitled “Challenges in SBA’s State Trade Expansion Program”. Testimony was heard from Kim Gianopoulos, Director of International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office; and Hannibal Ware, Inspector General, U.S. Small Business Administration.

LOOKING FORWARD: AVIATION 2050

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “Looking Forward: Aviation 2050”. Testimony was heard from David McBride, Director, Armstrong Flight Research Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and public witnesses.

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING SOCIAL SECURITY: ENHANCING SOCIAL SECURITY TO STRENGTHEN THE MIDDLE CLASS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled “Protecting and Improving Social Security: Enhancing Social Security to Strengthen the Middle Class”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TEMPORARY POLICY IN THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures held a hearing entitled “Temporary Policy in the Internal Revenue Code”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held an organizational meeting. The Committee adopted its Rules for the 116th Congress.

MEMBER DAY

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Foster, Beyer, Trone, Rice of New York, Davis of California, Gallagher, Eshoo, Arrington, Phillips, Pascrell, Pelosi, McCarthy, Mast, Fitzpatrick, Dunn, Perlmuter, Bergman, Sarbanes, Buck, Porter, Costa, Houlahan, Axne, Sewell of Alabama, Lipinski, Thompson of Mississippi, Murphy, Clark of Massachusetts, Underwood, and Webster of Florida.

Joint Meetings

LEGISLATIVE PRESENTATIONS

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs concluded a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of multiple veterans service organizations, after receiving testimony from Lourdes E. Alvarado-Ramos, National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs, Olympia, Washington; Robert Washington, Sr., Fleet Reserve Association, Oxon Hill, Maryland; Crystal Wenum, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., Hudson, Wisconsin; Thomas A. Zampieri, Blinded Veterans Association, Pearland, Texas; Barry J. Schneider, Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, Ft. Worth, Texas; Douglas J. Greenlaw, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Greenville, South Carolina; and Rene A. Campos, USN (Ret.), Military Officers Association of America, Alexandria, Virginia.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Heath P. Tarbert, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Department of Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2020 for the Department of the Air Force, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on SeaPower, to receive a closed briefing on the most significant threats to United States Naval Forces and how Naval Forces plan to operate in a contested environment, 10:30 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2020, 2:30 p.m., SD-608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the new space race, focusing on ensuring United States global leadership on the final frontier, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: to hold hearings to examine an original bill entitled, “Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine a new approach for an era of United States-China competition, 10:15 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel P. Collins, and Kenneth Kiyul Lee, both of California, both to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: to hold hearings to examine cyber crime, focusing on the threat to small businesses, 2:30 p.m., SR–428A.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: business meeting to consider the nomination of John Lowry III, of Illinois, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans’ Employment and Training, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the General Services Administration, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Gun Violence Prevention and Enforcement”, 10:30 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Stakeholder Perspectives: Building Resilient Communities”, 10 a.m., 2358–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, 11 a.m., HT–2 Capitol.

Subcommittee on the Department of Homeland Security, hearing entitled “Securing Federal Networks and State Election Systems”, 2 p.m., 2008 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 2 p.m., 2358–C Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activity in Europe”, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Ensuring Resiliency of Military Installations and Operations in Response to Climate Changes”, 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Emerging Threats and Capabilities, hearing entitled “Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Request for U.S. Cyber Command and Operations in Cyberspace”, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Cost of College: Student Centered Reforms to Bring Higher Education Within Reach”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Lowering the Cost of Prescription Drugs: Reducing Barriers to Market Competition”, 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “Mismanaging Chemical Risks: EPA’s Failure to Protect Workers”, 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Preparing for the Storm: Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program,” 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “Promoting Corporate Transparency: Examining Legislative Proposals to Detect and Deter Financial Crime” 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled “NATO at 70: An Indispensable Alliance”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 1004, the “Prohibiting Unauthorized Military Action in Venezuela Act”, 4 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1232, the “Rescinding DHS’ Waiver Authority for Border Wall Act”; H.R. 1433, the “DHS MO-RALE Act”; H.R. 1589, the “CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2019”; H.R. 1590, the “Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel Exercise Act of 2019”; H.R. 1593, the “CLASS Act of 2019”; H.R. 1598, the “U.S. Customs and Border Protection Rural and Remote Hiring and Retention Strategy Act of 2019”; and H.R. 1639, the “CBP Workload Staffing Model Act”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery, hearing entitled “Improving the Federal Response: Perspectives on the State of Emergency Management”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1585, the “Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Forgotten Voices: The Inadequate Review and Improper Alteration of Our National Monuments”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FOIA: Examining Transparency Under the Trump Administration”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties; and Subcommittee on Government Operations, joint hearing on H.R. 1076, the “Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs Act”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled “America in Space: Future Visions, Current Issues”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Flipping the Switch on Rural Digital Entrepreneurship”, 11:30 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “Aligning Federal Surface Transportation Policy to Meet 21st Century Needs”, 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “Protecting and Improving Social Security: Benefit Enhancements”, 2 p.m., 2020 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 12 noon.

Following disposition of the nomination of Neomi J. Rao, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William Beach, of Kansas, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, March 13

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Bucshon, Larry, Ind., E292
Carter, John R., Tex., E292
Cheney, Liz, Wyo., E290, E292
Cohen, Steve, Tenn., E289
Gallego, Ruben, Ariz., E289

Hastings, Alcee L., Fla., E290, E291, E292, E293
Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E290
Levin, Mike, Calif., E289
Moore, Gwen, Wisc., E293
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E291
Reed, Tom, N.Y., E293

Sánchez, Linda T., Calif., E289
Tipton, Scott R., Colo., E289
Weber, Randy K., Sr., Tex., E293
Zeldin, Lee M., N.Y., E292



Congressional Record

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